

NATIONAL
Pagoda
collapses in
Bagan
PAGE-2



NATIONAL
Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy
Speaker U Aye Tha Aung
visits Viet Nam
PAGE-2



LOCAL NEWS
New eye care plan
targets to treat about 300
people with cataract
PAGE-4

BUSINESS
Exports to Hong Kong
reach \$54 million in
nine months
PAGE-5

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Monday, 5 March 2018



Youth volunteers prepare to deliver the aid to local people in villages in Maungtaw. **PHOTO: YAMANYA**

Fifth batch of youth volunteers provides humanitarian aid in Maungtaw

Young people have volunteered to deliver aid to villages in Maungtaw, Rakhine State, under a programme of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD).

The fifth batch of volunteers comprising 53 people from Yangon and Mandalay is divided

into two groups and is participating to provide aid to villagers in Maungtaw and Buthidaung.

"The fifth batch of our group included 53 volunteers, including 47 volunteers from the Yangon and Mandalay regions and six staff from the department. We are providing humanitarian assistance by forming two teams of 26 volunteers for

the Buthidaung Township and 27 volunteers for the Maungtaw Township. Our Maungtaw team distributed 268 units today, while the Buthidaung group supplied 150 units," said Ko Than Htun Aung from the Department of Disaster Management.

In Maungtaw, the UEHRD volunteers went to villages in Ngwetaung, Thayagone, Ywar-

thayar and Thittaw and provided the villagers with rice, oil, salt, fish cans, onions and potatoes. Milk powders were also provided for children aged between six months and two years. "I have never been here before. I came here as a representative of the Yangon Region social welfare association.

SEE PAGE-3

Nippon Foundation builds 300th school

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than attended the opening of Long Hey Basic Education Post-Primary School in Pa-O Self-Administered Zone on 3 March.

The post-primary school is the 300th school built under the initiative to construct schools by the Ministry of Border Affairs and the Nippon Foundation in Shan State.

Attending the event were Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Shan State Chief Minister Dr. Lin Htut, Major General Win Min Tun of Eastern Command, deputy ministers, Shan State ministers, the Chairman of the Pa-O National Organization Nippon Foundation Chairman Mr Yohei Sasakawa, Head of Economic and Development Assistance Section at the Embassy of Japan Mr Kazuyuki Takimi, officials from philanthropic groups, and more than 1,000 ethnic nationals.

Firstly, Mahn Win Khaing Than, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Dr. Lin Htut, Major General Win Min Tun, Mr. Sasakawa and Mr. Takimi cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the school and planted some trees.

SEE PAGE-3



'BEST BANK IN MYANMAR'

Awarded by FinanceAsia 2017

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung visits Viet Nam

BY the invitation of Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & International Monetary Fund (PN), a delegation led by Depu-

ty Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aye Tha Aung departed for Viet Nam from Yangon International Airport yesterday evening.

The delegation was seen off by Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Htun, Deputy Speaker U Lin Naing Myint, Viet Nam Ambassador to Myanmar Dr. Luan Thuy Duong and officials from Amyotha Hluttaw office.

Representatives of Pyithu Hluttaw Daw Thet Thet Khaing and U Thaung Aye also followed U Aye Tha Aung. During the visit, they will meet with officials from IMF and World Bank at the World Bank Office, chairperson of the National Assembly of Viet Nam, Ministry of Education and Training, Ministry of Finance of Viet Nam and Ministry of Industry and Trade, and they will attend the WBG projects.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung is seen off by Vietnamese Ambassador Dr. Luan Thuy Duong. PHOTO: MNA



Pagoda collapses in Bagan

A pagoda, which has been conserved after being hit by the 2016 earthquake, collapsed yesterday in Bagan.

About 70 per cent of the pagoda No. 1066, which is a type of cave housing a Buddha statue, was damaged in the collapse.

The cave pagoda is 26ft by 26 ft and 40 ft height. It was also renovated in 1996.

The 2016 earthquake also damaged the pagoda and it was put in the third-priority list to be renovated.

“Most of the part which were reconstructed in 1996 collapsed,” according to the Nyung-U District Information and Public Relations Department.—Myanmar Digital News ■

Kitchen fire guts five homes in Tarpon, Nattalin Township

A fire broke out in the north of Tarpon Town, Nattalin Township, Thayawady District, Bago Region, at some 8.30 p.m. on Saturday, destroying five homes, according to a police report.

Investigators said the fire started in the kitchen of a wood-

en house owned by U Soe Naing, 48. The blaze quickly spread to the neighbouring homes, but no persons or animals were hurt in the fire.

Firefighters pressed into action eight fire engines and with the assistance of villagers,

successfully extinguished the flames within half an hour.

Charges have been filed against the home owner for violating Section 285 of the Penal Code, which defines fire-related negligence and recklessness.—071 ■

Holiday makers from regions/states visit Nay Pyi Taw for vacation

Interview by Kyaw Thu Htet
PHOTO: KYAW YE SWE

The Myanmar News Agency interviewed visitors and pilgrims visiting Nay Pyi Taw during the long holidays.

Myint Myint Than (From Manaung, Rakhine State)

I've never been to Nay Pyi Taw even though my brother is stationed here. He's also free during the 4-day holiday so he showed me around Buddha Gaya and then we'll go to the safari and the national landmark garden. The roads here are great and its quite developed. I hope our region and the entire country become developed like this.

U Zaw Myo Myat (From Heho, Shan State)

I'm here with my entire family on vacation. We've just visited Buddha Gaya and there's



U Zaw Myo Myat.

more for us to see. I hope our region gets developed like these big cities and I see the government is working for our development too. I plant potatoes, carrots and other vegetables but since we don't have a stable market it's always a 50-50 chance to make a profit or suffer losses. We need a stable market and good vegetable specimens.

Saw Phaw El Chen (Kyar-in Seikkyi, Kayin State)

We came here via Mudon. There are 50 of us on pilgrimage



Saw Phaw El Chen.

here. We've been to the national landmark garden and the water fountain garden. We're going to PyinOoLwin after this. Our state is thankfully in peace and we are working for its development.

Ko Thiha (Civil Servant, Nay Pyi Taw)

My friends and I gathered to make a donation at a nunnery school in Pobbathiri Township here. I get stressed at work too so these long holidays are a great chance to unwind. Ma Soe Thandar Nwe



Ko Thiha.

(Yangon)

I came with my family to Nay Pyi Taw to visit the pagodas. The scenery around here is nice and spacious and the air is clean too.

Ko Maung Thu Rubber Plantation Labour from Mon State

“This is my first visit to Nay Pyi Taw. Our boss arranged the trip for us. In this trip, I am very happy taking relaxation with my family. We are enjoying family life these days.”

Ko Thet Min Oo, Rubber Plantation business, Kye-ikto

“I arranged this vacation for my workers so that they can take recreation and can see the development in Nay Pyi Taw.”

Daw Kyawt, vendor at the National Landmark

“The number of visitors to the National Landmark is increasing these days. I have also earned more these days than other days. I have two children and they are relying on my income.”

U Khaing Zar Tun, Teacher, Myothit Township, Magway Region

“I arranged this vacation for 9th and 10th grade students as they have completed the examination. In Nay Pyi Taw, we visited Buddha Gaya first. The reason why I send the students to this National Landmark is so that they can observe the culture and customs of our ethnic people.” ■

Nippon Foundation builds 300th school

FROM PAGE-1

The attendees then toured the school, while Mr. Sasakawa, deputy ministers and the Pa-O National Organisation chairman opened the school's playground. The second part of the ceremony began with the transfer of the school's ownership.

Lt-Gen Ye Aung first delivered a speech noting that the day's ceremony was an auspicious day for the country's education. He said the Nippon Foundation has been providing assistance since 2002 to build or renovate schools and implement projects in the community to raise funds. He said the foundation was planning to expand the

project into northern and southern Shan state and the Kayah State to build some 120 schools.

Next, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said the Ministry of Education was working hard to implement the National Education Strategic Plan, so that no one is left behind in education.

He also said the ministry would upgrade education colleges to a four-year programme for an education degree to train highly-skilled teachers.

Mr. Sasakawa then explained the Nippon Foundation's work in assisting Myanmar's educational development, national reconciliation and peace efforts. Mr. Takimi also encouraged people to preserve the schools and raise the



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker, the Chairman of Nippon Foundation and other high-ranking officials cut the ribbons to open Long Hey school, the 300th school built in Shan State. **PHOTO: MNA**

educational level of the children.

Next, the Shan State Chief Minister and the Chairman of the Pa-O National Organization thanked the Nippon Foundation and all other participating philanthropic organizations for contrib-

uting towards the development of the educational sector.

