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State Counsellor: some success, but we are not home and dry yet

IN an interview with the BBC, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi defended the progress her government has made since coming to power one year ago in terms of infrastructural improvements, the peace process and free elections, and also speculated that the October attacks last year on border police outposts that resulted in months of area clearance operations were an effort to derail attempts to negotiate peace between Myanmar and the many ethnic armed insurgent groups. The following is the complete text of the BBC television interview.

Q: In terms of change, in the lives of ordinary people, one of the things that has happened, as in South Africa, is there is a massive sense of disappointment when a liberation movement comes into power. What have you done to make their life better?

A: In practical ways, lots of roads. You think that may not be much because you come from a country where there were roads from your grandfathers time. But in our country that means a lot. Because all-weather roads make a great difference to ones lives. Last year one of our priorities was job creation. We discovered over this one year that if you start constructing all-weather Roads and provide electrification, people start creating jobs for themselves. That is what has made one of the big differences.

But I think, we think, what we've done better, or what I



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, right, interviewed by the BBC's Fergal Keane. PHOTO: MNA

“A lot of the problems in the Rakhine State are due to the fact that resources are limited and both communities are anxious about how their lives are going to pan out.

think we have done better is take forward the peace movement. We can't say that we are there by any means, and we can't say we at the point where we are home and dry. But still, there has been success there, particularly because the people have become involved in it.

Q: You mentioned the peace process, and you felt proud that it was an achievement last year, but right at this moment you have some of the most bitter fighting taking place on the borders of this country with ethnic groups ?

A: But Fergal, you work for

peace particularly because there is fighting. If there were no fighting there would be no need for us to work for peace. If there were no fighting at all, if all this settles down, that means the peace process is over. Now I did say at the beginning that we are not there yet.

Q: You don't control the army, you don't control the security forces, and when fighting breaks out, they are free to do what they have always done, rape, pillage and torture?

A: They are not free to rape, pillage and torture. That they are

not free to do. They are free to go in and fight. That is in the constitution. Military matters are to be left to the army. And that is why we are trying to change the constitution, we feel very awkward about it. Amending the constitution is one of our aims. Because according to the national ceasefire agreement, one of the last steps would be to adopt a federal constitution.

Q: If you look at the history of this country, that has been going on since independence?

A: Fergal, you were in South Africa, and you did manage to end apartheid there didn't you, not you, but the South Africans.

Q: Are we talking months or years?

A: We hope that it will not be more than a few years, that's what we're aiming at.

Q: Can I come to the issue which has caused most international concern and which has led to a real turn about in the way you are perceived internationally and you are aware of this. You have seen the newspaper headlines. The comments from international figures condemning how you have handled the issue of the Rohingya muslims ?

A: What exactly is it that they are condemning?

Q: They want you to let a UN fact finding mission into Rakhine State?

A: But that is just now, that is what they asked for last month. What have they been condemning over the last year?

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သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမာန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

3 released, 8 still detained for murder, missing persons cases in Maungtaw

AUTHORITIES have released three out of 11 suspects who had been detained on suspicion of their involvement in missing persons and murder cases in villages in Maungtaw Township.

After interrogation, three men were released, but with restrictions on their movement, according to a report by the Myanmar News Agency.

The remaining eight suspects

are detained for further interrogation for missing person case of Mummud Shawphi, 21, in Sintawng Village, and the murder of Swedu Armi in Linbargon Village on 2nd January.—GNLM

Husband dead, wife injured after beating by neighbour and others in Buthidaung

A HUSBAND was killed and his wife injured after they were beaten by a group of men in Khewah Village in Buthidaung Township on Wednesday.

The couple was attacked by

five people, including their neighbour, on their way back home on 4th April after they informed the village's authorities about their neighbour cursing them following a brawl between their

children. Shawbi Hullah died on Thursday from his injuries. Actions are being taken against five men, including Zawnar Lo Po Dein, the neighbour of the couple.—Myanmar News Agency

Myanmar businessmen to visit InterPlas Thailand 2017

MEMBERS of the Myanmar Plastics Businessmen's Association will visit InterPlas Thailand 2017 Exhibition at the Bangkok International Trade & Exhibition Centre (BITEC).

InterPlas Thailand 2017 Exhibition is ASEAN's Plastics Business Exhibition, where entrepreneurs in the plastics business from Asia will attend and exhibit their products. In this exhibition, equipment for production of plas-

tic and petro-chemical materials, technologies and its applications, engineering technology for casting and plastic injection, engineering and technological exhibition for the production of mechanical parts of vehicles, automation devices for fitting mechanical parts, enhancement of surface and painting, installation of machines for producing electrical appliances, and technologies of measurements and experiments and discussions will

be displayed. If a group of over 10 people visits InterPlas Thailand 2017, according to the Overseas Delegation Package, one person from Myanmar delegation can enjoy free hotel accommodations for 2 days. If a group of over 30 people visit InterPlas Thailand 2017, according to Connect Business Camping, one person will receive US\$100 and be able to use the Business Delegation Lounge for their meetings.—200

Difficulties of fishermen resolved thanks to Myanmar-Thai negotiations

A NEW agreement between Myanmar and Thailand would impose legal action or penalties on illegal fishing vessels that unload in Thai ports, according to the Port State Measure Agreement (PSMA) that went into effect on 1 April for fishery enterprises, announced the Myanmar-Thai Directorates of Fisheries.

But the new agreement put

owners, operators and seamen on fishing boats that were already out to sea in potential violation, with no way to contact them and inform them of the new rules.

The Kawthoung District Fishery Enterprises Association thus went to Ranong, Thailand and negotiated with their Thai counterparts not to incur punishments to the Myanmar seamen when they

arrive back at port.

The Thai Directorate of fisheries postponed the implementation time for the purpose of sustaining long-term friendship between the two countries. The Thai Directorate of Fisheries will implement the Port State Measure Agreement (PSMA) 60 days after the original implementation date of 1 April.—Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)



Myanmar and Thailand agree to impose illegal fishing vessels that unload at Thai ports. PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUNG)



Speaker U Win Myint meeting with Mr Robert Justin Alexander Forsyth, UNICEF's Deputy executive director. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

Speaker U Win Myint receives deputy executive director of UNICEF

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint received Mr Robert Justin Alexander Forsyth, Deputy Executive Director of New York-based UNICEF Headquarters at the building of the Pyithu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they dis-

cussed the aids providing processes of UNICEF and cooperation between UNICEF and Myanmar.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat and officials of the Pyithu Hluttaw office.—Myanmar News Agency



Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than receives former Swiss President Ms. Ruth Dreifuss. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than receives delegations

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than received the Chair of Geneva-based Global Commission on Drug Policy (GCDP) and former President of Switzerland Ms. Ruth Dreifuss at 10 am and Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF Mr. Robert Justin Alexander Forsyth at 1 pm at the hall of Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw separately.

In their meeting, the two sides discussed the works of Global Commission Drug Policy (GCDP). The GCDP's aim is to "bring to the international level an informed, science-based

discussion about humane and effective ways to reduce the harm caused by drugs to people and societies." The GCDP has endorsed decriminalisation of drugs for non-violent offenders.

Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than discussed matters related to providing assistance for development of Myanmar at the meeting with the Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Thar Aung and officials of the Amyotha Hluttaw office.—Myanmar News Agency

Thura U Shwe Mann meets former Swiss President and Chair of the GCDP

Thura U Shwe Mann, Chairman of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Commission for the Assessment of Legal Affairs and Special Cases, received former President of Switzerland and the Chair of the Global Commission on Drug Policy-GCDP, Ms. Ruth Dreifuss at

11 am yesterday at the Hluttaw Building I-1 in Nay Pyi Taw. During the meeting, they exchanged views on ways for elimination of drug production and using in Myanmar and taking legal actions against the lawbreakers.—Myanmar News Agency

TOGETHER WITH THE PEOPLE

President U Htin Kyaw and First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin arrive in People's Republic of China on state visit



President U Htin Kyaw, First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin look at the Giant Buddha at the confluence of the Minjiang, Dadu and Qingyi rivers near the city of Leshan, China. PHOTO: MNA

AT the invitation of President of the People's Republic of China Mr. Xi Jinping, President U Htin Kyaw, First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin and entourage left Nay Pyi Taw yesterday for a State Visit and were seen off at the airport by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Vice Presidents U Myint Swe and U Henry Van Thio, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services, Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, Nay Pyi Taw

Council Chairman U Myo Aung and wife, Deputy Minister for Ministry of the President's Office U Min Thu, the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, Mr. Chan Chan, Charge d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar and other officials.

The President and First Lady accompanied by Union Ministers, U Kyaw Tint Swe, Dr. Than Myint and U Win Khaing, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin, Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone Manage-

ment Committee Chairman Dr. Soe Win and officials arrived in Shuang Liu International Airport, Chengdu, China at 10:30 a.m. local standard time.

President U Htin Kyaw, the First Lady and entourage were welcomed by Sichuan Province Vice Governor Mr Yang Hongbo, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thit Lin Ohn and other officials. The President and entourage were then taken to Chengdu Jinjiang

Hotel by motorcade.

In the afternoon, the President, the First Lady and entourage visited the Giant Buddha in Leshan. The 233 ft tall stone Buddha statue is carved out of a cliff face that lies at the confluence of the Minjiang, Dadu and Qingyi rivers near the city of Leshan and was built for 90 years from 713 to 803 AD during the Tang Dynasty. The Giant Buddha is the largest stone Buddha in the world and has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1996.

In the afternoon, President U Htin Kyaw met with Sichuan Province Party Secretary Mr. Wang Dongming at Jinjiang Hotel in Chengdu and discussed matters relating to promoting bilateral relations, cooperating in economic, trade, investment, agriculture, education sectors and exchanging of the scholars.

Afterwards, the President and the First Lady attended a dinner hosted by Sichuan Province Party Secretary.—*Myanmar News Agency*

PRESS RELEASE

Diplomatic relations established between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Republic of Malta

THE Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Republic of Malta, desirous of establishing friendly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation on the basis of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of International Law in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, established diplomatic relations at the level of Ambassadors, with effect from 5 April 2017.

The Joint Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations was signed by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations and the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malta to the United Nations at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations in New York on 5 April 2017.

Myanmar is making efforts to expand its diplomatic ties with countries around the world. The Republic of Malta is the 115th country with which Myanmar has established diplomatic relations.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF

STATE Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received the delegation led by Mr. Robert Justin Alexander Forsyth, Deputy

Executive Director of UNICEF, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at 10:00 am, on 6 April 2017.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on matters per-

taining to UNICEF's country programme in Myanmar; children's nutrition, education and health, and prevention of underage recruitment.—*Myanmar News Agency*



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with Mr. Robert Justin Alexander Forsyth, Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

LOCAL Business

MFF to cooperate with Vietnamese companies to boost fishery exports

WITH a view to scaling up fishery export volume, discussions on cooperation with Viet Nam's companies is ongoing, according to an announcement of the Myanmar Fishery Federation (MFF).

Currently, fishery products are being shipped to European Union countries, but only a small volume can be exported because of a lack of production.

"Viet Nam possesses strong capacity in fish and meat production, and so we have decided to cooperate with Viet Nam companies to enhance Myanmar's fishery industry", said U Hnin Oo, the vice chairman of MFF.

A delegation including officials from the MFF attended a meeting in Ho Chi Minh City to introduce the International Exhibition and Conference on Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture, Fisheries for Cambodia and Myanmar.

The exhibition will be held from 2nd to 4th August in Phnom Penh, Cambodia and from 27th to 29th September in Yangon, Myanmar, offering a good opportunity to understand more about those markets and explore business and investment opportunities.

In addition to showcasing the latest technologies and equipment as well as agriculture, livestock and fisheries products, the international agricultural exhibitions in Cambodia and Myanmar



Myanmar needs to enhance its fishery industry to be able to boost its fishery production. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

will also feature business matching between suppliers and distributors and professional conferences and seminars to help the participants realise the investment opportunities of the two markets.

