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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 330, 12th Waning of Taboung 1379 ME | www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com | Tuesday, 13 March 2018

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Japanese business delegation pose for documentary photo. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

State counsellor, JPN business delegation discuss cooperation

STATE Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi held talks with a Japanese business delegation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The 30-member delegation was led by Ken Kobayashi, Vice Chairman of the Japan Business Federation (Keidanren), Chairman of Japan-Myanmar Economic Committee of Keidanren and Chairman of Mitsubishi Corporation Board; and Teruo Asada, Chairman of Japan-Myanmar Economic Committee of Keidanren and Chairman of Marubeni Corporation Board.

At the meeting, they discussed promotion of economic cooperation in the private and public sectors between the two countries and bilateral cooperation in electricity and energy sectors, which play a key role in boosting foreign investments.

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Seven towns in Rakhine State get electricity in two years

ACCORDING to the Rakhine State Chief Engineer's (electrical) Office, seven towns in Rakhine Sate got electricity during the incumbent government's two years of service.

"Ma-Ei was the first town to receive electricity after which Minbya, Gwa, Myebon, Pauktaw, Kamhtaunggyi and Tathtaung towns, a total of seven towns, received electricity within two years," said the Rakhine State Chief Engineer (electrical).

The government is undertaking construction works to provide electricity to Yathedaung, Buthidaung and Maungtaw in 2018, and the works in Yathedaung are planned to be completed by the end of March.

The Rakhine State Chief Engineer (electrical) said, "We have set 31 March as the target for Yathedaung to get electricity. Once Yathedaung town gets electricity, 17 nearby villages will also get electricity. Electricity will be provided to these 17 villages with the (Union) government fund, while eight additional villages will get electricity supply with the Rakhine State government fund. Thus, a total of 25 villages will be covered.

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discusses Myanmar's stand on Rakhine State

THE seventh regular session of the second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held its 14th-day meeting yesterday.

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat submitted to the Hluttaw a report made by the Myanmar Hluttaw delegation that had attended the 137th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly (137th IPU Assembly).

U T Khun Myat said the invitation to the Myanmar Hluttaw delegation to attend the 137th IPU Assembly and its related meetings was extended by speakers of host country Russia's lower and upper houses and the IPU chairman.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

In every IPU assembly, an emergency item on current international matters is usually included. Of the emergency items sent prior to the 137th IPU Assembly, there was one submitted on Rakhine State by eight Organisation of Islamic Cooperation member countries, including Morocco. On learning about this, the Myanmar delegation prepared a counter-emergency item on Rakhine State to be submitted to the IPU Assembly.

The day's conduct of Myanmar parliament will be submitted to the 138th IPU Assembly to be held in Geneva in March 2018. The Myanmar Hluttaw delegation objected to the entire decision made on Rakhine State in the 137th IPU Assembly. The deputy speaker also added that the Myanmar Hluttaw delegation had immediately responded and clarified on the ethnic cleansing accusation.

A motion was tabled for the Hluttaw to approve and confirm the clear and concise objections made by the Myanmar Hluttaw delegation on behalf of the Myanmar parliament about the discussion and decision made on Rakhine State at the 137th IPU Assembly. The Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker then requested the Hluttaw representatives to discuss clearly and decisively on the report submitted and approve it.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than requested the Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the report to enrol their names.

Next, a report of the Joint Bill Committee on a bill on the registration of deeds, sent with the remarks of the President, was read by committee member Daw Nwe Nwe Aung.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker then requested the Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the report to register their names.

Later, the Hluttaw representatives discussed the issue of Myanmar signing the memorandum of understanding (MoU) on the ASEAN-Australia Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism, sent by the President.

In her discussion, Daw Nwe Nwe Aung of Mon State constituency (2) said the MoU had 10 sections, and the aim was to increase practical cooperation between the ASEAN and Australia against threat from foreign terrorists. Myanmar has enacted the law and rules on anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) in 2014 and 2015 and is a signatory to 13 United Nations conventions on terrorism, such as the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism; and the BIMSTEC Convention on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism, Transnational Organised Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking. Thus, Myanmar should sign the MoU, said Daw Nwe Nwe Aung.