Later, the documents of Long Hey school, sports equipment, and a fund of Ks7,300,000 were handed over to the responsible officials. Finally, Amyotha Hluttaw

Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, union ministers and esteemed guests received commemorative certificates for the school's opening and other local products. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Gov't to release list of hazardous jobs for children

The authorities will release a list of jobs in the country that are not suitable for children, in order to prevent them from working in hazardous conditions, according to a report in Myawady Daily on Sunday.

As a developing country, the number of child labourers is increasing each year. The move aims to help protect the children's right to survive, their labour rights and right to education, among others.

As part of its efforts to ensure the best interests of the child, the government is working to release a list of hazardous jobs and to place some restrictions

this year. The country has more than 12 million children between the age of five and 17 years, of which, 5 per cent are child workers, while some 5 per cent of the total child labourers are engaged in hazardous works.

The root cause of child labour is poverty, which forces children to work, an official said.

The International Labour Organisation estimates that the number of working children is some 250 million in developing countries. Of these working children, 61 per cent are in Asia, 32 per cent are in Africa and 7 per cent are in Latin America. —GNLM ■

Rainfall expected in Upper Sagaing, Taninthayi regions, Kachin State

Rain showers are expected in the Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions, Kachin State, in two days, as the weather is partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay, and generally fair elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal, according to the Myanmar Daily weather report issued by the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology

yesterday evening.

The forecast for Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, and neighbouring areas for today is generally fair, and for Yangon and its neighbouring area is partly cloudy. Seas will be slight in Myanmar waters. The wave height will be some 2-4 feet off and along Myanmar coasts. —GNLM ■

Seven killed in collision in Danubyu Township

Seven persons were killed and many others injured when a car collided with a truck and an express in Talinesu Village, Nyaung Chaung village tract, in Danubyu Township at 8.45 pm on 3 March, the Danubyu police reported.

A car driven by Kyaw Soe Khaing Tun and carrying three other passengers — a monk, a novice and a man identified as U Nyunt Lwin — crashed into the rear left side of a stationary truck. The car, which was

travelling at high speed, lost control and crashed into another express vehicle on the other lane. The express was being driven by Zin Min Lat and was carrying 16 passengers.

Kyaw Soe Khaing Tun was killed in the accident, along with the three co-passengers. A man and a woman travelling in the express also lost their lives. Some 12 persons were injured in the incident.

Another rear-end collision occurred on the same spot at

4.15 am. yesterday, when a car driven by Zaw Min Htet from Hlaingthayar, with two people on board, crashed into a stationary truck ahead, causing minor injuries to the occupants.

The Danubyu police have filed charges against Kyaw Soe Khaing Tun under section 304 (a) and 338/33 of the Penal Code, as well as against Zaw Min Htet for reckless driving and speeding under section 338/33 of the Penal Code. —Aung Thu Hein (IPRD) ■

Fifth batch of youth volunteers provides humanitarian aid in Maungtaw

FROM PAGE-1

Six volunteers from our association are part of each batch. We faced some difficulties in the early days, because this is our first trip. However, we will be all right after we tour all the villages. We will do our best in the remaining days of the programme. We are providing assistance without discrimination. We are glad to deliver the aid," said Ko Naung Htet, who lives in Insein Township.

The fifth batch of youth volunteers will carry out humanitarian assistance programmes in the villages of Buthidaung and Maungtaw townships until 12 March.



The fifth wave of humanitarian aid arrives in Buthidaung and Maungtaw with youth volunteers. **PHOTO: YAMANYA**

The 1st batch of UEHRD youth volunteers began their voluntary services on 5 Novem-

ber 2017 in the villages of Buthidaung and Maungtaw townships. —Hein Htet Zaw ■

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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.

Summer painting course open at Pyapon

A summer painting class opened yesterday at the new building of the Sayar Zawgy Yarpayae Library in Pyapon Township in Ayeyarwady Region.

The Myanmar Painting and Sculpture Association in Pyapon Township and the committee for the Sayar Zawgy Yarpayae Library have jointly offered the painting course for students in order for them

to do something practical and creative during their summer break, said U Hla Toe, chairman of the Myanmar Painting and Sculpture Association in Pyapon Township. The two-month painting class will take place four days a week, and about 60 students are attending the summer class. There will also be 10 sports courses offered beginning March 11.— Myanmar Digital News



The Myanmar Painting and Sculpture Association opened a summer painting class in Pyapon, Ayeyarwady Region. **PHOTO: MDN**

New eye care plan targets to treat about 300 people with cataract

PEOPLE who have cataract are invited to join the three-day programme which guarantees them cataracts removals from their eyes free of charge, according to the organisers.

Cataracts are a clouding of the eye's natural lens which prevents clear vision.

The new plan will be organised by the Ministry of Health and Sports in collaboration with a local charity named Shwe Ka-yuna Foundation. Under this programme, the treatment will be offered with compassion to patients without sex, race and religious discrimination at the foundation's eye clinic in Sittway Town between 19 and 21 March. Ten eye specialists led by Prof

Dr Khin Ohnma Khaing, of Yangon Eye Specialist Hospital, will offer both medical and surgical services to approximately 300 patients with cataract under this programme. U Shan Shwe, a trustee of the foundation, said; "Educative campaigns are being made along the road between Sittway and Taungup to provide eye health knowledge about burden of cataract and the ways to prevent eye diseases to villagers."

Interested individuals may visit the foundation's eye clinic between 16 and 18 March from 10 am to 4 pm daily for registration.

The most common eye diseases in the country are cata-



Specialists treating cataract patients in a hospital. According to WHO, cataracts account for 50 per cent of the world's blindness. **PHOTO: TIN TUN (IPRD)**

racts, glaucoma, corneal diseases, injuries and retinal diseases.

Cataracts are the most common cause of vision loss in people over age 40. It is the principal cause of blindness in the world. Cataract may develop after eye

injuries, inflammation, and some other eye diseases. According to the World Health Organisation's assessment, cataracts are responsible for 51 per cent of the world's blindness.—Tin Tun (IPRD)

Kitchen fire destroys five homes in Tarpon, Nattalin Township

A fire broke out in the north of Tarpon Town, Nattalin Township, Thayawaddy District, Bago Region, at around 8.30 pm on Saturday, destroying five homes, according to a police report.

Investigators say that the flame started in the kitchen of a wooden house owned by U Soe Naing, 48.

The blaze then quickly spread to the neighbouring

homes, but no persons or animals were hurt.

With the use of eight fire engines, firefighters successfully extinguished the flames, with the assistance of villagers, within a half an hour.

Charges have been filed against the home owner for violating Section 285 of the Penal Code, which defines fire-related negligence and recklessness.—071



Kitchen fire in Tarpon, Nattalin burned five homes but no casualties. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Shop fire causes losses worth over Ks3 million

A car decoration shop was destroyed in a midnight fire on 2 March at Yuzana ward, Myitkyina Town, causing a loss of more than Ks3 million.

According to official re-

ports, the fire started in the shop due to an electric short-circuit triggered by an overheated CCTV outlet. The car decoration shop, owned by Daw Mi Mi Khine, was de-

stroyed in the blaze.

The Fire Services Department deployed several firefighters and fire engines to put out the blaze, according to officials.

The police have taken action against the shop owner under Section 285 of the Criminal Procedure Code for negligence, which caused the fire. —U Min Min Oo (EPN)



A corn plantation in a village near border with China. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Corn exports up by 300,000 tonnes

SOME 300,000 tonnes more corn were exported this fiscal year (FY), compared with the same period last FY, according to Myawady Daily.

Corn exports are expected to reach 1.4 million tonnes,

while some 1.3 million tonnes of corn are exported to international buyers.

The increase in exports is attributed to the high demand from China and Thailand. China is the main market for Myanmar's corn. It is also exported

to Viet Nam, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines and Thailand. With high demand from foreign countries, corn fetched the highest price in the market. —GNLM ■

Exports to Hong Kong reach \$54 million in nine months

MYANMAR'S trade with Hong Kong from 1 April to 31 December totalled some US\$72 million, including \$54 million in exports and \$18 million in imports, according to statistics provided by the Commerce Ministry.

The value of bilateral trade between Hong Kong and Myanmar this fiscal year (FY) was much lower than that recorded in the last four years, registering

\$239 million in the 2016-2017 FY, \$316 million in the 2015-2016 FY, \$343 million in the 2014-2015 FY and \$502 million in the 2013-2014 FY. On 27 February, Hong Kong and Myanmar strengthened their economic ties, signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) again for business cooperation and trade promotion. According to the MoU, they will join hands, specifically in the

agricultural sector, gems and jewellery enterprises, as well as in souvenirs, handicrafts, furniture and other household goods businesses.