Fisheries exports attained over US\$668mil in 2011-2012, over US\$493mil in 2012-2013 and over US\$341mil in 2013-2014. Then the export value was a bit up in 2015-2016 with over US\$469mil and US\$

556.476million as of 24th March this FY 2016-2017.

Erratic weather adversely affects fisheries production and fish resources, and offshore fishing does not look very promising. As a result, to boost the export volume, the fish farming sector is required to prioritise and concerted efforts are needed to be exerted by all the stakeholders in the fisheries export supply chain, including the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock

and Irrigation and Myanmar Fishery Federation (MFF), officials said.

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

Viet Nam purchased large volume of maize from Myanmar

VIET NAM is a regular purchaser of Myanmar's maize, placing large orders every year, according to the news of the Commerce Ministry.

A total of 6,370 tonnes of maize worth US\$1.153million were exported abroad through normal trade from the 12th to 18th March 2017, shipping 4,722 tonnes to Viet Nam, 808 tonnes to Singapore and 840 tonnes to Malaysia.

The total export volume is up by 2,439 tonnes when compared to that of last week. The increase in the export volume is attributed to the high export volume of Viet Nam against that of last week and attaining the new Singapore market this week.

A tonne of maize in the week of 12th to 18th March fetched US\$180 to \$200, according to the price announcement of Bayintnaung Commodity Depot.

Myanmar can yearly produce from 300,000 to 400,000 tonnes of corn. Myanmar's corn was mainly exported to China and also to Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, India, Hong Kong, Bangladesh, Viet Nam, Bulgaria and Spain.—Ko Htet

Over 2.3million tonnes of sugar re-exported

Starting from fiscal year 2015-2016 to the first week of March in the current year, over 2.3 million tonnes of sugar were reportedly re-exported to foreign partners, earning US\$1.29 billion.

Myanmar is making efforts to enhance re-export trade and grant permits for more items, negotiating with the departments concerned. Sugar, betel nut, fuel oil, clothes, garlic, sesame seeds, dried pepper, peanuts, cotton, electrical appliances, beverages, food, edible oil, and tyres are re-exported.

The country earns more revenue from re-export trade with the increase in trade volume. In addition, all the stakeholders in this industry are financially doing



A farmer harvests sugarcane in a village near Nay Pyi Taw.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

well, it is learnt. Sugar is imported mostly from sugar producing countries such as Thailand and India, and Myanmar re-exported them to China because Myanmar sugar millers are able to produce sugar mainly for the local market as Myanmar sugar does not

look appealing and does not meet export criteria for the lack of advanced refining machinery.

The Commerce Ministry will also verify and approve the proposals concerning the commodities which can be re-exported, it is learnt.—Mon Mon

Thailand to assist in Myanmar plastics business

THAILAND will help develop plastic materials production in Myanmar by providing technical assistance, said Mr. Jukr Bun Long, Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar.

"Myanmar's economy is likely to grow 7.1 per cent on average in three years. Plastic materials production will play a part of it. Thailand is leading in plastic materials production in the ASEAN region and will contribute to upgrading production technology", Mr. Jukr Bun Long said at a press conference held at the Chatrium Hotel on Tuesday.

The event was held in order to encourage Myanmar plastic materials businessmen to attend Interplas Thailand 2017, which

will be held on 21st June in Bangkok, Thailand.

"With the development of small and medium-sized enterprises in Myanmar, the plastic materials production business has also risen. We are willing to cooperate with international countries to upgrade technology and enhance quality of the plastic materials", according to a local plastic production organisation.

About 500,000 tonnes of plastic raw materials are yearly imported into the country. Myanmar can now start to manufacture personal plastic goods and plastic materials used in industry and construction to ship back to the foreign countries.—Myint Maung Soe

Export value with ITC over Ks1billion; imports over Ks16billion

EXPORT value with the use of the Individual Trading Card (ITC) from 1st April to 24th March this fiscal year reached Ks1.15 billion, whereas import value with ITC hit over Ks16.81 billion, according to statistics provided by the Commerce Ministry.

Trade value with ITC amounted to Ks17.96 billion as of 24th March in the current fiscal year. Out of border trade camps, Myawady and Kan Pike Tee border trade camps are found to have the largest trade value using the ITC.

The border trade values with ITC as of 24th March in this FY were over Ks861million in Tamu, over Ks867million in Muse, over Ks11.15 billion in Myawady, Ks767million in Tachilek, over Ks30million in Lweje, over Ks2.18 billion in Kan Pike Tee, over Ks383million in Kawthaung, over Ks708million in Reed, over Ks961million in Maw Taung and



A truck carrying motorbikes is seen near the 105-mile Muse Trade Zone, Northern Shan State. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

over Ks24million in Keng Tung and Ks29million in Maese, according to the official statistics of the Commerce Ministry.

The Trade Department issued 292 cards from 21st Nov 2012 to

31st March 2013, 261 cards in 2013-2014, 317 cards in 2014-2015, 146 cards in 2015-2016 and 245 cards as of 24th March, according to an announcement released by the ministry.

A businessman can trade Ks3million a day with an ITC, and the trade department granted trade up to Ks15million a day, which amounted to a five-day trade value.—Ko Khant

MPU system for border and normal trade transaction

CONCERTED efforts are being exerted to launch an MPU system for transactions of import and export through normal and border trade, according to the Commerce Ministry. The Ministry of Commerce and Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB) launched an e-payment system in 2017. A coordinating meeting was held on 4th April, 2017 in Nay Pyi Taw with the banks so that transactions can be made with all the banks linked with Myanmar Payment Union (MPU). Present at the meeting

were U Yan Naing Tun, the director-general of the Trade Department, officials from the department under the Ministry of Planning and Finance and the banks.

This system will start in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, the Muse 105th Mile trade zone and Myawady trade zone. Additionally, transactions will soon to be conducted with the e-commerce system via the Myanmar Tradenet website and Point of Sales (POS) terminals of 23 banks linked with the MPU system.—Ko Htet

Shortage of old trucks hike up rental costs for Thingyan revelers

WITH a shortage of old trucks because of , vehicle rental for Thingyan revelers is on the rise, according to car rental businesses.

Those who would like to enjoy Thingyan Festival visiting the pavilions in the city usually rent the trucks but the number of trucks decreased this year. The truck owners have scaled up the rent up

to Ks180,000 which is up by Ks20,000 against last year.

People used to rent light trucks such as the Toyota Dyna, which can load many people on board in order to make the rounds of pandals and pavilions during Thingyan. However, the number of deregistered cars and trucks has risen this year.—Ko Htet

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To Hanoi: From **260 USD** RT All-In
To Hanoi + 01 domestic city: From **350 USD** RT All-in

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Yangon - Hanoi flight schedule from 26 March to 28 October 2017

Yangon – Hanoi	VN 956	Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun	19:10/21:40
Hanoi – Yangon	VN 957	Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun	16:45/18:10

Ticketing period starts from 01 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.

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Vietnam Airlines
REACH FURTHER

Three Ministries hold press conference on one-year performance

A press conference for the current government's one-year performance was held yesterday at 1pm at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the press conference, U Kyaw Zeya, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, talked about creating job opportunities with direct benefits for citizens that involves communicating with international organizations and promoting investment in regions with slow development.

During the one-year period, efforts have been made on developing and maintaining diplomatic relations with Myanmar's neighboring countries, and those that have supported Myanmar's democratic transition.

The President made diplomatic visits to Laos, India, Vietnam and Cambodia during the previous year. He also attended the 60th anniversary of the ASEAN-Russia relations ceremony held in Russia, the 11th Asia-Europe Summit in Mongolia, and attended the condolence signing ceremony in Thailand after the passing of Thailand's King. The State Counsellor made diplomatic visits to Thailand, China, Britain, America, India, Japan and Singapore during the previous year. Attendance were also made to the 71st United Nations General Assembly in America, the BRICS-BIMSTEC Summit in India, the 28th and 29th ASEAN Summit Conference held in Laos.

During the first year term of the new government, discussions were made in the 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 4th Regular Meeting to establish diplomatic relations with the seven countries namely Guinea, Ecuador, Seychelles, Liberia, Vatican, Malta, and the Marshall Islands, which will bring the number of countries Myanmar has diplomatic relationships with up to 121.

Myanmar has been collaborating with the UN, international and regional organizations, and has been recognized for becoming the ASEAN country with the most freedom in the area of the Press and Politics. Myanmar was also able to host a conference with ASEAN Foreign Ministers on 19 December 2016 and have discussions about the incidents in Rakhine state.

Myanmar also accepted humanitarian aid from ASEAN countries including Indonesia, Thailand, and Malaysia via diplomatic channels.

Myanmar visited the Indian Ocean Rim Association for the first time and is preparing to be accepted as a member of the IORA, hosted the ASEAN-Australia Forum, took the role of ASEAN chair in the Asia-Europe discussion group and will host the ASEM Ministerial Meetings from 20-21 November 2017.

Concerning UN relations, the



U Htein Lwin, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Electric Power and Energy

State Counsellor delivered a policy speech at the 71st UN General Assembly. The greatest achievement for Myanmar was the finalization of the Human Rights Draft Proposal submitted yearly to the Third Committee in EU since 1991, which after 2016 in the 71st UN General Assembly was no longer required for submission.

Myanmar also participated in the convention on Nuclear Test Ban Treaty – CTBT, the convention on Nuclear Safety – CAN, and the convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material – CPPNM.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also declared its position on the Rakhine crisis and stated that it was not one of passive support to the government in solving the crisis but rather standing firm with allied countries to prevent discord, pressure and unnecessary interventions from outside.

Concerning border affairs, the State Counsellor was able to achieve mutual agreement with Thailand on beginning measurement of the Myanmar-Thai border, setting rules for construction of embankments along the Myanmar-Thai border, clarifying the Myanmar-India borderline, and clarifying the border on the Myanmar-Laos Friendship Bridge.

Concerning aid for Myanmar citizens in foreign countries, success was made in enabling Myanmar immigrant workers in Thailand to receive full worker benefits, resettlement of IDPs in Thai back to their home in Myanmar, support and protection for Myanmar workers in Singapore, retrieval of Myanmar citizens from detention facilities, lessening of entities from blacklists and extension of visas.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has successfully increased diplomatic visits abroad, increased cooperation with regional and international organizations and received international funding, technology, aid, investment, promoted commerce and the successful planning of handling the crisis in Rakhine while receiving understanding from the international community.

Concerning immigrant Myanmar citizens abroad, implementation strategies have been researched to utilize the human resource of the immigrant Myanmar



U Ye Naing, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Border Affairs

citizens for the development of the nation and society, while developing the skills of Myanmar's Ambassadors to other countries.

Ministry of Border Affairs

U Ye Naing, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Border Affairs said, "The ministry has been implementing the tasks of socio-economic development of border areas and national ethnic people and development of human resources of national ethnic people living in border areas. The department of border areas and development of ethnic people

In the part of power distribution, there were 3.7 million of households consuming power, out of 10.8 million households in 2016, increasing 380000 households to amount to 4.8 million households.

has been performing the tasks of building roads and bridges which are basic infrastructures urgently needed in border areas, matters on education and health, availability of drinking water and electrical power supply, providing food, shelter and clothing to displaced people and tasks of building to help and support peace process.

The department of education and training had opened University for the Development of the National Races, Degree Colleges in Sagaing and Yangon for the capacity development of national ethnic youths, 44 training school for the development of national races in border areas, 48 domestic vocational training schools for women, 9 technical training school for national races in border areas, arranging to simultaneously employ them just after completion of the respective trainings."

He added, "Remarkable performances of the ministry of the border affairs in one-year peri-



U Kyaw Zeya, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

od were building 65-mile road Putao—Khaunglanphu road, Magweza—Khaunglanphu road, digging up lakes in regions, irrigation from streams and creeks, digging artesian wells and hand-dug wells, providing food and subsidies for helping peace process, providing food for nationals in poor condition in border areas, building bridges, roads, schools and rural health care units, arrangement of excursion trips for national ethnic people— from Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine, Palaung and Danu. Degree-college for the capacity development of the national races has accepted only male ethnic youths previously, now starting to accept 53 female trainees this year. Implementation of the development works were being carried out not only with the allotted fund but also with the aids of international cooperation—5 projects under bilateral cooperation program in one year, 3 projects under the cooperation program with UN organizations, 9 projects under the cooperation program with INGOs, 17 projects in total. These projects include agriculture, livestock breeding, education, health, availability, abundance of food, eradication of opium plantation, increasing family income and development of human resources.