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw joint bill committee holds coordination meeting

A JOINT bill committee coordination meeting on the National Tax Bill was held in the second-floor meeting hall of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw building D, yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker; Joint Bill Committee and Public Account Joint Committee Chairman U Aye Tha Aung; Joint Bill Committee and Public Account Joint Committee deputy chairmen, secretaries, joint secretaries and committee members; Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win; 11 Hluttaw representatives who discussed the bill in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw; Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission members; officials from the Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Home Affairs, Union Attorney General's office and the Central Bank of Myanmar; businesspersons from the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry; businesspersons and officials from the Myanmar Construction Entrepreneur Association; 20 representatives from among the highest income tax and commercial tax paying business persons; and officials from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's office.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung delivers the speech at the coordination meeting of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint holds talks with Japanese business Federation Vice Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint receives Japanese business delegation

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint received a Japanese delegation, led by Ken Kobayashi, vice chairman of Japan Business Federation (Keidanren), at the Pyithu Hluttaw building's Zabuthiri Hall yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to the improving Japan-Myanmar friendship and economic cooperation, increasing the momentum of investments for the development of Myanmar and the legislative works of the Hluttaw.

The meeting was attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat, Pyithu Hluttaw committee chairmen, and members and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw office. – Myanmar News Agency

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with Mohd Haniff Bin Abd Rahman in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

State Counsellor receives outgoing Malaysian Ambassador

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received outgoing Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar His Excellency Mohd Haniff Bin Abd Rahman who completed his tour of duty in Myanmar on 12 March 2018 at 11:15 am at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.—Myanmar News Agency ■

State Counsellor to visit Australia

At the invitation of the Hon. Malcolm Turnbull MP, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will leave for Australia in the near future to pay an official visit and to attend the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit to be held in Sydney.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Supreme Court sits to pass judgment, hear cases

Chief Justice of Union Supreme Court U Htun Htun Oo, along with other Union Supreme Court judges, sat at Union Supreme Court room number 1 yesterday morning to hear six special civil appeal cases, and pass judgments on six special criminal appeal cases and four special civil appeal cases — Myanmar News Agency ■

Press conference on Rakhine State to be held on 14 March

A press conference on the situation in Rakhine State, including the assessment and reception of returnees, will be held at the Ministry of Information hall at 2 p.m. on 14 March. Both local and foreign media have been invited to attend the conference. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Minister for Education inspects matriculation examination

Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi inspects the examination centres in Pyinmana Township Basic Education High School No. (3). **PHOTO: MNA**

THE 2018 matriculation examinations are being held at 1,742 examination centres, including 21 foreign and 1,721 local centres, since 7 March.

Of the 741,676 registered candidates, some 694,371 sat for the chemistry subject test yesterday, while 47,305 failed to show up. The attendance percentage for the chemistry subject test was 93.62.

Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, accompanied by Department of Myanmar Board of Examinations Director General U Myo Nyunt, Department of Basic Education Acting Director General Dr. Aung Naing Soe, deputy director generals and other officials visited the examination centres in Pyinmana Township Basic Education High School No. (3), Lewe Township Basic Education High School (Thawuthti) and Basic Education High School No. (5) Alar yesterday morning and inspected the holding of the examination there. In Nay Pyi Taw, there were 44 examination centres, where some 22,862 students registered for the examination. Of these, some 21,400 students took the chemistry examination, while 1,462 were absent. As such, 93.61 per cent of students took the examination yesterday. — Myanmar News Agency

State counsellor, JPN business delegation discuss cooperation

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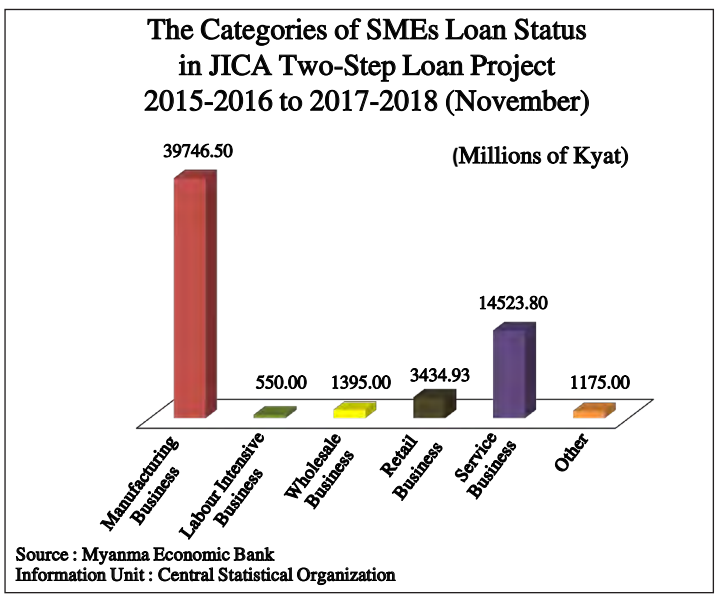
The two sides also discussed matters related to the infrastructure and human resources development sectors in Myanmar.