Hong Kong invested some \$123 million in Myanmar through 17 projects, as of January this FY, statistics provided by the Myanmar Investment Commission showed. — GNLM ■

External trade expected to reach over \$30 billion this FY

MYANMAR'S international trade is expected to bring in more than US\$30 billion this fiscal year (FY), U Yan Naing Tun, Director-General of the Commerce Ministry, told Myawady Daily.

The country recorded the highest trade value last year. External trade, as of mid-February of the current FY, was valued at \$28.6 billion. "We expect to see foreign trade worth more

than \$30 billion by the end of this FY," U Yan Naing Tun said.

The trade value this year was \$4 billion more than that of last FY. Both export and import businesses improved this year. From 1 April to 16 February this FY, exports were worth \$12.4, while imports were valued at \$16.2 billion.

Agro products, including rice, various types of pulses, corn and others, animal prod-

ucts, fisheries, forest products, minerals and finished industrial goods, among others are shipped to foreign countries, while capital goods such as auto parts, vehicles, machines, steel, airplane parts; raw materials such as petroleum-based products, plastic raw materials; and consumer products, including pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and palm oil, are imported into the country. — GNLM ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း: **"Sunday Special"** အချက်အလက် (၈)
မျက်နှာပေါ်စာ The Global New Light of Myanmar
နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကိုအောက်ပါမြို့များတွင်ဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

Three dead, one hurt in IED explosion in Maungtw Tsp

"Sunday Special"
အချက်အလက် (၈) မျက်နှာ
ပေါ်စာ

နေပြည်တော်
မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့်ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားဌာနမှ ရုံးအမှတ်(၇) နေပြည်တော်၊ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရုံးချုပ်)၊ စီမံရေးရာဌာနမှ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၄၁၂၁၁၈

နေပြည်တော်
နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တပ်ကုန်း)၊ လေယာဉ်ခံခံမြို့နယ်၊ ခရိုင်လမ်းဆုံ၊ နေပြည်တော်၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၃၆၁၄၈၊ ၀၆၇၃၆၁၂၉

ရန်ကုန်
The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊ ငါးထပ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ဗဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၁၈၆၀၄၅၃၂၊ ၀၉၅၇၄၄၄၂၄၁၁၄

မန္တလေး
လမ်း (၂၁ x ၂၁) ကြား၊ (၈၂ x ၈၃) လမ်းကြား၊ ပုလဲခွေ၊ ရောင်ရမ်းမန္တလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၂၃၂၇၂၉၊ ၀၂၃၂၇၅၀

တောင်ကြီး
ရုံးကြီးလမ်း၊ သစ်တောရပ်ကွက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၁၂၁၁၆၄၊ ၀၉၅၂၁၄၃၅၇

မကွေး
နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ တပ်မ (၈၈) တပ်နယ်ရေးအနီး၊ မကွေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၃၂၃၇၁၂

ဘုမ္မာမိတ္တ
မြို့သစ် (၃-၈)၊ အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းသွယ်၊ မြို့ပတ်လမ်း၊ ကျိုင်းတုံမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၄၂၂၄၉၂

ကလေး
အောင်လေးရပ်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊ ကလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၂၁၃၃

မြင်ကြီးမား
အမှတ် (၄၁)၊ ရောင်ရမ်းကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊ မြင်ကြီးမားမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄၂၂၄၆၂

ဝင်္ကေ
ရေတံတော်လမ်းနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊ မီးစက်ကြီးအနီး၊ မန်ကျည်းမြိုင်ရပ်ကွက်၊ ဝင်္ကေမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃၂၃၀၆၈

လားရှိုး
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ခြောက်
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မော်လမြိုင်
ကြာအင်းကျေးရွာ၊ မော်လမြိုင်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၇၂၇၂၅၊ ၀၅၇၂၇၂၆

မုံရွာ
နန္ဒဝန်ရပ်ကွက်၊ ဆက်သွယ်ရေးတံတိုင်းအနီး၊ မုံရွာမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၁၂၆၅၃၅၊ ၀၇၁၂၆၅၃၃

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi. PHOTO: PTI

People of Northeast rejected 'politics of hate': PM Narendra Modi

BENGALURU — Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday that the people of the Northeast have rejected the "politics of hate" by "unanimously" voting the BJP to power.

The BJP yesterday wrested Tripura, the Left bastion, and received an invitation to be part of the government in Nagaland, while Meghalaya elected a hung Assembly.

Modi, while addressing a youth convention in Tumakuru about 70 km from here via video-conferencing, said the poll results of Tripura had given him immense joy.

"The brothers and sisters of the Northeast have rejected the politics of hate by unanimously voting the BJP to power," he said.

The convention is being organised to mark the silver jubilee celebrations of the Ramakrishna Vivekananda Ashram in Tumakuru and celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Sister Nivedita, a social worker and a disciple of Swami Vivekananda.

Modi, speaking on the subject of 'Youth power: A Vision for New India', said a fitting reply to radicalisation could only be given by the resolve for integration.

Hitting out at the previous Left and Congress regimes in the Northeast, Modi said the people there earlier were feeling cut off from the Indian mainstream because of policies and decisions that alienated them, but his government has been working relentlessly to wipe off this feeling.

"Our government has resolved to work in such a way that no part of the country and no group feels alienated and we

have proved this by working towards it," he said.

"This wave of integration can also be felt among the people of Karnataka," he said.

The mandate which the people of Northeast have given is in itself is a very big change, Modi said.

By participating in the happiness of the people of the Northeast through the Assembly polls results, the whole country has sent a strong message that they were with their dreams and sentiments.

"For the country's unity, showing solidarity to the sentiments of the Northeast is a necessity and very big thing," he said.

Modi said the results of Northeast Assembly polls have created an environment of festivity in the entire country.

The Prime Minister said the Assembly polls also brought the whole country together to celebrate the happiness of the people living there.

"I don't see Northeast poll results through the lens of victory and defeat of political parties, but what is important is that the whole country became participants in the happiness of people residing there," he said.

Modi said such occasions were rare that accomplishments of the Northeast become accomplishments of the whole country.

"We all saw this happening when many Indians, who were glued to the television as though they themselves were in the electoral battlefield, started to realise the happiness, dreams and sentiments of the people of the Northeast as their own," he said.—PTI ■

China 'won't sit idly by' if US harms trade

BEIJING — China warned on Sunday that it was ready to hit back if the United States damaged its economic interests, fuelling fears of a trade war after President Donald Trump unveiled tariffs on steel and aluminium.

Trump's announcement on Thursday sparked a flurry of counter-threats from other nations. But Washington's main trade rival had avoided any overt warnings of potential retaliation until now.

"China doesn't want a trade war with the United States," Zhang Yesui, spokesman for the National People's Congress, told a news conference on Sunday, the eve of the rubber-stamp parliament's annual session.

"But if the US takes actions that hurt Chinese interests, China will not sit idly by," Zhang said. An official English-language interpreter added the phrase, "and will take necessary measures".

Zhang warned that "policies informed by misjudgement or wrong perceptions will hurt relations and bring consequences no side wants to see".

Trump's announcement came as President Xi Jinping's top economic aide, Liu He, met US officials at the White House

to discuss the fraught economic relationship. During his visit, according to the official Xinhua news agency, Liu and his hosts "agreed that the two countries should settle their trade disputes by cooperation rather than confrontation".

Since announcing plans to impose a 25 per cent tariff on steel imports and 10 per cent on aluminium, Trump has shrugged off threats from other nations, boasting on Friday that "trade wars are good, and easy to win".

- Slowing world growth -

China has been the main target of Trump's anger over the US trade deficit since his presidential campaign, but its steel and aluminium exports to the United States are minimal.

While China is the world's largest steel producer, it accounts for less than one percent of US imports and sells only 10 per cent of its wrought aluminium abroad.

Steel producers in Canada, Brazil, Mexico, South Korea and Turkey rely far more heavily on the US market.

"The American action to put sanctions on other countries' reasonable steel and aluminium exports in the name of harming national security is groundless,"

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Saturday.

Some US allies, like Canada and Australia, had hoped to be spared the tariffs. A major South Korean business lobby, the Federation of Korean Industries, said Sunday it sent letters to US Congress members and officials seeking an exemption.

A US official said Friday possible exemptions to the measures would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Australia warned that a trade conflict could put the brakes on global economic growth.

"That's what concerns me, if we continue to see an escalation of rhetoric and, ultimately, action around tariffs applying for imports and exports across multiple economies... this will lead to a slowdown in growth," trade minister Steve Ciobo told Sky News Australia on Sunday.