Ministry of Electric Power and Energy

U Htein Lwin, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Electric Power and Energy said, "Supplying electric power was carried out by 3 sectors with a view to supplying more than usual.

The first sector was concerned with producing power. It has been implemented in many ways for the availability of power needed. In producing electricity, some was produced in distant areas with some produced in the near areas. Second sector was concerned with sending produced power to other needed areas, with third sector concerned with distribution of power to houses of the people. For electricity to be delivered to a house or an industry, it is not possible to send electricity without producing power. Without part of sending, supplying power to the people is impossible. Without distribution, power con-

sumption is impossible. The ministry has been carrying out the 3 sectors in harmony. In the period of one year, 301 mega watts were produced—78 megawatt from wastage used thermal power plant in Mawlamyine in Mon State, 50 mega watt from Gas turbine power plant in Thilawa, Yangon Region, 133 mega watt by operating gas-engine from the gas of Shwe natural gas in Myingyan, Mandalay Region and 40 mega watt from Myittha Hydro Power Plant. In supplying power, 230 KV & 66 KV power transmission lines and power stations had to be installed. In one year period, 541 miles of 230 KV & 66 KV grid-lines 18 transformers were built. Besides, 541 miles of 33/11 (400 volts) and 451 transformers had been built.

In the part of power distribution, there were 3.7 million of households consuming power, out of 10.8 million households in 2016, increasing 380000 households to amount to 4.8 million households. With the increasing distribution of electricity, supplying power increased power in regions and states including Yangon and Magway Regions. For increasing investment for availability of more power, numbers of households did not increase remarkably, but power system is more strengthened.

During the one-year period concerning the energy sector, 12 inland oil refineries and 36 coastal oil refineries. Similarly, there was successful conversion of 143 diesel run vehicles to CNG fueled vehicles, issue of licenses to retailers of LPG for wider distribution, and of the five kinds of licenses 468 (E) licenses for stores, households and apartments were issued, and 201 (D) licenses for storage and distribution of natural gas were issued as well, with continued efforts being made for citizens to receive greater access to household-used natural gases.

Additionally, collaboration with a foreign company was made to distribute jet fuel to 11 airports, issuing free licenses of approval of privatized oil refineries to 156 individuals with approval from regional governments in the current year, and approval for 256 motor oil distribution licenses.

There are challenges in the electricity and energy sector such as supplying adequate electricity to the public. Of the three sectors of production, supplying and distribution of electricity, production is the most essential as the public has access to only 25 per cent of electricity without production. The ministry has collaborated with JICA on the National Electrification Master Plan for better supplying of electricity. In today's world, heat and hydro power are no longer enough so reviews and strategies are always made to keep up with the growing demand of electricity and power by the public.

SEE PAGE 10 >>

State Counsellor: some success, but we are not home and dry yet

>> FROM PAGE 1

Q: Many many people, including those who would be sympathetic to you look at the situation and say why have you not spoken out? Here is an icon of human rights?

A: What do you mean by speaking out, Fergal, this question has been asked since 2013, when the last round of troubles broke out in Rakhine. And they would ask me questions and I would answer them and people would say I said nothing. Simply because I did not make the statements people wanted, which people wanted me to make, simply to condemn one community or the other.

Q: Well let me quote to you what your fellow Nobel laureates have said, despite repeated appeals to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi we are frustrated that she has not taken any initiative to ensure full and equal citizen rights to the Rohingya. Daw Suu Kyi is the leader with the prime responsibility to lead with courage, humanity and compassion. Basically they are saying you have failed the test of humanity?

A: Well that is their perception, but have they considered the fact that one of the first thing we did after we took over the administration was to go through the national verification process to give citizenship to all those who were entitled to it. And we started doing this and engaging in other developments activities to try to bring about stability and harmony. A lot of the problems in the Rakhine State are due to the fact that resources are limited and both communities are anxious about how their lives are going to pan out.

In October there were

these totally unexpected attacks on police outposts for no reason we could think of ... because we had started the citizenship verification process, the process of bringing people back from the IDP camps, and resettle them, but the whole thing went awry because these attacks took place. We had no idea why these attacks took place. But a lot of people prefer to ignore the fact that these had happened at all. Why?

Q: I have been there, on the ground, on a number of occasions, and interviewed people, and I would say I am someone who recognises ethnic hatred and not ethnic cleansing when I see it, after Rwanda and The Balkans. Maybe the attacks took place because ... there is a rising sense of frustration and that has fed into the hands of the militants?

A: But as far as we could make out, at that time, things were calm because people were waiting to see how are development plans would work and our nationality verification plan. I just wonder if these attacks were calculated to put a stop to this process.

Q: Wouldn't the wisest thing to do to clear up all of this, would be to allow an international fact finding mission there? To allow international agencies in?

A: Well we invited Dr. Annan and the commission to look into Rakhine before anything happened.

Well this happened not because the UN asked for this, or any other body said we should have a fact finding mission, we invited Dr. Kofi Annan to form this commission and look into the problems in the Rakhine and help us to find long term solutions. We



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. PHOTO: MNA

would very much like him to come back to see how we are getting on with the implementation of his recommendations.

Q: Would you be happy, would you appeal to those tens of thousands who have fled the country into refugee camps in Bangladesh to come back? And would you tell them that they would be safe if they do?

A: If they come back they will be safe. It is up for them to decide, some have come back. And we have tried to find out why they fled. We have asked them why they fled and they said it is because of the fighting in their area. They did not want to come if there was still fighting.

Q: And you will welcome them back?

A: We welcome them. It is not a matter, we will welcome them back. They have been coming back. And those who have come back have been welcomed.

Q: Do you ever worry that you will be remembered as the champion of human rights, the Nobel laureate who failed to stand up to ethnic cleansing in her own country?

A: No, because I don't think there is ethnic cleansing going on. I think ethnic cleansing is too strong an

expression to use for what is happening.

Q: It is what I think I saw there, I have to say.

A: Fergal I think there is a lot of hostility there, and as I pointed out just now, it is Muslims killing Muslims, as well if they think they are collaborating with authorities. It is not just a matter of ethnic cleansing. It is a matter of people on different sides of a divide, and this divide we are trying to close up. As best as possible and not to widen it further.

Q: Do you think people in the west misjudged you or mischaracterised you or misunderstood you. Expecting you to be this sort of amalgam of Mahatma Gandhi and Mother Teresa, for example, and actually maybe your closer in your determination and steeliness to someone like Margaret Thatcher?

Well No. I am just a politician. I am not quite like Margaret Thatcher, no. But on the other hand I am no Mother Teresa, either. I have never said that I was. Mahatma Gandhi was a very astute politician.

Q: He did put his own life at risk and ultimately tragically his life to protect his own minority Muslim population, was that an example you would not be

tempted to follow?

A: I don't think putting one's life at risk is a particular example that I would like to follow. I would like to think we could live up to his high principles.

Q: One last question. What would stop you now going to Rakhine State and talking to all communities and appealing for peace? On the ground yourself?

A: Because I want to give those who are working on the Rakhine a chance to show that they are capable of it. I think there's not enough confidence in what our people are capable of doing.

Q: Do you worry that people who do not want

you to change the constitution, who are embedded in the military, embedded in intelligence, are going to target you and the people round you?

A: Well it is not something I think about, because we were asked the same set of questions over the last 30 years since I started working for the NLD. I'm not concerned about an assassination, and all kinds of other dangers coming from the powers that be and from those who are in a position to engage in these activities. But it is not something you think about on a day to day basis, it's just part of your job.—
Myanmar News Agency

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 13th APRIL 2017 to 17th April 2017 Thingyan Festival(New Year Public Holiday), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Nissan Jidosha Kabushiki Kaisha (also trading as Nissan Motor Co., Ltd.), a company incorporated in Japan and having its registered office at No. 2, Takara-cho, Kanagawa-ku, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa-ken, Japan is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademark:

X-TRAIL

Reg. No.4/2581/2017 (14.3.2017)

In respect of "Vehicles for locomotion by land, air, water or rail; Automobiles; Electric vehicles; Waggon, Trucks; Vans [vehicles]; Sport utility vehicles; Motor buses; Recreational vehicles (RV); Sports cars; Racing cars; Bicycles; Lorries; Fork lift trucks; Tractors including towing tractors; Brake pads for land vehicles; Vehicle bumpers; Air bags [safety devices for land vehicles]; Mudguards; Parts of land, air and water vehicles; Vehicle accessories; all included in **International Class 12**, excluding vehicle tyres and inner tubes.

Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the Mark shall be dealt with according to law.

Daw Khin Myo Myo Aye, H.G.P

For **Nissan Jidosha Kabushiki Kaisha (also trading as Nissan Motor Co., Ltd.)**

C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,

Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),

Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,

Botataung Township, Yangon, **Myanmar.**

Dated 7th April 2017

kmma@kcyangon.com

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV YUAN JIAN VOY. NO (0881)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YUAN JIAN VOY. NO (0881) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.4.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-2 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 COSCO LOGISTICS (GANG ZHOU) HEAVY TRANSPORTATION CO LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV ANAN BHUM VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.4.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of 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 NEW GLODEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Extension of the closing Date of Invitation for Cooperation in the area of

Industrial Complex (Thaton)

**Under No.(3) Heavy Industries Enterprise,
Ministry of Industry**

Regarding to the invitation of Expression of Interest for Industrial Complex (Thaton) Under No.(3) Heavy Industries Enterprise, Ministry of Industry, the Closing Date is extended to 25th April, 2017 instead of 7th April, 2017 (Reference to the advertisement in the Global New Light of Myanmar dated 8th and 10th March, 2017)

The investors who interested in those cooperation are required to submit their Draft Proposal, in which mentioning kinds of business, to Technology Development Department No.(3) Heavy Industries Enterprise, Ministry of Industry at Office No.(37) Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myarmar, not later than 4:00 pm(Myanmar Standard Time)on 25th April, 2017.

(For more information, contact No. 09 67 408335, 408129, 09 425269690)

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.

What The Whole Populace Want Is The Nationwide Peace!

Khin Maung Oo

SINCE after gaining the Independence in our country, armed conflicts have been taking places until now due to mutual misunderstanding, reaching 7 decades. Our national brethren are not savoring the taste of Independence. Instead, it has been often heard that our ethnic people including children are being displaced from their locations due to these armed conflicts, or rather running for their survival. Our children are building up their edifices of hopes for brighter future with those from armed conflict areas losing their future. Seeing their sufferings gave us vicarious sufferings. Out of consideration of their sufferings, we want to give subsidies to our brethren and we want to give our voluntary labor in developing their areas of the back-water of modernization. But armed conflicts beget hin-

drances of approaching those areas, which cause impossibilities to accomplish our hopes.

Presently, the incumbent government is continuing to implement the peace process that did not reach success though the former regime made an attempt to implement. Foreign countries and institutions wishing peace in Myanmar joined Myanmar Government's efforts by contributing donations to the fund for peace process in Myanmar. Out of sincere consideration, the government unprecedentedly lets us contribute our donation to the fund, as much as we can. To our great surprise, we have seen the acknowledgement of People's Contribution to the Peace Fund—Union Peace Conference, 21st Century Panlong issued by the national reconciliation and peace center on 3rd April 2017. The national popu-

lace in the country contributed their donation to the Peace Fund from the opening date of the Bank Account till 20th March 2017, amounting to 13947784774 (13.948 billion) in total. It has been found that individuals across the nation contributed to the fund, as far as they could from their scanty amount of incomes—K 1000, K 5000, K 10000 etc with billions of money donated to the fund by some.