Also present at the meeting were Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Thar Oo, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing, Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Set Aung, Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar Tateshi Higuchi and other officials.—Myanmar News Agency ■



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

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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.

Ethnic literature festival coming to Taunggyi

AN ethnic literature festival will be held in Taunggyi, Shan State from 21 to 25 March. The Ministry of Information and the Shan State Government held a meeting back in February to plan the literature festival.

The festival will not only promote ethnic literature and literary works but also exhibit traditional cuisine, textiles, clothing, and accessories.

The festival will bring ethnic people closer in support of the peace process and establishing a federal democracy.

Current plans for the festival include reading sessions on ethnic literature, culture and traditions, exhibitions on traditional food, vendors and entertainment programs.

Literary works of Shan ethnicities include the Taing Lone (Shan Gyi), Gone Shan, Taing Khem Ti, Taing Sar (or) Maing Tar, Taing Lai (Shan), Taing Nay (Shan), Wa, Pa-O, Danu, Inthar, Ta'aung (Palaung), Kokang, Kachin, Kayan, Yinnet, Yinkyar, Taung Yo, Tanaw, Lisu, Arkar, Lahu, and An people.

There will also be readings of 26 papers on ethic culture in Taunggyi University's

Convocation Hall.

There will also be 45 dance troupes performing traditional dances and modern dance performers as well in Awayyar Fire Balloon Grounds. — IPRD

Over 40 fire outbreaks reported in Kayin State

SOME 46 cases of fire outbreaks were reported in Kayin State in 2017, with an estimated destruction of property worth Ks72 million, according to Hpa-an District Fire Service Department.

Most of the fire outbreaks were attributed to the negligence of users. Among the 46 cases, 30 were caused by negligence in the kitchen, 14 by electric short-circuits, while one was a case of arson. The fire department was not able to ascribe any cause to one fire accident.

The Hpa-an District Fire Service Department conducted a campaign on fire preventive measures at Kayin State immigration office on 9 March.

The department also provided awareness training courses in villages, markets, schools, fuel oil stations and universities, said U Ko Ko Oo, Assistant Director of Hpa-an District Fire Service Department.

Firefighters perform a variety of duties as required fire prevention at Kayin State Immigration Office, Hpa-an District. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

During the training, U Yin Htway, head of Immigration and Population, delivered a speech. U Khin Maung Yee, head of Kayin State Fire Service Department, and U Ko Ko Oo, head of Hpa-an District Fire Service Department, explained the policy of the fire service department and the means to prevent fire accidents. The fire service staff also demonstrated methods to use fire extinguishers.—Nay Myo Lwin (Hpa-an)

More than Ks. 270 million earmarked to celebrate Mandalay Thingyan

A fund of Ks. 276 million has been appropriated for the 2018 Mandalay Thingyan festival, according to the Mandalay City Development Committee.

The MCDC will use the funds for the construction of the Mayor's pandal and water-throwing pandal, organizing the opening and closing ceremonies, transportation, entertainment, security, catering and an awards presentation during the festival.

"We spent Ks.236 million on last year's water festival," said U Thet Naing Tun, associate secretary of MCDC.

Academy award actress and singer Htun Aeaindra Bo and Myanmar Rock singer She will entertain at the Mandalay Mayor's pandal.

The MCDC has arranged to host the Walking Thingyan at the southern palace moat and the Countryside Thingyan Night Market at the eastern moat between 20th street and 25th street.—Myanmar Digital News

Bee hives in a red silk cotton tree

MORE than 50 bee hives are in a red cotton tree at a primary school compound that's in a village in Gangaw Township yesterday.

Giant honey bees come and build their nest around mid-February; the bees have been doing this for ten years.

"Villagers do not bother them. Bees also never attack people. They come and build their hives here every year when sunflowers are in bloom," said Ko Than Win Naing, a resident of A Lae Ywar Village.