Trump ratcheted up the rhetoric on Saturday, threatening a tax on cars from the European Union if it takes retaliatory measures. On Friday European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker said the EU was drawing up measures against leading US brands such as Levi's and Harley-Davidson.—AFP ■



Trump's plans to introduce tariffs on steel and aluminium imports has angered major producing nations. PHOTO: AFP

Two injured Chinese tourists in northern Thailand's Chiang Mai accident undertake surgery in local hospitals

BANGKOK — Two out of four severely injured Chinese tourists have undertaken surgeries in local hospitals while the remaining two await taking surgeries later, China's consulate general in Chiang Mai in northern Thailand said on Sunday.

Another five Chinese tourists, who suffered minor injuries, have been treated properly in local hospitals and could be discharged from hospital soon, the consulate general said.

Consul General Ren Yisheng paid a visit to the injured tourists

and urged police and tourism authority to investigate the case and find out the cause soon. A van veered off and crashed into a convenience store in northern Thailand's Chiang Mai on Saturday afternoon, injuring nine Chinese tourists.—Xinhua ■

South Korea's Moon to send special envoys to North on Monday

SEOUL — South Korean President Moon Jae-in will send a team of special envoys — including Seoul's spy chief — to the North on Monday to push for talks between Washington and Pyongyang on nuclear weapons.

The delegation, announced by Moon's office on Sunday, is the latest chapter in a remarkable Olympics-driven detente between the two Koreas.

An intense rapprochement saw the two foes march together at the South's Pyeongchang Winter Olympics that ended on 25 February, with the North's leader Kim Jong Un sending his sister as a special envoy to the event.

Kim Yo Jong's appearance at the Games' opening ceremony made global headlines, marking the first visit to the South by a member of the Kim family since the end of the Korean war.

Moon has sought to use the Pyeongchang Games to open dialogue between Washington and Pyongyang in the hopes of easing a nuclear standoff that has heightened fears over global security.

He chose five senior officials — including national security advisor Chung Eui-yong and spy chief Suh Hoon — to visit Pyongyang on Monday, Moon's spokesman said.

Suh is a veteran in dealings with the North. He is known to have been deeply involved in negotiations to arrange two previous inter-Korean summits in 2000 and 2007.

"The special delegates will



Kim Yo Jong's trip to Seoul marked the first visit to the South by a member of the Kim family since the end of the Korean war. PHOTO: AFP

have extensive discussions over issues including creating conditions for North-US talks to denuclearise the Korean peninsula and improving inter-Korea ties," Yoon Young-chan told reporters.

The 10-member group — five top delegates and five supporting officials — would fly to the North's capital Pyongyang Monday afternoon and return to Seoul on Tuesday, Yoon said.

Other members include Suh's deputy at the National Intelligence Service as well as Chun Hae-sung, the vice minister of Seoul's unification ministry, which handles cross-border affairs.

They will meet with "high-level North Korean officials" during

the two-day trip, and then fly to the US to explain the result of the talks to officials in Washington, Yoon added.

- 'Lower the threshold' -

Last year, the isolated and impoverished North staged its most powerful nuclear test and test-fired several missiles in defiance of UN sanctions. Pyongyang claims its inter-continental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) can now hit the US mainland.

The North's leader Kim and US President Donald Trump also traded threats of war and personal insults, sending tensions soaring before a thaw in the run-up to the Winter Olympics.

Moon, who advocates di-

alogue with the North's nuclear-armed regime, said last week that Washington needs to "lower the threshold for talks" with Pyongyang.

But the US has ruled out any possibility of talks before the North takes steps towards denuclearisation, and imposed what Trump hailed as the "toughest ever" sanctions on Kim's regime late last month.

On Saturday, a foreign ministry spokesman in Pyongyang called on the US drop any pre-conditions for talks.

"The US is taking preposterous action by continuing to trumpet an insistence that it will not have dialogue unless a right

condition is met," the unnamed spokesman was quoted as saying by the state-run KCNA news agency.

The North has stressed that it had no intention of abandoning its nuclear arsenal, hailed by Kim as a "treasured sword of justice" to protect his nation from potential invasion by the US.

- The 'right' conditions -

Kim Yo Jong, during her visit last month, extended her brother's invitation for Moon to visit Pyongyang for a summit.

But the South Korean president responded by stressing the importance of having the right "conditions" for talks, suggesting a step towards denuclearisation demanded by Washington.

The Pyongyang trip by his representatives may be a first step towards creating such conditions, said Cheong Seong-chang, an analyst at the Sejong Institute think tank, said in a statement.

"You can't expect them to produce any major agreement with this trip alone, but maybe they could at least discuss ways to stop the North from conducting any more ICBM tests," he said.

Pyongyang's weapons tests, which demonstrated rapid progress in the country's missile technology, alarmed the US and prompted calls by some in Washington to launch pre-emptive attacks on the North.

"They can start from there... in a bid to eventually discuss potential suspension of the North's nuclear and missile activities in the future," Cheong said.—AFP ■

China hopes for early DPRK-US talks: spokesman

BEIJING — China hopes that talks between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the United States would be held "as early as possible" and that the good momentum on the Korean Peninsula would be maintained.

Zhang Yesui, spokesman for the first session of the 13th National People's Congress, made the remarks at a press conference Sunday in Beijing.

He said the situation on the Korean Peninsula is easing as the DPRK and the Republic of Korea (ROK) had been engaged in dialogue and cooperation before and during the PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games.

"China welcomes the posi-

tive changes and hopes all parties could seize the opportunity to maintain the good momentum," he said. Calling the DPRK and the United States the principal parties of the Korean Peninsula issue, Zhang said China expects the DPRK-ROK ties to roll on while the DPRK-US ties will begin to roll as soon as possible.

He said China noticed some positive remarks made by both the DPRK and the United States recently. China will keep close communications with all concerned parties to push for peace and talks, in order to facilitate the settlement of the Korean Peninsula issue through political and diplomatic means, Zhang said.

—Xinhua ■

Netanyahu to talk with Trump about attending embassy opening

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said he will discuss the possibility of US President Donald Trump attending the May opening of the US embassy in Jerusalem when he meets Trump on Monday.

Netanyahu made the comment late Saturday before boarding a flight to the United States.

"I'll definitely discuss with him that possibility," Netanyahu said in response to a journalist's question on whether he planned to invite Trump for the occasion.

"I'm very grateful to him for this historic decision to rec-

ognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital and to move the American embassy to Jerusalem on our independence day," he said.

The 14 May date of the embassy opening coincides with the 70th anniversary of the founding of Israel.

For Palestinians, the date represents the anniversary of the Nakba, or "catastrophe", in which hundreds of thousands either fled or were expelled from their homes in the war surrounding Israel's creation.

Trump's 6 December Jerusalem declaration outraged Palestinians and broke with decades of international con-

sensus that the disputed city's status must be negotiated between the two sides.

Other countries have their embassies in Tel Aviv.

The new embassy will initially be located in a US consular building in Jerusalem while Washington searches for a permanent location.

Israel occupied mainly Palestinian east Jerusalem in the 1967 Six-Day War and later annexed it in a move never recognised by the international community. It sees the entire city as its capital.

The Palestinians see east Jerusalem as the capital of their future state.—AFP ■

Basic businesses are fundamental for the entire economy

MYANMAR has to face a lot of challenges in various sectors on her path of democratic transition. But there are positive signs such as a gradual ease of doing business in Myanmar and the attention given to the private sector to boost the general economy. So even though Myanmar has numerous challenges, the socio-economy of the people is running smoothly.

Economists have pointed out that a much freer commerce model and more attention to the basic level of economy is needed to elevate Myanmar's overall economy. Around 99 per cent of Myanmar's businesses are made up of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) which is why an expert from the World Bank has pointed out that strengthening the country's economy with the interests of State and Regional level businesses is needed.

One of the basic-level businesses in the country is the production of edible oil which Myanmar citizens consume on a daily basis. In fact, there is a Burmese saying that a dish is not complete without oil. On average, a person consumes about

6 viss (21.6 pounds) of oil annually. Since Myanmar has a large general labor population, there is a huge market for imported edible oil.

This is why we need to empower the basic-level businesses like these to turn Myanmar's economy around on its head and also to create job opportunities. Not only edible oil, we need to revise our entire import policy to create a better model for the nation's economy.

In almost a decade, imported edible oil overshadowed the local market, effectively slowing down 90 per cent of local edible oil businesses. In 1990, imported edible oil was coming at around 10,000 tons monthly but has since increased to 50,000 to 70,000 tons a month. It is estimated to be worth USD 500 million.