We can imagine how much our people hope for the national reconciliation and peace, by seeing the donations of the people across the nation, strengthening the firm resolution determined for the success of the peace process under implementation. In such a time when warring countries in our world are trying to bring about peace, we should come out of hibernation of forgetting our poor children's fu-

ture dreams. We firmly believe that we cannot develop our nation. We will be able to build the peaceful and modernized federal democratic union, the other way around. The only way to solve this problem is for all national armed groups to come to the political negotiation tables. The whole populace has demonstrated their aspiration to gain nationwide peace by contributing their donation to the peace fund, as far as they can. According to the noteworthy words of State Counselor, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, "We should consider as to what we can give or sacrifice on our side," now we are willing and ready to contribute our voluntary labor for building up our brethren's future. Last but not least, we would like to ask our national leaders what they can give or sacrifice for the benefits of the Union.

DEPRESSION : LET'S TALK

Dr. Aung Soe @ Aung Kyaw Moe
Retired State Medical Superintendent

THE above mentioned slogan is meant for World Health Day 2017 which falls on April 7. As the depression cases are on rise globally as well as in Myanmar, together with increased incidence of suicidal attempts, World Health Organization has chosen Depression as theme for 2017 World Health Day.

Psychiatric illnesses are fundamentally no different from medical illnesses. Historically, illnesses in which there was prominent disturbance of psychological function or behavior and no obvious pathology came to be regarded as 'psychiatric'. However, we now know that there is demonstrably altered brain function in many psychiatric disorders. We also know that psychological disturbance is common in medical illness. Hence regarding psychiatric illness as 'mental' as opposed to 'physical' is incorrect. Psychiatric illness is no less real or less deserving of care than are medical conditions.

Diagnosis in psychiatric, as in much of medicine, is based mainly on identifying recognized patterns of subjective symptoms. These symptoms involve abnormalities of behavior, mood, perception, thinking and intellectual function. When severe, these abnormalities may lead to patients being a danger to themselves or to other people. This is recognized in law, and the Mental Health Act gives doctors the authority to treat patients against their will in these cases. However, the great majority of 'psychiatric' pa-

tients are managed in general practitioners' surgeries, mental health centers or hospital outpatient clinics in much the same way as patients with any other medical condition.

The average general practitioner (GP) can expect to be consulted by 1 in 7 of his or her patients each year because of a psychiatric disorder. Physicians and GPs see a greater proportion of patients with neurotic illnesses and relatively few with psychotic illnesses; their patients are less severely ill than those attending a psychiatrist, and are more likely to present with somatic bodily complaints. Prevalence of psychiatric illness in different populations are; in community 15-20%, in general practice attenders 30% where as, in general hospital outpatients 20-30%, and general hospital inpatients 25-40% respectively.

No doubt, depression is only one of the multiple major manifestations of psychiatric illness. Some of the other major manifestations include disturbed and aggressive behavior, anxiety symptoms, deliberate self-harm and suicidal ideation, alcohol misuse and withdrawal, misuse of drugs other than alcohol, medically unexplained physical symptoms and functional body syndromes and chronic progressive diseases with mental involvement.

During my assignment as United Nations Volunteer Medical Officer (UNVMO, UNDP) abroad,

encountered quite a number civil war victims suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorders (PTSD) with suicidal ideations.

Perhaps suicidal attempts are the worst outcomes of depression most of which are fatal.

Presumable causes of depression and mental illnesses are numerous. Genetic factors play an important role, such as a higher prevalence among first-degree relatives than in the general populations; a higher concordance rate in twins, even if the twins have been reared apart; a higher prevalence rate for children of mentally ill parents who are brought up by healthy adoptive parents.

Family background also plays a decisive note. Many patients with psychiatric disorders report an unhappy childhood and it seems likely that a traumatic upbringing predisposes to future psychiatric illness. Important factors are loss of a parent in childhood, due to either death or separation, parental disharmony and physical, especially sexual, abuse. Physical illness and chronic ill health too precipitate mental health. Both predispose to psychiatric disorder. There is an especially well-established link between brain injury and subsequent depressive illness. Physical illness of acute onset can give rise to psychiatric disorder due either to its effect on brain anatomy and physiology or to its emotional significance and implications for the patient's future well-being.

Stressful life events also give rise to mental illnesses in vulnerable people. They usually involve a

sense of loss or threat of loss, and include death of a close relative, marital breakdown, redundancy, retirement and major financial crisis. Social isolation leads to psychiatric problems. Many psychiatrically ill patients are socially isolated and this often appears to be a contributory factor in their illness. Particularly important is the lack of a close, confiding relationship. Social deprivation is associated with various conditions, such as attempted suicide, alcoholism and drug dependence.

Some Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) were in touch with me when I was appointed as Medical Superintendent at General Hospital Myitkyina, Kachin State. As a health care provider, I noticed stress and strain, physical illness and chronic ailments which led to psychiatric health problems among community. Depression is present in a quarter to a half of all medical patients. Depressed mood is usually a consequence or adverse circumstances in vulnerable persons.

Many cases of depression in medical settings are missed. It is therefore important to ask all patients about symptoms. Depression is the main risk factor for suicide and patients with depression should be asked about suicidal ideas and plans. The first step in managing depression is to find out the patient's concerns and provide an appropriate explanation and reassurance where possible. For example, it may emerge that he or she has an unjustifiably negative understanding of prognosis or treatment. If depression is persistent, specific treatment should be considered.

Deliberate self-harm (DSH) is a very common reason for presentation to medical services. The

term 'attempted suicide' is potentially misleading in that the majority of patients are not unequivocally trying to kill themselves. Most suicide attempts involve overdose, either of prescribed or non-prescribed drugs. Other less common methods include wrist-slashing, asphyxiation, drowning, hanging, jumping from a height or in front of a moving vehicle, and using firearms. Methods which carry a high chance of being fatal are more likely to be associated with serious psychiatric illness. There was a steady increase in hospital admissions for suicide attempts from the early 1960s so that by the end of the 1970s there were over 100 000 admissions annually in the UK. (The trend varies between countries). Since then there has been a slight decrease but attempted suicide is still one of the most common reasons for acute medical admission.

Suicide attempts are more common in women than in men, and in young adults than in the elderly. In contrast, completed suicide is more common in men and in the elderly, although there has recently been an increased rate of suicide in young adults. There is a higher incidence of suicide attempts among the lower socio-economic groups, particularly those living in crowded, socially deprived urban areas. Patients often have a deprived family background due to early loss of a parent through death or separation. There are also links with alcohol misuse, child abuse, unemployment and recently broken relationships.

Wish you all a very happy and prosperous new year and complete physical, mental and social well being free from depression.



MV Top Fair cargo ship docks at jetty in Yangon River. PHOTO: MPA

MPA arranges for embarkation of ocean liners

THE Managing Director of Myanmar Port Authority (MPA) under the Ministry of Transport and Communications and the Master Attendant of the marine department have made proper arrangements for ocean liners which have 190 meters length overall or longer to enter the Yangon River.

International cargo ship owners use large ocean liners in order to be cost-effective and to minimise costs. Despite having many ports to load and unload at Yangon port along the Yangon

River, super ocean liners are not allowed to embark at the river port because of the low level of draft as well as of narrow width of the river. Thus, cargo ships are allowed to embark only at the river ports if they have not more than 167 meters overall in length.

Cargo ships with an overall length of 200 meters, including ocean-going cargo ships, international tourist cruises, naval ships and container ships have to wait outside the transitional anchorage for docking at Thilawa Port for long periods of time. The cost

of hiring cargo ships can be difficult because the ship's owners are waiting to get a place at the port.

So, the Myanmar Port Authority is finding a new route in the river and is also systematically dredging the river so that the cargo ships will be able to dock at the jetties in the Yangon River. The MPA is also doing what is necessary to safely dock MV Top Fair cargo ships at Thilawa Port and assign duties to the chief navigation a marine at the pilot station on 23 March.—GNLM

Agricultural loans for crop growers to be increased this FY

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation said it plans to raise the amount of agricultural loans for crop growers as of this fiscal year.

The amount of agricultural loans will be increased to Ks50,000 from Ks20,000 per acre of farmland through the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank as many crop growers were omitted at the time when the government increased its financial support for farmers, especially rice growers.

The authorities have no plans to raise the amount of farming loans per acre for rice farmers, but crop growers will be helped this financial year, according to an official from the Myanmar Rice Federation, which welcomes the new plan to enhance agricultural production.



A female farmer harvests rice grown in irrigated field near Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

The Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank is currently under the purview of the Ministry of Planning and Finance. Before

April of this year, the bank was under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.—200

30-mile greening project around Yangon City to continue this FY

A PROJECT for greening Yangon City and its environs in a 30-mile radius will be continued this fiscal year with the use of government budget funds, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

The ministry will carry out construction of irrigation facilities such as spillways, water channels and silt excluders in project areas

including the Moyungyi Wildlife Sanctuary, Shwekaung Dam and Salu Dam. The greening project has been implemented since 2013. Initially, authorities targeted development of 65,000 acres of paddy plantations in Kawa Township in Bago Region, Khayan, Thonewa and Kyauktan townships in Yangon Region. However, only about 9,000 acres of rice have successfully been planted in Kawa Town-

ship and more than 200 acres of paddy fields in Khayan Township. Growers in Kyauktan Township are facing difficulties to cultivate summer paddy plants because of poor irrigation this season, while some summer paddy plantations were damaged in Thanlyin Township due to the shortage of agricultural water. About 1,880 acres of paddy plantations were developed in Thanlyin this year.—200

POEM:

Because it's Time

Fly the banner of Peace
because it's time.
Do you hear the cries of the Bones?
Do you see the Bird
Ruffle off the burning ashes,
And soar into the azure sky?

Bury the hatchets
because it's time
our hearts were welded in love,
our hands entwined in friendship.

Lay the foundation now
For the future of our children
because what a waste of Hate Bullets,
what a waste of the bloodshed of our brothers,
and our people in the throes of agony!

It's time, dear Bros!

Zaw Tun

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Is it the Government policy not to carry the news of the demonstration by the Confederation of Trade Unions Myanmar CTUM of the 26th March 2017 in the government printed media?

On the 27th of March, almost all the private news papers and journals (7Daydaily, The Voice, Democracy Today, Myanmar Times – Myanmar version, Myanmar Times – Eng, Eleven - Eng) carried the news of the demonstration by CTUM against the order of the Union Government that cut down the annual Thingyan Buddhist New Year Holidays from 10 days to five days on the printed media. MITV, RFA, VOA, BBC, Kamayut media all carried on the broadcast media.

As part of the demonstration, CTUM, which is the largest and only registered Confederation of Trade Unions requested the Union Government, when deciding on issues directly related to workers, to utilize the National Tripartite Dialogue Forum NTDF (nine MOLIP+ nine UMFCI+ nine Workers). The NTDF was formed in 2015 to develop good Industrial Relations and has been in use regarding the Labor Law Reform process, the Employment Contract ect.

We are surprised that the Global New Light of Myanmar, the Myanmar Alin as well as the Mirror daily / Kye Mon did not carry the news. We gave interviews to many reporters including the Government media – to explain the why of the Demonstration and for a solution.

CTUM notes that on 24th March 2017 the Myanmar Alin carried news and photo of Shwe Li Plastic factory workers demonstration in Patheingyi township, Mandalay.

This shows that the government printed media does carry workers protests but not any criticism on the government's policies.

Are we still under a single party society that denies any and all objections to Gov policy ?

What happened to the Freedom of Expression and the Freedom of the Press ?

A democratic, open society is not just the government and the Parliament.

For CTUM, denial of mutual respect to organized labor (formed in accordance with the Myanmar Labor Organization Law), denying acknowledgement of established mechanisms designed to develop good Industrial Relations (in accordance with the ILO standards), closing eyes to positive criticism, and, refusing space for respective stakeholders to work together for the betterment of all, IS NOT DEMOCRACY IN ACTION.