The bees make their hives to collect nectar and pollen from a sunflower plantation. They stay at the tree for four months, according to locals.—Myanmar Digital News

Old machine gun found in Meiktila Township

A machine gun which is believed to be a gun from Japanese occupation period was found in Maiktila Township yesterday.

The weapon was discovered in the compound of a house which is owned by a resident identified as Daw Sein, 73 years of age in Kyidawgon Ward in Meiktila while the house owner was digging a hole in the ground to construct a latrine.

Following a tipoff, local authorities rushed to the scene to check the weapon and found that it was an old machine gun that cannot fire. Arrangements are being made to hand over the weapon to a local military station.—Myanmar Digital News

Gold being displayed at a jewellery shop. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Gold market cool after Chinese New Year

May Thet Hnin

GOLD trading has been calm in the post-Chinese New Year period, said gold entrepreneurs.

U Ohn Kyaing, secretary of Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association, said that the Chinese New Year and the wedding season had shaken the market a bit, but it had turned cool now.

"Gold transactions are usually on the decline during this time of the year, but this year's market has seen lower trading than the previous years," he said.

U Aye Cho, public relations officer of Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association, noted, "Gold trading this time of the year dropped by 30 per cent compared with that during the same period last year."

Currently, the global gold price is US$1,322 per ounce, while Myanmar's gold fetches more than Ks939,000 per tical (0.578 ounce).

This year, the gold price is hovering above Ks930,000 per tical. The price hit a high of more than Ks950,000 per tical at the end of January, while a two-month record high price of Ks956,000 per tical was achieved on 25 January. In the middle of February, the gold price slipped to Ks940,000 per tical. Global gold prices fluctuated last year owing to global political changes and the appreciation of the dollar. Myanmar's gold price was also on the higher side then, said gold entrepreneurs.

Since April 2017, the gold price has been fluctuating. It reached above Ks900,000 in July 2017. Last September, the local gold price reached an all-time record high of Ks958,000 per tical, while the global gold price was $1,348 per ounce. ■

Traders not used to YSX online trading

THE Yangon Stock Exchange's (YSX) online trading forum is seeing lacklustre activity even after two months, Daw Tin May Oo, a member of the Securities Exchange Commission of Myanmar (SECM), told Myawady Daily.

The online trading system has not improved yet, as people are not used to it and lack experience, information and trading tools.

The online trading system has been available for shares listed on the YSX since early 2018. This is an attempt to make the YSX stock market active and attract more investors to it.

As shares are available on the internet-based trading platform, more traders will be interested, and the stock trading value will rise, said U Htay Chun from SECM during the online trading launch event held on 28 December.

The SECM grants approvals for online trading to the following securities companies: Myanmar Securities Exchange Centre Co. Ltd. (MSEC), KBZ Stirling Coleman Securities Co. Ltd. (KBZSC), CB Securities Ltd. (CBSC) and AYA Trust Securities Co. Ltd. (AYA Trust).

Investors, who are interested in trading online, need to sign up with the securities companies to know the trading rules. Online trading can then be done using the applications of the related securities companies.

The online trading platform aims to cover the entire country, wherever internet access is available. Securities companies are raising awareness about online trading among businessmen in Mandalay, Taunggyi and Pathein. Only if people receive an education on online trading, the system will improve, said Daw Tin May Oo.

Currently, five companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB) and TMH Telecom Public Co. Ltd — are trading shares on the YSX.

Some 3,601 shares were traded on the YSX yesterday, with share prices being Ks12,000 for FMI, Ks2,900 for MTSH, Ks7,900 for MCB, Ks27,000 for FPB and Ks2,900 for TMH at closing time. — GNLM ■

Garment industry to create jobs for 1.5 million people

THE Myanmar Garment Industry is expected to create job opportunities for 1.5 million people by 2020, depending on the investment potential, said U Aung Htoo, Deputy Minister for Commerce.

"We expect an investment inflow into the garment industry. Currently, there are some 750,000 people employed in the industry. So, we will try to create 500,000 jobs annually in the next three years," he added.

"To develop the garment industry, the ministry is looking for investors. The demand from the Unites States and the European Union has also increased. Moreover, more Chinese garment factories are outsourcing their contracts to Myanmar," said the Deputy Minister.

"Earlier, the Unites States only imported bags from Myanmar, but now, it has allowed garments too. So, there is great potential. A garment factory can employ 600 to 3,000 people, and some 90 per cent of these are women. So, we will encourage this industry," said U Aung Htoo.