When the number of local edible oil production plants decreased, demands rose for grains and husks, byproducts for feeding livestock.

As a result, we now import around 500,000 tons of animal feed monthly which can total up to USD 200 million a year. To sum up, Myanmar spends a staggering USD 700 million a year on importing edible oil and animal feed. While the annual market price for imported and local edible oil has a difference of Ks 18,000 per person, in terms of aftereffects on health it can reach as high as Ks 100,000 per person.

We can now evidently see that relying on imported edible oil is detrimental to our country's economy. It slows down MSMEs and is a cause for unemployment. To see onions, garlic, lentils and other agricultural products being imported from other countries when they can be cultivated right here in Myanmar is an unfortunate sight.

This is why we need to empower the basic-level businesses like these to turn Myanmar's economy around on its head and also to create job opportunities. Not only edible oil, we need to revise our entire import policy to create a better model for the nation's economy.

Development Status of Roads and Bridges in Rakhine State

KYAW LINN (Construction)

There are three main gateways to Rakhine using land transport, namely:

1. Minbu – Ann – Sittwe road
2. Pyi – Padaung – Taungup – Kyaukphyu road
3. Ngathaingchaung – Gwa – Thandwe road



Main exit and entry gates of Rakhine State

Ngathaingchaung-Gwa-Thandwe-Taungup road

Pyi-Padaung-Taungup-Maei-Kyaukphyu road

Minbu-Ann-Kyauktaw-Sittwe road

Sittwe-Ponnagyun-Rathedaung-Buthidaung-Maungdaw-Ahngumaw road

Kyauktaw-Paletwa-Matupi-Hakah-Falam-Tiddim-Tonzaang-Kyikha road

In the previous days, in order to go to Sittwe from the central part of Myanmar, road users have to pass through Minbu and then to Ann with the total vehicle running time of 16 hours due to the existing topography and the conditions of road and bridges along the route. One of the bottleneck section is the Ramong Bridge as time goes by the loading capacity of the said suspension bridge was reduced and up to the buses were allowed to

cross on the bridge maintaining slow speed. The rest of the cargo trucks were needed to use the z craft to cross the river.

During the Democratic Government, there is a mandate to develop the Rakhine State within one year in basic infrastructures. Therefore, Ministry of Construction has set up the plan to minimize the curvature in the existing curve sections on Minbu – Ann road, upgrading the existing temporary bridges to reinforced concrete bridges on Ann – Sittwe road, and upgrading the existing Ramong suspension bridge with the technology provided by JFE company of Japan so that nowadays, people can have vehicle running time (driving time) of 12 hours with ease of comfort using Minbu – Ann – Sittwe road. The main goal is to reduce the driving time to 10 hours within 3 years to improve mobility on the aforementioned road.

temporary bridges to reinforced concrete bridges on Ann – Sittwe road, and upgrading the existing Ramong suspension bridge with the technology provided by JFE company of Japan so that nowadays, people can have vehicle running time (driving time) of 12 hours with ease of comfort using Minbu – Ann – Sittwe road. The main goal is to reduce the driving time to 10 hours within 3 years to improve mobility on the aforementioned road.

Rehabilitation of Ramong suspension bridge on Yangon-Sittwe road



Finishing work of Ramong suspension bridge on Yangon-Sittwe road



(King Creek Bridge 44 feet)
Upgrading from Bailey bridge to Concrete Bridge on Minbu-Ann-Sittwe road



Construction of Stone Pitching Retaining wall in 140km-142km on Minbu-Ann-Sittwe road



Completion of retaining wall

5.5m wide Construction of concrete road in 375.6km-381.8km on Minbu-Ann-Sittwe road



Completion of concrete road

Overlay of Minbu-Ann-Sittwe road



Construction of Stone pitching retaining wall in (109.5km-110km) on Minbu-Ann-Sittwe road



Completion

Construction of 0.8m wide bituminous pavement (160.6km to 161.4km) on Yangon-Sittwe road



Ongoing construction of thickness of 225mm and 5.49m wide concrete road from 170km to 174.8 km on Yangon-Sittwe road



Ongoing construction of concrete road

Pyi – Padaung – Taungup – Kyaukphyu road is now upgrading with the Official Development Assistance (ODA) of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The project includes upgrading of existing 6 bridges as well as the targeted road section which is 14 miles 4 furlongs in length. In addition, upgrading of existing road with rigid pavement about 4 furlongs and flexible pavement 1 mile 7 furlongs as well as 7 bridges were constructed with the financing of the Government.

5.5m wide construction of concrete road between 50km and 50.8km on Yangon-Kyaukphyu (Taungup-Maei section)



Before

Being ongoing

Development Status of Roads and Bridges in Rakhine State

FROM PAGE 9

Upgrading gravel road from 12feet wide bituminous road on Yangon-Kyautphyu road (Maei-Alechaung Section)



Before construction at mile post (68/0-68/5)

After construction at mile post (68/0-68/5)

Upgrading from Bailey bridge to Reinforced concrete bridge (Tanhlawy Bridge 600ft) on Yangon-Kyaukphyu road (Taungup-Maei section)



Before

After

Ngathaingchaung – Gwa – Thandwe road is passing through Rakhine mountain range and previously, using the said cross road takes 12 driving hours to get to Thandwe from Yangon. During the reign of the new government, within a year, many exist-

ing roads were upgraded in Ayeyarwaddy Region, including the upgrading of existing bridges and road stretches of Gwa – Ngathaingchaung – Thandwe road. Nowadays, vehicles leaving Yangon at 6 am can arrive Thandwe around 2:30 pm (total

driving hours 8hr 30 min). There is a 20 million USD project funded by World Bank for the upgrading of the said road and within 3 years people can have travel time around 7 hrs. using this route.

Construction of Overlay road (1.8km-9km) on Thandwe-Gwa road



Before

After

Kyaukpasat bridge on Thandwe-Gwa road



Before

After

Furthermore, in Rakhine State, there is a roadway to Paletwa town of Chin State. This route can lead to Kalaymyo, Gangaw and Pakokku via Matupi and Hakha of Chin State. The upgrading of the

said route namely: Paletwa – Matupi – Hakha road will be finished within three years of the reign of the government and there will have one more gateway to Rakhine through Chin State. This access route to

Paletwa is now mostly in earthroad condition but a few section has paved with penetration macadam and the missing links has been connected with bridges.

Kyauktaw-Paletwa-Matupi-Hakah- Kyikha road



The northern part of Rakhine State including towns of Buthidaung,

Maungdaw and Rathedaung, were hard to access in the previous days.

Thesetowns rely on waterway for transport and travelling took almost a day with ships to connect to the southern part. The Democratic Government has implemented the Sittwe – Ponnagyun – Rathedaung – Buthidaung – Maungdaw road project and some of the bridges were built over the creeks already. In this section, five bridges are still under implementation with day and night shifts to connect the missing links and it is targeted to be finished by March 31, 2018.

In the said section, there is a tunnel which was built in the early 20th Century was deteriorating and causing bottleneck nature and the bypass route was constructed so that the existing route was improved to all weather road standard within one-year period.

Kyauktaw - Paletwa road



After construction of bituminous road between (53.4km-53.6km)

After construction of bituminous road between (53.6km-53.8km)

Documentary photo of Kyauktaw- Paletwa road construction



After construction of bituminous road between (53.2km-53.4km)

After construction of gravel road between (32.8km-33km)

Sittwe-Rathedaung-Buthidaung-Maungdaw-Ahngumaw road



Development Status of Roads and Bridges in Rakhine State

FROM PAGE 10

Construction of reinforce concrete bridge (Panzin creek bridge) at Rathedaung-Buthidaung road



365.7m length reinforce concrete bridge construction (Tawphyar bridge) at Ponnagyun- Rathedaung road



170m length reinforced concrete bridge construction (No.7/10) at Buthidaung-Maungdaw road



Before After

40m length reinforced concrete bridge construction (No.12/8) between 7/6 mile and 7/7 mile at Buthidaung-Maungdaw road



Before After

40m length reinforced concrete bridge construction (No.13/7) between 6/7 mile and 7/0 mile at Buthidaung-Maungdaw road



Before After

By-pass road for 658m length tunnel between 7/7mile and 8/0 mile at Buthidaung-Maungdaw road



After After

12ft wide bituminous road construction between 12.8km and 13.2km at Buthidaung-Maungdaw road



Before After

The road to Ahlae-thankyaw and Ahngumaw by Maungdaw is about 50 miles in length, and it was not maintaining well because of shortage of budget and in the previous days, the travel time was about 5 hours but now road users can travel within 3 hours for the Maungdaw – Ahngumaw section. Currently, under the guidance of UEHRD, the said road section is undergoing construction to upgrade the existing road with concrete pavement carriageway by the Asia World Company Ltd.