All of us contributed to the political transition. All of us had worked / are now working for the betterment of our country, each in its own sector. Most importantly, now that transition is here, CTUM calls upon all to “ Lend a hand play the game” to achieve our objective of an Open, Inclusive and Interactive society.

Pyi Thit Nyunt Wai @ Maung Maung.

Three Ministries hold press conference on one-year performance

>> FROM PAGE 6

Afterward the officials answer the questions raised by the reporters.

Regarding the question on whether other benefits were obtained by Ministry of Foreign Affairs during the first year of a new government Permanent Secretary U Kyaw Zeya said we have always explained about what has been done. A new approach was used in promoting foreign relationship and was able to obtain more support and pledges for assistant during official visits.

The most notable performance by MOFA during the first year was the ending of the 25 years of draft proposal submission on human rights situation in Myanmar by the European Union. Similarly, outstanding successes were achieved by increasing mutual understandings during the national leaders' visits.

Questioned about future foreign policy, Permanent Secretary U Kyaw Zeya said journalists and international media were mainly reporting about the events of October in Rakhine. But the events

occurred not only in October but also in November as well. The events threaten our country's security and existence. We could not yield in this matter for any reason.

There was an attempt by European Union to submit a resolution to United Nations Human Rights Council on this matter. We stated our position precisely on this matter. While making constructive engagements, we will not yield on matters relating to internal security of our country. In addition, we will increase our engagement with countries that have understanding of us.

Questioned on whether there is any change on the inclusion of ex-military officers in the appointment of ambassadors by the previous government, the Permanent Secretary U Kyaw Zeya said the appointment of ambassadors are decided by national level leaders. Appointment as ambassador is mainly dependent on their ability, the ability to protect our citizens and improving relationship between the two countries.

On the question of human

rights situation in Myanmar and success in foreign relationship, he said priority was given on the improvement and safeguarding of human rights by the new government. Success was achieved because the State Counselor and ambassadors work together hand-in-hand.

On the question of handling diplomatically the fighting in the northern region, he said there were some who seek refuge to neighboring country that cause some burden but we are regularly engaged in this matter. Even though MOFA is not directly connected to the matter, there were instances of assisting the related ministries.

Answering questions on the challenges to the Ministry of Border Affairs first year performance, Permanent Secretary U Ye Naing said the ministry is satisfied with all the regional development works it had conducted. The challenge to the ministry is the long term maintaining of the achievements together with the people.

Permanent Secretary U Htein Lwin replied to the questions on

performance in the electric power and energy sector.

On the question of using Kyat 30 billion on lighting up Yangon, the Permanent Secretary said the fund was for a natural gas and diesel fueled generator that generated 25 megawatt. This is partial fulfillment of the power requirement in Yangon. It is to help provide for the requirement shortage in the summer time. This generator was purchased under the arrangement of Yangon region government.

Regarding the question on tendering for offshore blocks in 2017, the Permanent Secretary said these blocks were tendered in 2013 and works are underway now. Depending upon the outcome of the geological surveys, tendering will be continued.

Regarding the lease of a power generating ship, the Permanent Secretary said this was intended to supplement the power shortages during the summer time. But due to many causes, it could not be done this year and will be considered again depending upon the situation of power distribution in

the summer of 2018.

On the matter of increasing electricity charge, the Permanent Secretary said the matter of production cost was reported. Production cost by hydropower is cheapest while production cost with natural gas is higher. Programs are being drawn to provide cheap electrical power to the grass root level people. Once it is drawn up, it will be submitted to the parliament.

About the rates applied for industrial and public uses, the Permanent Secretary said different rates are used. Rates for the public are reduced as much as possible for the public to use while the rate for industries are at the level to recover production cost. Charging the same rate for both usages is not an international practice. For the sake of the public, we are taking time to calculate this.

National level committee was formed for the Myitsone hydropower project. Our ministry will work according to the committee's conclusion and inform the public about it.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Thousands of Myanmar migrant workers apply for identity cards in Thailand

THE Myanmar Embassy in Thailand warned Myanmar migrant workers to apply for a work permit in Thailand within 15 days after receiving a certificate of Identity issued by the Thai government.

"They are going to be arrested if they do not have a work permit in hand after 15 days from the date the certificate was issued when they are being investigated by the Thai authorities," said the Labor Attache U Moe Aung Khaing of the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok.

The objective of the Certificate of Identity, or CI, is to identify all migrants in Thailand and register their workplaces. The CI will replace the current Pink Card as permission to stay in Thailand and makes bearers eligible to get

the blue book work permit. All migrants in Thailand are required to obtain a CI or apply for a Burmese Passport.

The CI is for migrants who don't have a Burmese ID card and household registration document at hand. A CI will allow migrants to travel freely in order to obtain necessary documents and ultimately apply for a Burmese Passport.

Last week, 37 migrant workers going back to Myanmar who hold CIs were arrested in Mae Sot, Thailand because they could not show work permit documents. U Zaw Myo Htwe, an officer from Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in the CI centre helped the arrested to be freed.

"We requested Thailand immigration not to abolish their



Myanmar workers line up to apply for CI cards. PHOTO: SOE WIN (MLA)

visa. Now they are free after being fined at the court according to the Thailand's law," said the Labor Attache U Moe Aung Khaing.

Myanmar also asked for the Thai Ministry of Labor to permit

CIs for the children whose parents hold temporary passports and have enough time on their visa, said Ko Saw Maung, who works for Labour Affairs in Thailand.

He said those whose visas

expired would reenter Thailand by a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) system. He does not know of any other plan. In six CI centres in Thailand open from March 3 to April 2, thousand of migrant workers have applied for a CI. According to the data from the centre, 13,697 in Mahar Chaing centre (1), 12,914 in Mahar Chaing (2), 16,348 in Samu-parakan Centre, 2,186 in Maesot Centre, 13,368 in Yanaung Centre applied for CIs.

Myanmar migrant workers have to pay a 300 baht service fee when applying for a CI. After receiving the CI, it will cost 500 baht for a work permit application. If they want to change employers, it will cost about 100 baht and another 900 baht to the labour office.—*Soe Win (MLA)*

Establishing community based drug treatment in Myanmar

DRUG treatment capacities in Myanmar received a significant boost this week through the delivery of a new UNODC training package to strengthen access to community-based health services for people who use drugs. The training of officials of the Myanmar Police Force, Ministry of Health and civil society partners follows a symposium held late last year between ASEAN countries and China, where a new approach to strengthen voluntary community-based health services throughout the region was announced.

Currently, there is need in Myanmar and the wider region for an alternative to compulsory drug treatment centers, where people are held for different various periods.

Data collected from 7 countries in the region show that there are close to half a million people sent to such centers every year – and there is no evidence to suggest any clear treatment outcomes.

The training package addresses these gaps by supporting the roll-out of voluntary community based services in Myanmar and the region, being tailored to complement the ongoing development of a new national drug policy in Myanmar. This process has so far yielded a review of the drug law, and a first-of-its-kind consultation process that has brought together various government agencies and civil society for in-depth discussions on policy direction.

"Even with limited resources

we are committed to continuing to improve our delivery of treatment and to put people first", said Dr. Myint Han, Director General of the Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports. "Improving voluntary access and patient-centered approaches is crucial to making this work. Public health and law enforcement agencies have a significant role to play to make sure our rollout of community treatment services is a success."

"The training is an important part of addressing gaps that we have identified in Myanmar based on the original Guidance for Community-Base Treatment and Care Services for People Affected by Drug Use and Depend-

ence in Southeast Asia," said Michael Cole, UNODC expert. "The package introduces community based treatment and care service concepts to those who have never before received practical training on substance use issues – precisely what is needed in Myanmar at the moment."

In practical terms the training will support accessible and quality drug treatment and rehabilitation services. It will deliver knowledge and skills to those who need it most – welfare, community care and outreach workers, and others working in communities.

"This training will result in more effective drug treatment and care, and contribute to the general well-being of the community," said

Colonel Zaw Lin Tun of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) of the Myanmar Police force. "We want to start referring drug users to health services and not put them in prison, where they do not have any support to stop drug use and other risky behavior."

The training, and the wider regional strategy, are part of UNODC's efforts to support countries in the region to move towards health-centric and evidence-based drug policies. The region continues to work collectively on improving drug treatment through regional mechanisms, such as the Mekong MOU on Drug Control, to which Myanmar is also a signatory.—*GNLM*

France says priority in Syria remains UN resolution, peace talks

PARIS — France is still seeking a United Nations Security Council resolution on Syria, foreign minister Jean-Marc Ayrault said on Thursday, adding that diplomatic negotiations were a priority over possible military action.

A suspected chemical attack by government forces in Syria's rebel-held Idlib province earlier this week, which killed at least 70 people, has sparked widespread criticism, including from US President Donald Trump.

Ayrault told CNEWS television that France was pursuing a UN resolution condemning the attack and trying to convince allies to back it, in spite of push-back from Russia.

"France is still seeking to talk with its partners on the Security Council, especially the permanent members, and Russia in particular," Ayrault said.

He was more cautious on whether or not France, one of the main backers of the Syrian opposition to President Bashar al-Assad, would contemplate a military intervention if the United States decided to take action and ruled out stepping in for now.

Trump said on Wednesday that Assad's government had gone "beyond a red line" with the poison attack on civilians, but did not detail how he might respond.

US ambassador to the United



A crater is seen at the site of an airstrike, after what rescue workers described as a suspected gas attack in the town of Khan Sheikhoun in rebel-held Idlib, Syria on 4 April 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Nations Nikki Haley warned that countries "could be compelled to act."

"The first stage is to get a resolution vote and above all to re-start peace negotiations in Geneva. It is not to go in ourselves, under the pretext that the US President may have a rush of blood to the head, and get onto a war footing," Ayrault said, asked

whether France would join any possible US military operation.

Ayrault added that the US response on Syria was still unclear, and that he was getting mixed messages from his counterpart, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, and Defence Secretary Jim Mattis.

"They're not saying the same thing," he said.

France has repeatedly said

that Assad cannot be part of a credible solution on Syria as part of peace talks, and along with Britain renewed its call this week for the Syrian president to leave office.

"His crimes cannot remain unpunished. The day will come when international justice will have its say on Bashar al-Assad," Ayrault said.—Reuters

Israeli killed in Palestinian car ramming in West Bank

JERUSALEM — The Israeli army said a car driven by a Palestinian deliberately rammed into two Israelis, killing one and injuring the other, in the occupied West Bank on Thursday.

The driver was taken into custody after the incident near the Jewish settlement of Ofra, the army said in a statement. Witnesses told Israeli media that as he approached a bus stop, he accelerated and aimed the vehicle at two Israelis waiting there.

The death brings to 39 the number of Israelis killed in a wave of Palestinian street attacks, in which two American tourists also died, that began in October 2015.

At least 242 Palestinians have been killed in Israel and the Palestinian Territories over the past 18 months. Israel says at least 162 were Palestinians who launched stabbing, shooting or ramming attacks. Others died during clashes and protests.

Israel has accused the Palestinian leadership of inciting the violence. The Palestinian Authority, which exercises limited self-rule in the occupied West Bank, denies incitement and charges that in many cases, Israel has used excessive force in thwarting attackers armed with rudimentary weapons.

Photos from the scene of Thursday's incident showed the driver, bound, blindfolded and guarded by a soldier, seated next to his damaged car, in the undergrowth behind the bus stop. The vehicle had Palestinian licence plates.

Five days ago, Israeli paramilitary police officers shot dead a Palestinian after he stabbed three Israelis in Jerusalem's Old City.—Reuters

Venezuela's opposition censures judges; 18 held after protests

CARACAS — Venezuela's opposition lawmakers, some carrying injuries from this week's protests, on Wednesday sought the dismissal of Supreme Court judges whom they accuse of propping up a socialist dictatorship.

Newly militant opposition leaders also announced another round of demonstrations against President Nicolas Maduro for Thursday, despite chaos and violence in Caracas on Tuesday that left 20 injured and 18 arrested.

The opposition, which won control of the National Assem-

bly in late 2015, accuses Maduro of wrecking the South American nation's economy and squashing democracy.