The garment sector accounted for the third largest exports from Myanmar, earning it some US$2 billion in export revenue.—GNLM ■

Seven towns in Rakhine State get electricity in two years

FROM PAGE-1

Electricity to Buthidaung and Maungtaw is targeted to be provided by the end of June and December, respectively. By the end of 2018, all of Maungtaw will have electricity."

"Kyeintali is still in the dark. Plans are underway to construct a sub-station and power lines to Kyeintali. Later, it will be Manaung (town). Manaung is in the sea (on an island), so we are trying to find ways to provide electricity there. It will be difficult for the national grid to reach Manaung. Right now, we are providing electricity to Manaung with a generator. Again, Kyeintali is close to Gwa. The power line can go down from Thandwe. Kyeintali is already in the pipeline. It is in the five-year programme," said the chief engineer.

The chief engineer added that within a year or two, Rakhine State would develop rather quickly in the electricity sector. "Seven towns are already getting electricity in two years. Compared with the whole country, this is rather quick. Of the big towns in Rakhine State, only Kyeintali and Manaung remain to be connected," he said.

As there are more areas with electricity in Rakhine State, there is a requirement for more electrical staff. If the locals can do the job, it will be more convenient, as this job requires 24 hours of duty.

If there is power failure or a blackout, be it day or night, rain or shine, they have to work on it. People from the region should work for the region's people, said the chief engineer.

Electrician works at electrical power station in Rakhine. **PHOTO: MNA**

In the six-month budget of the 2018-2019 fiscal year (FY), the improvement of power lines in Rakhine State will be taken up, and in the one-year budget of the 2018-2019 FY, the laying of new power lines is being planned. — Kyaw Thu Htat ■

Nutrition campaign planned for children below 2 in Maungtaw District

THE staff of the government's health department in Maungtaw District is being trained to provide nutrition and console children below two years of age in the state.

The staff of the health department is participating in a four-day training programme, jointly conducted by the Ministry of Health and Sports and other related departments, with the assistance of the World Health Organisation at the Maungtaw People's Hospital.

Some 4 per cent of the children aged under five are suffering from malnutrition, and they make up 14 per cent of the country's total population.

"This training is part of the government's efforts to fight malnutrition in the country," said Dr. Kyaw Maung Maung Thein, medical superintendent of the Maungtaw People's Hospital.

"On completion of this training, the staff will know how to treat children suffering from malnutrition, and they can advise mothers on how to give nutritious food to children and console them," said Daw Phyu Phyu Win from the Maungtaw District Public Health Department.

Mobile medical teams are providing health care services to all communities in Maungtaw District without discrimination.

According to the Myanmar socio-economic life and health report 2015-2016, 7 per cent of the children's population aged five is suffering from malnutrition.—Myanmar News Agency■

Dr. Kyaw Maung Maung Thein delivers the speech at the nutrition campaign in Maungtaw District. **PHOTO: MNA**

Tatmadaw reopens Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putao road

TATMADAW columns were seen clearing Kachin State, Tanai region, Kaungyapa area, since 15 November 2017, as the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) armed groups were conducting illegal gold and amber mining operations, destroying the natural surroundings and the ecosystem.

On 28 January, KIA countered this by blocking the Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putao road by forcing workers to dig ditches on the road, destroy the bridges and road repairing and maintenance machineries, attack the Tatmadaw convoys conducting routine administrative works, disrupt the flow of regional commodities, triggering a rise in prices and food shortage, thus affecting the local people and public servants in Putao District.

The Tatmadaw columns started clearing the area along the road from 16 February and had eight engagements. The Tatmadaw Air Force transport planes also airlifted food and supplies to the local people and public servants in Putao District on 28 February, 1 and 7 March. The Ministry of Construction's public work groups also repaired the roads and bridges on the Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putao road on 5 March. As the security situation improved, the flow of commodities returned to normalcy, reducing prices, according to news received from the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief's office. —Myanmar News Agency■

Construction workers repairing roads and bridges on the Myintkyina-Sumprabum-Putao road, Kahin State. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discusses ...

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U Zaw Thein of Wakema constituency, Daw Htu May from Rakhine constituency (11), U Saw Tun Mya Aung of Papun constituency and U Zarni Min of Shwegu constituency also discussed the matter.