Upgrading from wooden bridge to reinforced concrete bridge within 82km-83.6km (Ohn Creek Bridge) at Manaung island ring road



Before After

The progress on the road and bridge sector of Rakhine State for the last two years, can be seen on the following table:

Sr	Particulars	1.4.2016 to 28.2.2018	Remarks
1	Progress of concrete road	24 miles 4 furlongs	
2	Progress of asphalt concrete road	2 miles	
3	Progress of bituminous road	23 miles	
4	Progress of (12 Ft.) wide bituminous road	53 miles	
5	Updated progress of over 180ft. bridges	14 nos.	
6	Renovation of over 180ft. bridges	3 nos.	
7	Progress of bridges between over 50ft. and above 180ft.	16 nos.	
8	Progress of bridges of below 50ft. bridges and culverts	354 nos.	
9	Progress of gravel road	56 miles 4 furlongs	

In Rakhine state, the main roadways have been upgraded with two year as well as access and ring road of Myan Aung Island, Myepon-Minpyar road, Pauktaw-Minpyar road including upgrading the other roads and bridges construction are being carried out. The transportation sector in Rakhine state has been significantly developed within two-year period under the new regime. Moreover, the road and bridge sector will be remarkably improved during the coming three-year period in the whole Rakhine State. ■

Russia completes trials of miniaturized nuclear reactor for missiles, underwater drones

MOSCOW — Russia has completed the trials of a miniaturized nuclear power unit to be installed on cruise missiles and underwater drones, a military-diplomatic source told TASS on Saturday.

“Russia has completed the trials of miniaturized nuclear power units for cruise missiles of unlimited range and for autonomous submarines of an oceanic multi-purpose system. To date, those technologies have been designed and put into practice only by Russia,” the source said.

The source said that Russia had sent signals to “its uncooperative Western partners” in the past, intended to show them “the futility of their



The source described West's policies regarding Moscow as “strategic blindness to Russia and its capabilities”. **PHOTO: TASS**

attempts to neutralize our strategic potential by the deployment of missile shield elements.”

Those signals includ-

ed a leak about Russia's project to build underwater drones of unlimited range, which was made on purpose several years

ago in a bid to spur a dialogue on global security with Western partners.

“Instead, our Western counterparts have made a

serious mistake because of their illusion of superiority and technological advantage. They have chosen to ignore our signals. Now it's they who have to catch up and bear all due consequences, first of all for the purses of their taxpayers,” the source said.

The source described West's policies regarding Moscow as “strategic blindness to Russia and its capabilities.”

“That's why one of important ideas voiced during the [president's State of the Nation] address is a proposal to stop fuelling a new arms race and to start searching for ways of preserving peace,” he said.

On Thursday, in his

speech to the Federal Assembly Russian President Vladimir Putin unveiled the most advanced systems of strategic weapons, developed in response to Washington's unilateral withdrawal from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABM Treaty) and practical deployment of missile shield elements both inside the US and outside its borders.

Among the new cutting-edge weapons are the Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile, the Kinzhal hypersonic weapons system, a nuclear-armed cruise missile, as well as a dual-capable unmanned underwater vehicle, which is meant for conventional and nuclear missions.—

Tass ■

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Dated: 5th March 2018.

Man fatally shoots himself in front of White House

WASHINGTON — A man fatally shot himself on the crowded pedestrian avenue directly in front of the White House on Saturday, officials said. “Adult male has been declared deceased,” the Washington, DC Police Department said on Twitter.

The Secret Service said a white male approached the fence north of the White House at about 11:46 am (1646 GMT), “removed a concealed handgun and fired several rounds, none of which appear at this time to have been directed towards the White House.”

The man's identity is being withheld pending notification of kin, the Secret Service said in a statement. While as many as 100 people — mostly tourists — were on Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House at the time, no one else was reported hurt, the Secret Service said. Police and



FBI agents, Secret Service officers and local police scoured the area outside the White House after a man fatally shot himself near the presidential residence. **PHOTO: AFP**

medical personnel quickly swarmed the area, and the White House was placed on lockdown.

The area north of the White House was cleared and cordoned off. Police also draped yellow crime-scene tape along a full block of nearby K Street, where authorities were searching a parked car. At the time, President Donald Trump and first lady Melania were at his Mar-

a-Lago resort in Florida. The president was set to return to Washington later Saturday to attend the annual Gridiron Club media dinner. “We are aware of the incident,” deputy press secretary Hogan Gidley said. “The president has been briefed.” Local police will lead an investigation of the shooting, with support from the Secret Service and other agencies, the Secret Service said. Re-

porters in the White House briefing room first tweeted about the shooting, saying they had been told to shelter in place. Disturbances outside the White House are not rare. On 23 February, a woman was arrested after crashing her vehicle into a security barrier near the presidential residence.

And there have been repeated attempts to jump over fences around the building.—AFP ■

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Japan city serving edible cactus to help raise profile



Hiromitsu Goto, a farmer in Kasugai, Aichi Prefecture, has set up a special greenhouse for edible cactus to support a project launched by the city's chamber of commerce and farmers in 2006. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

NAGOYA — A major cactus-producing city in central Japan is developing food products using locally grown edible cactus in hope of raising its profile amid a decline in the number of farmers. Broiled pork and cactus on skewers, Madeleine cake made using cactus powder, and ramen noodles made with cactus are just a few of the recipes created under a project in the city of Kasugai in Aichi Prefecture. Cactus is abundant in calcium and other nutrition and commonly

eaten in Mexico. But in Japan, it is mainly grown for ornamental purposes. Local farmer Hiromitsu Goto, 36, has set up a special greenhouse for edible cactus to support the Kasugai Saboten (Cactus) Project, launched by the city's chamber of commerce and farmers in 2006.

"Since we are seeing a boom in cactus and other succulents in recent years again, we hope the number of young farmers will increase with the trend," Goto said. The city with a

population of some 300,000 currently grows about 200 different types of cactus. The widespread plant production began after super typhoon Vera devastated its peach and apple orchards in 1959, leading their owners to switch to cacti they had been growing on the side. When Japan saw a cactus boom in the 1960s, the city had more than 50 farmers producing the plant, but the number has since dropped to only a handful due to aging. Fearing cactus farmers would

disappear from the city, the promotional project was launched in cooperation with local restaurants to develop food products using prickly pear. The latest product released under the project is the "Saboten Sui" carbonated drink, which has a slight grassy taste of prickly pear. Masaya Takagi, 39, of the Kasugai chamber of commerce, recommends mixing the drink with fruit juice or alcoholic beverages. The city aims to sell the cactus drink nationwide. —Kyodo News ■

Three Australians die from contaminated melon

SYDNEY — Three Australians have died after consuming melon contaminated with listeria amid an outbreak that has prompted health authorities to warn those at risk to throw out pre-cut melons. Listeria is a commonly found bacteria and for most people who consume foods that contain it does not cause illness.

But for elderly people, pregnant women or those with serious conditions like diabetes or cancer, it poses a serious threat.

At least 15 cases of listeriosis have been reported since authorities were first alerted to the outbreak last month.

"All 15 cases are elderly people, and most of them have significant underlying health conditions," director of communicable diseases at

New South Wales Health doctor Vicky Sheppard said in a statement on Friday.

"People vulnerable to listeriosis should discard any rock melon purchased before 1 March."

Health authorities in New South Wales state confirmed the death of two people from the outbreak this week, with authorities in Victoria confirming the third.

The source has been linked to a farm in New South Wales state, with authorities investigating the supply chain after issuing a warning on 23 February.