Maduro says his foes are seeking a coup with the help of Washington and compliant foreign media.

The opposition's main demand now is to bring forward the next presidential election scheduled for the end of 2018.

But there is no sign authorities will concede, analysts and diplomats say, unless foreign pressure ramps up considerably

or Venezuela's powerful military sways the equation.

The political drama is playing out against the backdrop of a deep economic crisis, with Venezuelans suffering a fourth year of recession, widespread shortages of basic foods and medicines, the world's worst inflation, and long lines at supermarkets.

Having been impeded from reaching the National Assembly on Tuesday, lawmakers headed to the building in downtown Caracas from dawn on Wednesday, some still nursing head wounds

or bandaged arms from clashes in recent days.

"We are going to keep fighting for change, opposing repression and dictatorship," lawmaker Juan Requesens, who had a gash on his head, said at 6:30 am while en route to the session.

Often at the forefront of provocative demonstrations, Requesens received more than 50 stitches after being hit by a stone when pro-government supporters confronted protesters at the public ombudsman's office earlier this week.—Reuters

Assad tells paper he sees no 'option except victory' in Syria

DAMASCUS — Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said there is no "option except victory" in the country's civil war in an interview published on Thursday, saying the government could not reach "results" with opposition groups that attended recent peace talks.

The interview with Croatian newspaper Vecernji List appeared to have been conducted before US President Donald Trump accused Assad of crossing "many, many lines" with a poison gas attack on Tuesday.

Assad was not asked about the chemical attack in the northwestern Syrian town of Khan Sheikhoun, a text of the interview published by the Syrian state news agency SANA showed. The government has strongly denied any role.

More than six years into the Syrian conflict, Assad appears militarily unassailable in the areas of western Syria where he has shored up his rule with decisive help from the Russian military and Iranian-backed militias from across the region.

The interview published on Thursday underlined Assad's confidence as he reiterated his goal of dealing a total defeat to the insurgency. He also reiterated his rejection of federalism sought by Kurdish groups in northern Syria.

"As I said a while ago, we have a great hope which is becoming greater; and this hope is built on confidence, for without confidence there wouldn't be any hope. In any case, we do not have any other option except victory," he said.

"If we do not win this war, it means that Syria will be deleted from the map. We have no choice in facing this war, and that's why we are confident, we are persistent and we are determined," he said.

More than 70 people, including at least 20 children, were killed in the chemical attack on Tuesday.

The Russian allies say the deaths were caused by a leak from an arms depot where rebels were making chemical weapons, after it was hit in a Syrian air strike. Rebels deny this.

Rebels have in recent weeks launched two of their boldest offensives in many months, attacking in Damascus and north of the government-held city of Hama. The army says both assaults have been repelled.—Reuters



Syria's President Bashar al-Assad speaks during an interview with Croatian newspaper Vecernji List in Damascus, Syria, in this handout picture provided by SANA on 6 April 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Big miners have trouble joining technology revolution

SANTIAGO/LONDON — Mining companies chasing the kind of technological breakthroughs made long ago in the manufacture of cars and mobile phones have unveiled eye-catching innovations ranging from vast drills and remote-controlled trucks to second-by-second data analysis.

Behind the scenes, however, there has so far been limited progress towards a transformation the companies say is more and more vital to their survival.

They are being jolted into action by volatile commodity prices and the increasing difficulty and danger of accessing remaining reserves in hot, narrow seams several kilometers below ground.

“There’s a big awakening in mining. The time is ripe for things to begin to change,” Anglo American’s head of technology development Donovan Waller said by telephone.

A major obstacle is the massive upfront cost for in-



An aerial view of Anglo American’s Los Bronces copper mine at Los Andes Mountain range, near Santiago city, Chile, in 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

novation that firms such as Anglo, BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto <RIO.AX must pay off over the life of a mine in contrast to incremental upgrades common to mobile phones.

Sandvik, one of the world’s biggest suppliers of mining equipment, told Reuters it had doubled its installation of automation systems between 2015 and

2016.

But, asked what proportion of the loaders and trucks it sells are fully automated, it gave an estimate of 5 per cent.

While automation represents a potential threat to jobs the world over, it is particularly sensitive in an industry employing hundreds of thousands of blue-collar workers in na-

tions where mining represents a major chunk of GDP.

Extreme environments and logistical barriers to transferring technology from other industries were other issues experienced by three big mining companies, in South Africa, Chile and Australia, which shed light on the complexity of the task.—Reuters

South Africa’s top court lifts ban on domestic sales in rhino horn

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa’s Constitutional Court has dismissed an appeal by the Department of Environmental Affairs to keep a moratorium on the domestic trade in rhino horn, according to court documents seen by Reuters on Wednesday.

Pelham Jones, chairman of South Africa’s Private Rhino Owners Association (PROA) which was one of the respondents in the case, told Reuters the decision meant that the sale of rhino horns was legal in South Africa.

“We welcome the Constitutional Court ruling, we believe it is a right we have been entitled to,” he told Reuters. A global ban in the horn trade, which is regulated by a UN convention, remains in place, which means horn acquired legally in South Africa cannot be exported from the country.

In May last year, South Africa’s Supreme Court of Appeal dismissed the government’s bid to uphold a

ban on the domestic trade in rhino horn put in place in 2009. The Constitutional Court was its last judicial option.

“This court ... has concluded that the application should be dismissed with costs as it lacks reasonable prospects of success,” the Constitutional Court said in a brief order. A spokeswoman for South Africa’s Department of Environmental Affairs said it would issue a statement shortly.

The court action was initiated by private rhino ranchers and other associations, who say they need to sell horn to afford spiraling security costs which include armed patrols, helicopters and electric fencing.

According to the latest figures from PROA, over 6,500 rhinos are in private hands in South Africa, over a third of the national population. Rhino horn can be harvested as it grows back and it can be removed from a tranquilized animal.—Reuters

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

Extension of timeline to submit responses to the Requests for Proposals for Joint Venture in Onshore Seismic Acquisition Services, Onshore Drilling Services and Onshore Pipeline Construction and Maintenance Services with Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise

Date: April 7, 2017

Further to the announcements of the Requests for Proposals for Joint Venture in Onshore Seismic Acquisition Services, Onshore Drilling Services and Onshore Pipeline Construction and Maintenance Services with Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, published on March 24, 2017, MOGE hereby announces an extension for interested parties to submit their Applications. The Applications shall be submitted **no later than 3 PM, local time (Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar), on May 17, 2017** to the following address:

MOGE Tender Committee for Joint Venture Establishment in Petroleum Services, Complex 44, MOGE Office, Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Interested parties are now invited to submit a second round of questions regarding the RfP and comments on the draft Joint Venture Agreement **no later than 12 PM (noon), local time (Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar), on April 26, 2017**. MOGE will duly respond to all questions submitted no later than 3 PM local time (Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar), on May 5, 2017. A revised draft Joint Venture Agreement will be issued together with the response to this second round of questions, taking into consideration comments received from both the first and second rounds of comments on the draft Joint Venture Agreement.

MOGE also hereby announces an extension for interested parties to designate an Authorised Representative and a Back-up Representative. Interested parties must designate an Authorised Representative and a Back-up Representative **no later than 12 PM (noon), local time (Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar), on April 26, 2017**. Any updates to the Joint Venture Partner Selection Process shall be communicated through the designated Authorised Representative and Back-up Representative and published on the official website for the Joint Venture Partner Selection Process (www.mogemm.com).

The RfP may still be purchased by any interested party no later than 12 PM (noon), local time (Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar), April 26, 2017 (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays) at Complex 44, MOGE Office, Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar for a non-refundable cash payment of five hundred United States Dollars (USD 500). The purchaser will be provided with a payment acknowledgement when payment is made. Only Applications from Applicants that had purchased the RfP document officially from MOGE will be evaluated.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ministry of Electricity and Energy

Brazil’s Congress set to reject Temer’s pension reform

SAO PAULO — Brazilian President Michel Temer’s landmark pension reform would not pass the Lower House of Congress at it stands, according to a survey of lawmakers published by newspaper Estado de S.Paulo on Wednesday. Not even a watered-down version of the constitutional amendment, which is considered key for Brazil to plug a widening budget gap, would muster enough votes to clear the house, the daily

said. The reform, submitted last year to Congress, sets a minimum age of retirement for both women and men of 65 years and demands more years on the job for workers to gain full pension benefits. Those points and others to limit benefits are criticized by lawmakers who face elections next year and are calling to ease some requirements that are already facing stiff resistance from unions and public servants.

Brazil’s pension system

is one of the world’s most generous and expensive with many workers retiring in their early 50s with full benefits. A watered-down proposal would be rejected by 242 lawmakers with only 92 in favour, the survey shows. The amendment needs 308, or three-fifths of the house, to pass.

A special lower house committee is expected to vote on the proposal this month before it heads to the floor.—Reuters



Request for Proposal (RFP) for provision of Fuel to all UN agencies on Long Term Agreement Reference No.: LRPS-2017-9130792

UNICEF invites Sealed Request for Proposal (RFP) to enter into Long Term Agreement with one or more qualified suppliers for provision of fuel to all UN agencies in Myanmar. **Supplier eligible criteria:** Supplier must have the following minimum requirements.

- **Valid business registration certificate;**
- **Able to supply fuel to all UN agencies in Myanmar in line with the requirement stated in the TOR;**
- **Established quality control and assurance mechanisms**

Interested companies who have well experience in provision of fuel across Myanmar and meet the above mentioned criteria are invited to submit proposal to UNICEF Office, No. 23-A, Inya Myaing road, Shwe Taung Gyar Ward (2), Bahan Township, Yangon on or before 10:00 am (local time Yangon/Myanmar) **10 May 2017**. Late receipt of the proposal shall be rejected.

The RFP form can be collected at UNICEF office on or before **28 April 2017**. For detailed information, please contact Ms. Ei Cho Nyunt, Supply Officer, UNICEF, Tel: 01 230-596 Ext: 1563, E-mail: enyunt@unicef.org

Construction starts on world’s highest power transmission in Tibet

LHASA — Construction started Thursday on the world’s highest power transmission project in southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region.

The 16.2 billion yuan (2.35 billion US dollars) project includes the construction or upgrade of 16 110-kv substations and transmission lines, with a total length of 2,738 km. The average altitude is 3,750 meters, with the biggest altitude gap of 494 meters between two adjacent transmission towers.

The project also includes power supply facilities for the railway between Lhasa, the regional capital, and Nyingchi. The Lhasa-Nyingchi section of the Sichuan-Tibet railway began construction in December 2014.

Shu Yinbiao, chairman of the State Grid, said the project would ensure stable power supply and assist with the transmission of Tibet’s clean energy to other places.

Currently, the backbone grids in Tibet are not all interconnected, resulting in unstable operation.

The complicated grid project will be completed in 2018.

From 2011 to 2015, the State Grid spent 27 billion yuan building key power projects, connecting Tibet’s grids to those of Sichuan and Qinghai provinces and enabling 480,000 people in Tibet to have power.—Xinhua

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"Laboratory apparatus and instruments; laboratory devices for genetic testing; optical analyzers; foods analyzers; chemical composition analyzers; gas analyzers; telecommunication devices and apparatus; electronic machines, apparatus and their parts; computer operating programs, recorded; downloadable computer programs; computer software, recorded; downloadable electronic publications featuring computers or computer programs; computer software for use in medical data management, recorded; downloadable computer programs for use in medical data management; apparatus for consumer games adopted for use with an external display screen or monitor; measuring or testing machines and instruments; electronic publications" in **Class 9**; and

"Medical apparatus and instruments; blood analyzers for medical purposes and their parts; automated biochemical analyzers for medical purposes and their parts; diagnostic apparatus for urine analysis and their parts; medical apparatus for measuring glycated hemoglobin and their parts; medical apparatus for determining osmotic pressure and their parts; blood gas analyzers for medical purposes and their parts; medical apparatus for drawing blood samples; blood glucose meters and their parts; sensors for monitoring blood glucose level as part of blood glucose meters; puncture apparatus for blood drawing and their parts; lancets; lancets for blood drawing; surgical apparatus and instruments; veterinary apparatus and instruments; artificial tympanic membranes; prosthetic or filling materials, not for dental use; electric massage apparatus for household use; gloves for medical purposes; urinals for medical purposes; bed pans; contraceptives, non-chemical; ear picks" in **Class 10**.