In his explanation on the matter, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe said the signing of the MoU will allow the exchange of information on terrorists, help obtain support and assistance on technology and methods to expose the activities of terrorist organisations and their background history, and increase active participation in the work against terrorism not only in the region but in the international sector as well.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker announced the agreement and confirmation of the Hluttaw on signing the MoU after obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw. The Hluttaw representatives then discussed the US $360 million loan from Asian Development Bank and ASEAN Infrastructure Fund for the development of roads in the Greater Mekong Subregion by the Ministry of Construction, sent by the President.

Regarding three projects to be implemented with US$360 million, MP Daw Cho Cho of Ottwin Constituency suggested to prevent corruptions in the projects to be able to gain the quality infrastructures.

The loan from the ADB to be spent on upgrading the four-lane Yangon-Mandalay Expressway is enough to upgrade the road meeting the international standard, said Daw Cho Cho .

"The road is being used by more than 10,000 cars per day and experiencing accidents daily.

The consequences of bad quality on which anyone can not complain transparently has affected the people causing deaths on the road," she said. Ten MPs also discussed the issue. —Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Thant ■

Constitutional amendment good for China's enduring peace, stability

BEIJING — The constitutional amendment adopted by China's national legislature on Sunday, including a revision regarding the President's term of office, is good for China's enduring peace and stability, an official said.

Shen Chunyao, chairman of the Commission for Legislative Affairs of the National People's Congress Standing Committee, said the revision is good for upholding the authority and centralized, unified leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at the core.

"It is a key measure to improve the state leadership system," Shen told reporters at a press conference held right after the amendment was adopted.

He said the experience of the past 20 plus years showed that the "three in one" leadership system was a successful, effective and pivotal one for China. The "three" refers to general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, the chairman of the Central Military Commission and the state president — the top positions of the ruling party, the armed forces and the state.

A deputy to the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) casts her ballot on a draft amendment to the country's Constitution at the third plenary meeting of the first session of the 13th NPC in Beijing, capital of China on 11 March, 2018. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Shen said there has been a growing and across-the-board call for the provision of the president's term in the Constitution to be compatible with that of the other two top positions.

"The 'three in one' leadership is not only necessary, but proves to be the most suitable system for a big party and country like ours," he said.

"It is a successful experience we draw from the Party's long-term governance," he said, adding that this revision is "very important" and its meanings need to be learnt well and correctly.

Shen said the revision has a wide and solid political, legal and social base. Lawmakers applauded twice when it was introduced at the NPC annual session on 5 March for deliberation.

In response to a reporter's question, he said the hypothesis of a repetition of political turmoil linked to leadership reshuffle is unfounded because the CPC has managed to solve a number of key challenges in its over 90 years' history, including how to ensure the orderly transition of the party and state leaders at all levels.

The path of socialist political advancement with Chinese characteristics the CPC has explored will lead China to an even brighter future, Shen said.—Xinhua ■

Notice regarding Reduction of Company Registration Fees

1. In order to facilitate business and easier incorporation of companies, the Ministry of Planning and Finance by its notification of 1 June 2016 reduced company registration fees for private companies from 1000,000 kyats to 500,000 kyats.
2. In addition, the Union Government has also updated the hundred-year-old Myanmar Companies Act 1914, with the key objectives of improving the ease of doing business, promoting private sector development and modernising the legal framework for companies in Myanmar. The Myanmar Companies Law was submitted to the Union Parliament and approved on 6 December 2017.
3. The Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) is currently preparing for the implementation of the new Myanmar Companies Law which will take effect on 1 August 2018. Under the guidance of the Ministry of Planning and Finance, there are ongoing preparations for new regulatory notifications and forms, public education, and the establishment of a new electronic companies registry system. The new electronic companies registry will enable fast and efficient company registrations, submission of company filings and communications with the company registration office.
4. To support these reforms and to reduce the cost of doing business for small and medium businesses and encourage increased company incorporations, it is hereby announced that company registration fees will be further reduced from 500,000 kyats to 250,000 kyats, with effect from 1 April 2018.

Directorate of Investment and Company Administration

13 MARCH 2018
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Myanmar, a hardy people

UNDERDEVELOPMENT of the economy of a country coupled with low standards of living and lack of proper healthcare can shorten the expected lifespan of its people. According to the World Health Organization, approximately 1.2 billion people live in extreme poverty which forces them to live without decent shelter, clean water or adequate sanitation. Myanmar is a country fresh on its path of economic development and while it is not enjoying rapid development, the healthcare and living standards of her people are not dropping either.