Listeriosis begins with flu-like symptoms including chills, fever and muscle aches. It can take up to six weeks after consuming contaminated foods for the symptoms to occur.—AFP ■



Australians vulnerable to listeriosis have been advised to discard any rockmelon purchased before 1 March. **PHOTO: AFP**

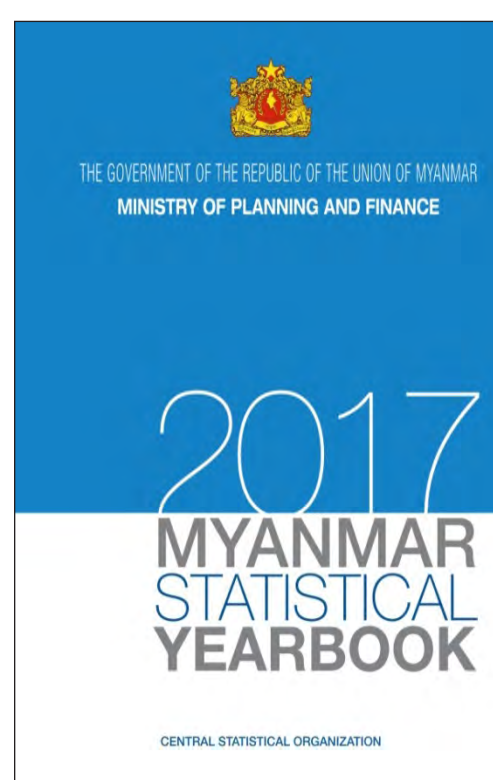
China mulls new law to promote, protect foreign investment: spokesperson

BEIJING — Chinese lawmakers are planning to combine the country's three foreign investment laws and work on a new basic law to promote and protect foreign investment, a spokesperson for the annual session of China's top legislature said on Sunday. Zhang Yesui, spokesman for the first session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC), revealed the move at a press conference prior to the yearly meeting. The new legislation will stick to policies of

high-standard liberalization and facilitation of trade and investment, and significantly ease market access for foreign companies, Zhang said. It will create a transparent, stable and predictable business environment for foreign investors and protect their rights and interests, ensuring that they enjoy national treatment and a fair market, he said. Chinese leadership has pledged at the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China last October that "China will not close

its door to the world, and it will only become more and more open."

The lawmakers are planning to introduce or modify more than 20 laws this year, including compiling the individual books of a civil code and formulating laws on specific taxes, according to Zhang. A five-year legislative plan for the 13th NPC Standing Committee is also underway, which will be formulated on the basis of extensive consultation and thorough study, he said.—Xinhua ■



Myanmar Statistical Yearbook 2017 has been published by Central Statistical Organization as international statistical bulletins. It is mentioned the methodology sheets on statistical sources, a glossary and an analytical index. It can take the better response to the information scope and depth of user needs. It is available Hard copy as well as CD-Rom two-volume prices at the kyat (22,000/-), if you buy a single CD-Rom (12,000/-) will be sold out.

It is available for the purchase at Central Statistical Organization, Office No(32), NayPyiTaw, Myanmar, Central Statistical Organization Yangon Branch, No(4/6), 3rd Floor(Right), Byamaso Road, Corner of Thila Street, Su Paung Office Compound, Ward (4), South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Eastern District, Yangon Region, and SarPayBeikMan Store (NayPyiTaw, Yangon) will be purchased.

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Elton John left stage because of 'rude' fan

WASHINGTON — Elton John left the stage in Las Vegas because a “rude” fan was interfering with the performance, he said on Saturday. “A fan put his hands on the piano keys while I was playing and continued to do so even after I asked him to stop,” the 70-year-old British entertainer said in a statement posted on Twitter.

“This guy was rude, disruptive and had no care or respect for our show and so I let him know how I felt, then left the stage until

they had removed him,” John said. The incident occurred during a performance of “Saturday Night,” for which John had brought fans onstage.

He later returned to the stage, but the group of fans did not. John, who in the 1980s became one of the first openly gay major celebrities, announced earlier this week that he plans “go out with a bang” with a global tour that will open on September 8 and last through 2021. —AFP ■



Elton John said a “rude” and “disruptive” fan caused him to leave the stage during a performance in Las Vegas. **PHOTO: AFP**

Husband's Paris catwalk love letter to 'Queen of Punk' Westwood

PARIS — Designer Andreas Kronthaler made a touching declaration of love to his wife Vivienne Westwood at their label's storming Paris fashion show on Saturday. The flamboyant Austrian creator — who many including himself believe is the basis for comedian Sacha Baron Cohen's 2009 fashion satire “Bruno” — pulled out all the stops in a joyous romp of a collection that put his spin on the Queen of Punk's iconoclastic career. “I don't like looking back, it's not my way,” Kronthaler, who took the reins of the brand two years ago, told AFP. “But looking at our time together and how many things she has inspired in me and taught me... I just thought, how wonderful.” His notes for the show was a love letter to his wife, citing her golden rule, “When in doubt, dress up!” “One should never see the brain working in what you wear, and one dresses to be eventually naked... These mantras of yours and so much more became part of my life and work,” he wrote. “I still think to this day you are the best dressed woman in any room. Love you forever,” said the designer who met Westwood as a student when he was 25 and she 50. Westwood, now 76, cheered her husband — who she has called “the world's greatest designer” — after the show along with American actress Rose McGowan, who helped

launch the #MeToo movement accusing the disgraced mogul Harvey Weinstein of rape. Impossibly high platform boots

“That is what (fashion) should be. It was great,” she told AFP. The collection ranged over Westwood's career from the 1970s with lots of feathers and frills to counter its gender fluid side, with three male go-go dancers in impossibly high platform boots and eight male models walking the catwalk along with 20 women. Kronthaler said he copied two pieces in the collection, a mohair punk sweater that Westwood knitted for herself — “which says so much about you, and the other is the catsuit which you used to wear when I first met you.” Meanwhile, French designer Veronique Leroy had earlier shown her collection on the screen of a Champs Elysees cinema. She told AFP her wool-rich autumn-winter range that featured Harris tweed coats and jackets was inspired by country weekends and that she shot the film in rural Burgundy. “I have been thinking of showing my work for ages in another way other than on the catwalk,” she said. “I said to myself I just can't go on doing the same repetition thing... and in the end I think we showed the clothes and how I came with them better than we could have in a show.” —AFP ■

Shah Rukh Khan represents the middle class boy who achieved it all: Aanand L Rai

MUMBAI — Aanand L Rai believes Shah Rukh Khan may have become a superstar but the actor still is the same Delhi boy at heart with humble beginnings and it was this quality that made him even more endearing for the filmmaker's next Zero.

In Zero, the 52-year-old actor, popular for portraying characters in love stories set abroad, plays a vertically challenged man who travels from Meerut to New York.

“I always felt he is a very basic Delhi boy. Whenever I saw him in those valleys of Switzerland, I felt ‘Oh Delhi boy wahan tak pahuch gaya’ (the Delhi boy has achieved great heights). I never felt he didn't belong there.

“That is the reason why I think he has a great connect in our country because he represents a basic middle class boy who has achieved it,” Aanand told PTI when asked how does he see this transformation of the actor.

The movie reunites the cast of Jab Tak Hai Jaan with SRK, Anushka Sharma and Katrina Kaif featuring in the film.

For the first time, Aanand has teamed up with a star like Shah Rukh. Asked if the stakes have become higher, the 46-year-old director says, “There were bright chances.”

He is, however, relieved to

have SRK on board.

“Shah Rukh makes me feel so comfortable and makes you feel like he is the most



Shah Rukh Khan. **PHOTO: PTI**

obedient actor you have ever worked with. I have found a friend, a big brother in him. I am enjoying the process and he is letting me fly,” he says. As of now, Aanand is gearing up for the Christmas release of the film which, he says, is “shaping up great” and is a “lifetime of experiences”.

Besides direction, Aanand is backing a string of new films under his company Colour Yellow Productions - from the sequel of Happy Bhaag Jayegi, Anurag Kashyap's next Manmarziyan to a project helmed by Rajkumar Santoshi.

Talking about his production spree, he says, “I will never do

a film just for the sake of it. If I have nothing to contribute, I won't do it. If I don't have anything to bring on the table something which will make it easier for the director or the team, there is no reason to make it.”

“I am not doing films to make money. If you make a good film, you will make money but that is not the prime reason to go for a film. My prime reason is what am I bringing new for my audience,” he adds.

For the Raanjhanaa director, the success or failure of a film does not account to much, but what matters is the intention with which it was made.

Aanand's turn as a producer happened with the hit Tanu Weds Manu and he says the decision was largely driven by the idea to back the content he believes in.

“Producing a film was not to make money but only to get the freedom to make the kind of films I want to. I don't look at my bank (balance) in terms of what I am getting or not getting,” he says.

“I am just enjoying the process of telling the stories I always wanted to be a part of. As a director I know I can do very few, but as a production house, I can tell more stories, which is fun,” he says. —PTI ■



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife present the Diamond orb to the Sayadaws before it is fixed atop the Shwetaungsar Pagoda in Dawei. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Diamond orb, vane fixed atop Shwetaungsar Pagoda in Dawei

A ceremony to fix the holy Diamond Orb and Vane atop the Shwetaungsar Pagoda was held yesterday in Dawei, Taninthayi Region.

The presiding monk of Zayyawaddy Monastery, State Ovadacariya Sayadaw Agga Mahapandita Bhaddanta Thuriya and Members of the Sangha attended the ceremony while Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General

Min Aung Hlaing and wife were also present at the ceremony.