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Daw La Min May, H.G.P
For ARKRAY, INC.,
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,
Level 8A, UFC Tower, Corner of Mahabandoola Road & Thein Phyu Road,
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Dated 7th April 2017
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"Mufflers for motors and engines; Grease rings [parts of machines]; Cylinders for motors and engines; Pistons for cylinders; Belts for motors and engines; Oil pans; Cylinder heads for engines; Cylinder head covers; Engine covers; Crank shafts; Pulleys [parts of machines]; Crankcases for machines, motors and engines; Exhaust manifold for engines; Intake manifold; Filters [parts of machines or engines]; Filters for cleaning cooling air, for engines; Air cleaners for engines; Fans for motors and engines; Oil coolers; Sparking plugs for internal combustion engines; Gaskets for engines; Radiators [cooling] for motors and engines; Igniting devices for internal combustion engines; Superchargers; Turbocompressors; Generators of electricity; Compressors [machines]; Hydraulic controls for machines, motors and engines; Pumps [parts of machines, engines or motors]; Alternators; Valves [parts of machines]; Piston rings; Starters for motors and engines" included in **International Class 07**;

"Clothing, footwear, headgear; Belts [clothing]; Caps [headwear]; Hats; Visors [headwear]; Scarfs; Neck scarfs [mufflers]; Shawls; Neckties; Overalls; Work clothes; Motorists' clothing; Jackets [clothing]; Knitwear [clothing]; Parkas; Shirts; Pullovers; Sweaters; Neck warmers [clothing]; Wristbands [clothing]; Gloves [clothing]; Shoes; Ear muffs [clothing]; Headbands [clothing]" included in **International Class 25**;

"Games and playthings; gymnastic and sporting articles not included in other classes; decorations for Christmas trees; Radio-controlled toy vehicles; Light and sound toys; Plush toys; Scale model vehicles; Toy vehicles; Toys and playthings in the form of replica helmets; Divot repair tools [golf accessories]; Golf tees; Golf bags, with or without wheels; Skis; Balls for games; Billiard equipment; Jigsaw puzzles; Checkers [games]; Chess games; Playing cards; Video game machines; Sports equipment" included in **International Class 28**;

"Advertising; business management; business administration; office functions; Retail or wholesale services for vehicles, structural parts and fittings therefor; Dealerships in the field of vehicles; Sales promotion for others; Compilation of information into computer databases; Systemization of information into computer databases; Advertising and publicity services for vehicles; Import-export agency services; Providing information about land vehicles, namely, consumer product information and price comparison information; Information services, namely, providing price-comparison information in the field of fuel; Commercial information and advice for consumers [consumer advice shop]; Administration of consumer loyalty programs; Organization of exhibitions for commercial or advertising purposes; Organization of trade fairs for commercial or advertising purposes" included in **International Class 35**;

"Insurance; financial affairs; monetary affairs; real estate affairs; Accident insurance underwriting; Brokerage for hire-purchase; Credit and cash card services; Financial information; Financing services; Issuance of credit cards; Used automobiles appraisal; Insurance of land vehicles; Providing of comprehensive warranty services for land vehicles, structural parts and fittings therefor; Extended warranty insurance services; Factoring; Lending against security; Loans [financing]; Automobile lease financing; Leasing of vehicles; Debit card services" included in **International Class 36**; and

"Transport; packaging and storage of goods; travel arrangement; Transportation information; Car transport; Vehicle rental; Vehicle breakdown towing services; Passenger transport; Providing information relating to the transportation of goods and passengers; Information services relating to transport, namely, providing best forecast route guidance, voice routing, location assistance and convenience services to drivers through components integrated into land vehicles; Car parking; Leasing of vehicles; Transport brokerage; Chauffeur services; Collection, transport and storage of used parts of land vehicles; GPS navigation services" included in **International Class 39**.

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Dated 7th April 2017
kmma@kcyangon.com

Sheena Easton debuts at West End in '42nd Street' musical

LOS ANGELES — Grammy award-winning artist Sheena Easton has made her West End debut in the musical "42nd Street", with Britain's Duchess of Cambridge Kate Middleton, actor Morgan Freeman and tennis coach Judy Murray attending the show's premiere.

The musical follows a Broadway director named Julian Marsh as he attempts to put on a successful theatrical production in the middle of the Great Depression. Easton plays Peggy Marsh, one of the chorus line in

the show, who takes over as the lead when the star actress breaks her ankle.

Produced by Johnny Hon and directed by Mark Bramble, "42nd Street" is famous for songs like "Dames", "We're In The Money" and "I Only Have Eyes For You".

It is not the production's first showing in London, having run in the West End from 1984 to 1989. A relatively unknown Catherine Zeta Jones performed in the chorus line in 1984.—*Reuters*



Sheena Easton in *Vina del Mar*, about 75 miles (120 km) northwest of Santiago, in 2008. PHOTO: REUTERS

Trump defends Fox News host O'Reilly as 'good person'

NEW YORK — US President Donald Trump on Wednesday defended TV anchor Bill O'Reilly after a report that the conservative commentator and his employer, 21st Century Fox, paid five women to settle claims he sexually harassed them.

"I think he's a person I know well — he is a good person," Trump said of O'Reilly in an interview with *The New York Times*.

The *Times* reported over the weekend that Fox and O'Reilly paid \$13 million to five women who accused him of sexu-

al harassment. O'Reilly, in a statement posted on his website on Saturday, said he had been unfairly targeted because of his prominence.

"I think he shouldn't have settled; personally I think he shouldn't have settled," Trump told the *Times* on Wednesday. "Because you should have taken it all the way. I don't think Bill did anything wrong."

Fox News is a unit of 21st Century Fox. Several companies have pulled ads from O'Reilly's Fox News show "The O'Reilly Factor."—*Reuters*



Fox News Channel host Bill O'Reilly poses on the set of his show "The O'Reilly Factor" in New York in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS



Japanese anime director Makoto Shinkai poses for a photo in front of posters of his animated film 'Your Name' after an interview with Reuters in Tokyo, Japan, on 16 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

'Your Name' draws modern love film from ancient poem

LOS ANGELES — A thousand-year-old Japanese poem inspired filmmaker Makoto Shinkai to create "Your Name," an animated story that weaves love and time travel into what he called a message of hope for Japanese millennials.

"Your Name" (Kimi No Na Wa) follows Mitsuha, a young girl fed up with living in an idyllic rural Japanese village, and Taki, a teenage boy in Tokyo. The two find themselves waking up randomly in each other's bodies.

Shinkai, speaking in Japanese, told Reuters that he drew from poet Ono no Komachi's words written centuries ago in which she described meeting a lover in a dream and waking up feeling sad.

In "Your Name," Taki and Mitsuha live each other's lives, leaving notes on their cell phones of their experiences, but when

Taki tries to find Mitsuha, his fate takes a fantastical turn as time bends into alternate realities.

The film opens in US theatres on Friday after topping the Japanese box office in 2016 with nearly \$215 million, according to film tracker BoxOfficeMojo.com.

Shinkai, 44, the filmmaker behind 2013's "The Garden of Words," said he wanted to make a movie aimed at younger Japanese audiences in which "they can believe in their future."

"I created this movie hoping that younger audiences would believe that 'maybe there is the one in my life I might have not met yet but hopefully will see tomorrow or in the future,'" he said.

The juxtaposition of Mitsuha's rural, traditional lifestyle with Taki's modern city life was something Shinkai said he drew from his own life, growing up in a small village and later moving

to Tokyo, a city that he said "feels like almost a different country" within Japan.

"I think it is one of the common themes for many Japanese people to choose where to live, Tokyo or their hometown," he said.

Shinkai has been hailed as the successor to animator Hayao Miyazaki, the Studio Ghibli co-founder behind films such as "Howl's Moving Castle" and "Spirited Away." But Shinkai said that while he was "honored and flattered" by the comparison, "people are overestimating me."

"Miyazaki has a great talent, but I really struggle every time I create a new film and am far from Miyazaki," he said.

"At the same time, I'm younger than him so I intend to make more animation films, which cannot be the same as his but created in a different way for my audience."—*Reuters*

Ciaran Hinds to play Steppenwolf in 'Justice League'

LONDON — "Game of Thrones" actor Ciaran Hinds has confirmed that he will play villain Steppenwolf in superhero team-up movie "Justice League".

In an interview with *The Independent*, Hinds suggests that his performance as Lot in his 1981 movie "Excalibur" may help him get the role.

"They were great fans of 'Excalibur', Zack and his team," says Hinds, addressing "Justice League" director Zack Snyder.

"Maybe that's how I got the role (in 'Justice League')! Who

knows?"

Hinds reveals that he will play Steppenwolf through motion capture, which means that his character will be mostly computer-generated except for his eyes and mouth.

"Basically they're going to construct something, digitally, and then they will use my eyes and mouth. He's old, tired, still trying to get out of his own enslavement to Darkseid, but he has to keep on this line to try and take over worlds," says Hinds.

In DC comics, Steppenwolf

is a member of Darkseid's elite.

He once leads an army to conquer the Earth in the name of Darkseid.

"Justice League" is scheduled to be released in US theatres on 17 November.

The movie will feature Ben Affleck as Batman, Henry Cavill as Superman, Gal Gadot as Wonder Woman, Ray Fisher as Cyborg, Amy Adams as Lois Lane, Ezra Miller as The Flash, Jesse Eisenberg as Lex Luthor and Willem Dafoe as Nuidis Vulko.—*PTI*

New York's Eleven Madison Park voted world's best restaurant

MELBOURNE — New York's Eleven Madison Park nabbed the top prize at the World's 50 Best Restaurants on Wednesday, only the second non-European restaurant to win the gong.

The restaurant overlooking Madison Square Park was praised for its sense of fun in blending a creative tasting menu with gracious hospitality. It rose from third place last year, overtaking Italy's Osteria Francescana and Spain's El Celler de Can Roca.

"We get to help people celebrate some of the most important moments in their lives or give them the grace to forget something for a moment," said co-owner Will Guidara on receiving the top gong with Swiss-born chef Daniel Humm.

The restaurant, where Humm's prized dish is celery root cooked in a pig's bladder, has just ex-



Co-owners of the restaurant Eleven Madison Park Daniel Humm (L) and Will Guidara (C) talk at a press conference during the 50 Best Restaurants awards in Melbourne, Australia, on 5 April 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

tended its lease for another 20 years and will close for three months for an overhaul.

"We're about to embark on a completely new journey," Guidara told re-

porters, calling the prize a fitting end to the first phase of Eleven Madison's journey.

Since the inception of the award in 2002, California's French Laundry is the

only other non-European establishment to claim the top prize. It won in 2003 and 2004.

The top 10 included two Peruvian restaurants, Central, which slipped to

no.5 from fourth place last year, and Maido which climbed to no. 8 from 13.

Peru is becoming a dining hot spot as the country has so many terrains at different altitudes for creative chefs to gather ingredients, one of the voters for the award, German food writer Christoph Teuner, told Reuters.

The only Asian restaurant in the top 10 was Bangkok's Gaggan, where owner-chef Gaggan Anand has created a modern take on his native Indian cuisine by deconstructing favorites like samosas and tikka masala.

Spain continued to dominate the line-up with three restaurants in the top 10, including Mugaritz, while France had only one in the top 10 — Mirazur in the south-eastern town of Menton.

Rounding out the top

10 was Vienna's Steirereck, housed in a glass cube, where freshwater mountain fish is cooked at the table in hot beeswax.

The list was created by William Reed Business Media, and the gongs are now as coveted as Michelin stars.