The ceremony opened with the attendees receiving the Nine Precepts from Sayadaw Agga Mahapandita Bhaddanta Thuriya, State Ovadacariya and the presiding monk of the Zayyawaddy Monastery.

The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and wife then offered the Diamond Orb and offertories to the Zayyawad-

dy Monastery's presiding monk.

Before the religious objects were fixed atop the pagoda, the congregation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and wife circled the pagoda clockwise conveying them for public obeisance. Afterwards, the objects were conveyed to the top of the pagoda where officials were waiting to fix them atop the pagoda. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar Abstract Artists Art Exhibition held at Lokanat Galleries

The Myanmar Abstract Artists Art Exhibition is being held at Lokanat Galleries, Pansodan Street, Yangon, from 2 to 5 March, which is exhibiting acrylic and oil arts by 13 men and women creative artists and painters.

"Today, two abstract arts were sold. The prices of the art pieces start at US\$200 and go

up to \$1500," said K Mar Shinn @ Ma Soe Yu Nwe, who exhibited six paintings at this group arts show.

Abstract arts are attractive to the human mind and eyes, and are modern creative paintings. Myanmar abstract arts are psychological windows, according to abstract artists. —Thant Zin Win (MNA) ■



PHOTO: THANT ZIN WIN

Britain relaxes pub rules to celebrate royal wedding

LONDON — British pubs will be allowed to open late for the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, described on Sunday as "a day of national celebration" by Home Secretary Amber Rudd.

The government decree will allow pubs to stay open late on the eve of the royal nuptials and following the ceremony on 19 May, with doors ordered to close at 1:00am (0100 GMT).

"The royal wedding is a chance for communities across the country to join together and celebrate this momentous and happy occasion for our royal family and for our nation,"

said Rudd.

The couple will marry at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, a residence of Queen Elizabeth II's located west of London.

The newlyweds will depart the ceremony in a horse-drawn carriage, before a private party in the evening at St George's Hall in Windsor Castle.

"It's clear that the public back the idea of having more time to raise a glass to Prince Harry and Meghan Markle on a day of national celebration," she added, after the government led a four-week consultation before approving the move.

The move was welcomed by Brigid Simmonds, chief executive of the British Beer and Pub Association.

"This will allow the nation to celebrate and raise a glass to Harry and Meghan in a responsible manner, whilst giving a timely boost to the great British beer and pub sector," she said.

Legislation introduced in 2005 allows the government to relax opening hours for an "occasion of exceptional international, national, or local significance".

The law has already been used for royal events including the 2011 wedding of Prince



Britain's Prince Harry (R) and his fiancée US actress Meghan Markle will marry at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle on 19 May, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

Harry's elder brother, Prince William, to his wife Kate, and the 90th birthday celebrations of their grandmother the queen in 2016.

The 2005 changes introduced 24-hour alcohol licences,

held by between 8,200 and 8,400 premises including hotel bars and supermarkets. Many pubs continue to close at 11:00pm, with just 11 per cent of 24-hour licences held by pubs, bars and nightclubs.—AFP ■

Zwekapin beats newly formed Sagaing United 3-2 in MNL 2018

IN one of the Week-8 matches of MPT Myanmar National League 2018, Zwekapin United played against Sagaing United at Aung San Stadium in Yangon yesterday evening.

Zwekapin beat Sagaing by a score of 3-2, with back and forth goals from each team.

Zwekapin United lined up with Keeper Naing Zayar Tun, Doe Sackie Teah, Phyo Maung Maung Swe, Thet Lwin Win, Zin Min Tun, Anderson, Matsumoto, Nyi Nyi Tun, Than Htet Aung and Sai Min Tun.

Sagaing United lined up with Golie Ye Phyo Aung Thiha Thu, Wai Phyo Thu, Thet Naung Htwe, Maduabuchukwu Samuel, Zaw Zin Oo, Kyaw Swar Min, Myo Min Phyo, Barnabas Friday, Myo Thu Win and Mandjombe.

Although Zwekapin forced the play in the early minutes, they played very loosely. Sagaing Strikers had chances to score in the early minutes of the match as Zwekapin defenders seemed to be losing their concentration.

Sagaing got the opening goal at the 10 minute mark from youth player Thet Naung Htun.



Sagaing intercepts Zwekapin attempt to score in yesterday's MNL match at Aung San Stadium. **PHOTO:MNL**

After paying a goal, Zwekapin came back in action with stable positioning and tackling.

Zwekapin could equalise at 31 minute. The equalising goal was scored by Sai Min Htun by a penalty shoot as the opponents team played roughly in the penalty area.

After two minute, Zwekapin also made their second and

leading goal by taking a chance on Sagaing's defense line that was in confusion.

At the 42 minute mark, Zwekapin made the third goal by its striker Paulo Cesar.

Zwekapin led Sagaing 3-1 in the first half.

Zwekapin changed to a defensive style with slow tempo in the other half. Sagaing was

playing hard to regain their scores. At 78 minute, Sagaing got their come back from behind or second goal.

The goal was scored with an away kick by Barnabas Friday. In the last minutes, both teams neither converted their chances into goals and the match was ended with 3-2 win for Zwekapin.—KyawZin Lin ■

Best player and coach award of Feb go to Yangon United FC

The best player award and best coach of the month award were garnered by Yangon United FC in Myanmar National League of MPT 2018 according to the statement on the MNL website. The best coach for February was achieved by Ko Myo Min Htun who was the head coach of Yangon United FC while the best player for February was gained by Maung Maung Lwin who was the wing fielder of the team.

An official revealed their brilliant performances of the month. Ko Myo Min Htun managed to coach the team to bring no loss in the whole month including the two AFC matches. Furthermore Maung Maung Lwin played as a key player of every match and could show marvelous skills with supporting many chances within the whole month.

An official from MNL said the awards for March will be postponed but will resume in April as a two-month plus plan.—KyawZin Lin ■

Wilder improves to 40-0 with 10th round TKO of Ortiz

LOS ANGELES — American Deontay Wilder recovered from a seventh-round scare to retain his World Boxing Council heavyweight title on Saturday and keep intact his record of knocking out every opponent he has faced.

Wilder knocked down Cuba's Luis Ortiz three times in the fight, finishing off the previously unbeaten challenger with a right uppercut as the referee stopped the fight with 55 seconds left in the 10th round. "I figured out a way to come back. A true champion always finds way. That's what I did tonight," Wilder said.

The 32-year-old Wilder improved to 40-0 with 39 knockouts as he made the seventh defence of his heavyweight title. Wilder knocked Ortiz down in the fifth and twice in the final round but Ortiz made him work for the victory at Barclays Center arena in New York. Wilder barely survived



Deontay Wilder (R) knocked down Luis Ortiz three times in the fight, finishing off the challenger with a right uppercut as the referee stopped the fight in the 10th round. **PHOTO:AFP**

the seventh after Ortiz surprised him with a right hook and left hand combination and followed it up with a barrage of his own. "He hit me with flurry of punches but it wasn't hard," Wilder said of Ortiz. "He knocked me off balance. I

just had to get my fundamentals back and I did." This was the first career title fight and first loss for the stout Ortiz who weighed in at 241 pounds, almost 30 pounds heavier than the taller and leaner 6-foot-7 Wilder. Wilder has been

trying unsuccessfully to get a unification fight with two-belt titleholder Anthony Joshua and now hopes this win is a stepping stone to more heavyweight hardware.

But with no date set to fight England's Joshua, Wilder had to face the dangerous counter-punching Ortiz (28-1).

Wilder hopes to next fight the winner of a Joshua-Joseph Parker unification title fight on 31 March in Cardiff, Wales. Together they are all part of a crop of new fighters who are trying to bring the heavyweight division back into the boxing spotlight.

"I am ready right now. I want to unify. I am ready whenever those guys are," Wilder said.

Crafty Ortiz

Wilder did most of the damage Saturday with his right hand, landing some heavy blows that would have knocked out lesser skilled opponents. But Ortiz

proved to be a crafty counter-puncher with better boxing skills than Wilder. Late in the fifth round Wilder knocked Ortiz down by landing a straight right hand on the nose of the challenger. Sensing he had Ortiz in trouble, Wilder bolted forward and landed another right to the side of Ortiz's head that put him down on the canvas. Ortiz got up and was saved by the bell before Wilder could do any more damage.

He then wobbled Ortiz again with right hand one round later before Ortiz got his revenge in the seventh. Ortiz scored with a right hook-left combination and followed it with a barrage of rights and lefts as Wilder stumbled around the ring ducking and trying to hold on. Wilder managed to stay on his feet but it took him another couple rounds to shake off the cobwebs and score the TKO win late in the 10th.—AFP ■