Danish restaurant Noma, in the top 10 for nine successive years and winner of the award four-times, dropped out of the list as chef Rene Redzepi has closed the restaurant while moving it to a new venue in Copenhagen.

There are no criteria for putting a restaurant on the list, which is based on a poll of more than 1,000 chefs, food critics and other industry insiders spread across 26 regions. Each member gets 10 votes and at least four of those votes have to be for restaurants outside their region.—Reuters

Rome turns to cost-saving LED lighting but some residents unhappy

ROME — Rome is investing millions of euros in environmentally friendly, cost-saving LED street-lighting, but some residents of the Eternal City are unhappy to lose the softer, golden glow of the old sodium lamps.

"This LED light is really bright, really blue, it feels like a hospital light," said Monica Larner, an American who lives in Rome's historic centre. She said she was shocked to find the old

bulbs replaced in her neighbourhood overnight, with no prior notice to residents.

The city's electricity company Acea says the new lighting, which should be fully installed by the summer, will improve visibility and safety as well as saving money.

With an investment of about 50 million euros (\$53.33 million) the town hall, run by the anti-establishment 5-Star Movement,

will save 260 million euros over the next 10 years, said the head of Acea's public lighting department.

Over the same period it will cut carbon dioxide production by 350,000 tonnes and reduce petrol consumption by 180,000 tonnes, Paolo Fioroni told Reuters. "This is a great step forward in terms of technological advancement and energy efficiency," he said. While the conversion is carried out,

some central piazzas are now illuminated partly by the old softer light bulbs, encased in romantic glass, and partly by the brighter LED glow.

Not all residents prefer the former, even if it is more aesthetically pleasing.

"I am more than happy. I find there is more light in this area and above all there is a real saving in energy level," said shop owner Luca Candolo. "It was about time."—Reuters

Photo exhibition on 'Peace Ambassador' students begins in Nagasaki

NAGASAKI — A photo exhibition on a group of Japanese high school students seeking the abolition of nuclear weapons opened Thursday in Nagasaki.

The High School Student Peace Ambassadors will mark the 20th anniversary of their foundation next year. They have given speeches and submitted petitions in support of their goal at UN offices.

The exhibition at the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum will last until 23 April. Admission is free.

The student group was formed by civic groups in Nagasaki and Hiroshima in 1998 when India and Pakistan conducted nuclear tests. The students traveled to the UN headquarters in New York at that time.

They have since visited the European headquarters

of the United Nations in Geneva every August to deliver signatures for nuclear disarmament. Some 200 students had assumed the post of ambassador by last year.

Around 30 pictures are displayed at the museum including those showing the students collecting signatures in the street and their representative delivering a speech at the UN Conference on Disarmament in Ge-

neva in 2014.

"Survivors of the atomic bombings (in Nagasaki and Hiroshima) will disappear someday," Sakue Shimohira, an 82-year-old A-bomb survivor in Nagasaki, said at the opening of the exhibition. "I hope (the ambassadors) will continue to deliver messages on the cruelty of atomic bombs and wars in place of us."—Kyodo News



A series of stuffed animals stolen by Jason Hopwood during a burglary in Wimbledon are seen after they were recovered, in an undated Metropolitan Police photograph handed out in London, Britain, on 5 April 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Stuffed menagerie, complete with lions, recovered from UK burglar

LONDON — A British burglar who stole 18 stuffed animals including lions, a giraffe and a snarling chimpanzee in a top hat and tie has received a suspended jail sentence, police said on Wednesday.

The loot, which also included a stuffed rhinoceros, a crocodile, a sloth, a zebra, a penguin and a pink flamingo, belonged to a licensed taxidermy company and was worth about 100,000 pounds (\$124,850) in total, police said.

Jason Hopwood, 47, had pleaded guilty to burglary and fraudulent use of a registration plate. He was sentenced to 21 months in jail, suspended for two years, and ordered to do 200 hours of community service work.

The animals were stolen in March last year from a warehouse in Wimbledon, southwest London.

After receiving an anonymous tip-off, police found an abandoned van in Essex, east of London, with all 18 animals inside and sticky patches where fake number plates had been attached.

Hopwood was subsequently identified as the van's owner.

"Cataloguing and exhibiting the stolen items was a truly unique and memorable experience, and this is certainly an investigation which will stay with me for years to come," said Detective Constable Stuart Goss of London's Metropolitan Police.—Reuters



Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(7-4-2017 07:00am ~ 8-4-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News	09:52	Am	Thin Byu Mat
07:26	Am	Discovering Tribes Lisu: Their Life and Customs (Part-I)	10:03	Am	News
07:48	Am	ABU Radio Song Festival	10:26	Am	The Green Corner (Epi-20) E-waste Robot
08:03	Am	News	10:34	Am	Tour of national heritages and archeological sites
08:26	Am	Strolling Along A Memory Link - U Pein Bridge	(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Thursday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) <u>Prime Time</u>		
08:44	Am	Chanmyay Yeiktha Meditation Centre-Chaw Dwin Gone	07:03	Pm	New
09:03	Am	News	07:26	Pm	My Travel In This Exceptional Place, Inle Lake
09:26	Am	Karaweik Palace-A Symbol Of Glorious Myanma Culture	07:47	Pm	He can do it
09:41	Am	Thingyan Songs & Dances	08:03	Pm	New
			08:26	Pm	Bogalay Tint Aung: A Man of Versatility (Part-4)
			08:53	Pm	My Life & My Art
			(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Thursday 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.myanmarity.com/schedule)		

Aces wild as Kyrgios draws Isner in Davis Cup tie

BRISBANE — A barrage of aces can be expected in the second rubber of Australia's Davis Cup quarter-final against the United States in Brisbane on Friday after Nick Kyrgios was drawn to play John Isner in singles.

Australian Kyrgios, who has beaten Novak Djokovic twice and taken Roger Federer close over the last month on the back of some brilliant serving, is tied for third place with the tall American on the ATP leaderboard with 218 aces this season.

The clash between world number 16 Kyrgios and the 23rd ranked Isner will follow Jack Sock's first meeting with 22-year-old Australian Jordan Thompson on the hardcourt of the Pat Rafter Arena.

"I'm looking forward to getting back here and having some home support," said Kyrgios, who had to deal with a hostile crowd when he lost to Federer in Miami last week. "I feel comfortable playing second. I'll be out there

for some of Thommo's match and I think it's a good match up with him against Sock."

Another Australian big server, Sam Groth, will team up with John Peers to take on Sam Querrey, who is no slouch in the service department, and Steve Johnson in Saturday's doubles before the reverse singles on Sunday.

The two countries have 60 Davis Cup titles between them but Australia have not won since they bagged their 28th crown in 2003, while the U.S. snared their 32nd a decade ago. Isner has a 2-1 record against Kyrgios after beating the 21-year-old in their first two meetings at the Canadian and Madrid Masters tournaments in 2015 before losing in two tight sets in Atlanta last year.

"Right now, a lot of people could argue he's playing maybe the best tennis he's ever played," Isner said of Kyrgios.

"If our match does go to five sets I think it would make for a pretty cool atmosphere out there



Nick Kyrgios of Australia hits a forehand against Roger Federer of Switzerland (not pictured) during a men's singles semi-final in the 2017 Miami Open at Brandon Park Tennis Center Miami, FL, USA, on 31 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

at the very least." In-form Sock, the highest ranked player in the tie at world number 15, will be going into the unknown all weekend as he has never previously faced Kyrgios either.

Thompson gets his chance to represent his country for a second

time in the absence of Bernard Tomic, who declined to play the tie. Australia captain Lleyton Hewitt was confident the world number 79 would be able to cope after winning both his singles matches in the first round tie against the Czech Republic.—Reuters

Brazil top FIFA rankings for first time in seven years

ZURICH — Five-times world champions Brazil have returned to what they will consider their rightful place at the top of the FIFA rankings for the first time in seven years. Brazil have enjoyed a impressive revival since Tite replaced Dunga as their national team coach last year, winning all nine matches they have played under his leadership including eight World Cup qualifiers. They continued their run in March with a 4-1 win in Uruguay and 3-0 win over Paraguay to

become the first side to book their place at next year's World Cup in Russia with four games to spare.

Brazil, who replaced arch-rivals Argentina at the top, previously led the rankings going into the 2010 World Cup where they were eliminated by the Netherlands in the quarter-finals.

Since then, they have suffered a string of embarrassments, with elimination by Paraguay at successive Copa America tournaments in 2011 and 2015 and their

infamous 7-1 loss to Germany in the 2014 World Cup semi-final. Argentina lost their place after last week's 2-0 defeat in Bolivia which has left them struggling to qualify for the 2018 World Cup. Four of the top five teams in the rankings announcement by FIFA on Thursday, are from South America. Chile are fourth, Colombia fifth and Germany sandwiched in between in third.

Egypt are Africa's best-placed team in 19th while

Asia's top side are 28th-placed Iran.

Top ten rankings (previous month's places in brackets)

1. Brazil (2)
2. Argentina (1)
3. Germany (3)
4. Chile (4)
5. Colombia (7)
6. France (6)
7. Belgium (5)
8. Portugal (8)
9. Switzerland (11)
10. Spain (10)—Reuters

Kompany pleased with City display despite Chelsea defeat

LONDON — Manchester City captain Vincent Kompany believes his side put up a dominant display in their Premier League clash against leaders Chelsea despite losing 2-1 at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday.

Fourth-placed City controlled possession and had more shots on target than their opponents. However, a first-half brace from Eden Hazard helped Chelsea retain a seven-point lead at the top of the standings.

"Obviously, we are not happy but I can't say I'm disappointed with the performance," Kompany told reporters. "We are disappointed we couldn't win the game.

"Other than that, it was a

good performance. Physically, we stood up to the challenge and we dominated the game.

Kompany, who played 90 minutes in a league game for the first time in a year, said City were ready to fight for a top-four finish to qualify for Champions League next season.

City will also face Arsenal in an FA Cup semi-final on April 23, which is their only hope for a silverware in manager Pep Guardiola's first season at the club.

"Regarding our position, it will be a fight until the end for us," Kompany added.

"Our target (now) is Champions League and hopefully, getting to the final of the FA Cup."—Reuters



Manchester City's Vincent Kompany in action with Chelsea's Diego Costa during Premier League at Stamford Bridge, on 5 April 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

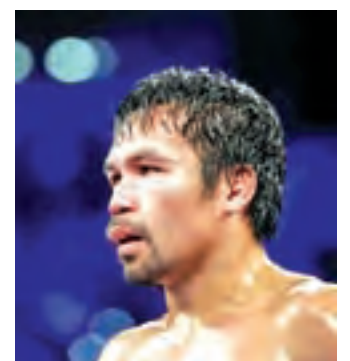
Pacquiao to fight Australia's Horn in July

BRISBANE — Filipino great Manny Pacquiao will defend his WBO welterweight title against unbeaten Australian Jeff Horn in Brisbane in July after a bout with Amir Khan fell through, local media reported.

"We're not able to fight Amir Khan because of Ramadan, so we decided to take this fight in the interim," Pacquiao's adviser Michael Koncz said in comments published by News Corp media.

"We signed it, so yeah, we're excited about it. But again, my preference was to fight Amir Khan. That didn't work out. We had this on the table so we decided to take it."

Eight-division world champion Pacquiao agreed to an April fight against Briton Khan in the United Arab Emirates but his promoter Bob Arum said last month it had been postponed after the \$38 million offer for the bout failed to materialise.



Manny Pacquiao of the Philippines gets ready for the start of a round during his title fight against WBO welterweight champion Jessie Vargas at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas, Nevada, US, on 5 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

The 2 July fight against Horn will be the 38-year-old Pacquiao's first since his unanimous decision victory for the title over American Jessie Vargas in Las Vegas last November.

"Manny will train and do the best he can and hopefully we get the fight over with very quickly, we get out of there, we say 'hi' to the Australian fans and media and come home," Koncz said.

"Frankly and honestly, and nothing against Jeff Horn — I've never met the kid, I don't know him personally — but the name recognition is I guess why the fans picked Amir Khan."—Reuters