The word Myanmar can be separated into two separate words with their own meaning. "Myan" roughly means fast and "mar" is tough or hard. True to this literal translation, Myanmar citizens are a swift and hardy people with great resilience and immune systems.

Many countries put emphasis on the environment their food was procured, the nutritional value of combinations of food, and other criteria when planning their diet. Myanmar people are not picky when it comes to food and usually eat in moderation. However, their immune system is as sturdy as their name implies.

Current efforts by the government in elevating the standard of living for the people have had increased success compared to previous years. Yet, there is no denying that rural areas are lagging far behind in development compared to urban quarters and this is why most initiatives on healthcare give priority to rural development.

We need to adopt more health-conscious lifestyles, and more development of medical treatments and drugs to extend our life expectancy. But more importantly, we need first to ensure our children are subject to adequate nutritional health support to grow into healthy and capable adults that will lead the next generation.

The Ministry of Health and Sports is working on care for mother and infants in rural areas. In the 30 December 2015 published version of The National Strategic Plan for Social Protection, there is a scheme for providing financial support to mothers and infants 2 years and under and this scheme has begun implementation in Chin and Rakhine State, and Naga Self-Administrative Zone.

Many rural areas do not yet understand the importance of healthcare for infants since they need proper nutritional support for healthy brain development. Raising awareness of this crucial fact among mothers is one of the things the ministry is doing and they also regularly conduct vitamin supplementation programs for children. This is an important factor for the future of the country and something that both health departments and agencies like the Maternal and Child Welfare Association should provide regularly.

The average life expectancy for men in Myanmar is 60.2 years while Myanmar's women have an average expectancy of 69.3 years. We need to adopt more health-conscious lifestyles, and more development of medical treatments and drugs to extend our life expectancy. But more importantly, we need first to ensure our children are subject to adequate nutritional health support to grow into healthy and capable adults that will lead the next generation. ■

Renaissance for Myanmar's Rice Export

Maung Toe Aung

Farmers reap crops under the bright sun and hot weather. While rice is in high-demand in Myanmar and Southeast Asia, lack of modern technologies and equipment means that production cannot keep up with supply. **PHOTO: PHOE KWAR**

TRADITIONALLY, Myanmar people eat their meals with rice and curries which are served simultaneously at the table. Myanmar is one of the top rice-producing countries in the world and it is regarded as the country's most important crop and is grown all over the country. Therefore rice remains the staple food in Myanmar. People in Myanmar are among the highest rice consumers in the world, consuming more than 300 grams per day per person.

A Country Blessed

Myanmar is rich in natural resources including cultivable land, available water resources, and climate favourable for growing rice. Myanmar is also a major producer of various types of beans, pulses and other crops, including wheat, corn, oilseeds, vegetables, potatoes, mangoes, bananas, rambutan and pineapple. Rice is economically and politically significant in the country, therefore successive governments have attempted to further develop the production of rice.

Growing rice in Myanmar depends on irrigated lowland, rain-fed lowland, deep-water, and upland. Rain-fed lowland and deep-water rice are confined to the delta region and coastal strip of Rakhine State. Nearly 60% of the delta region, including the Ayeyarwady, Bago, and Yangon region is cultivated with rain-fed rice. Because of rainfall, irrigation is critical in the delta area where there is more concern about drainage and flood protection.

According to the experts, the international price of rice was higher than domestic prices, and Myanmar consumes relatively more rice compared with other countries because it also utilizes the crop for different varieties of snack food.

Use of machines quickens the process for farmers, but not all farmers can afford them yet. **PHOTO: MNA**

Driving force for self-sufficiency

Therefore rice is the most important crop in the country and sustainable growth in paddy cultivation plays a key role in the economic growth in Myanmar. The government is prioritized to increase with major policies and objectives which are aimed at increasing productivity for self-sufficiency to boost the foreign exchange earnings.

To further enhance production, the government also provides credit programs for low-income farmers and encourages private companies which can provide micro financing and assistance to the rice farmers in order to buy rice seeds and other agricultural inputs.

Liberalization

The government abolished the low-price procurement system on rice and the new rice trading policy was adopted to ensure free trade of the crop to aid the market-oriented economy. This marked the second liberalization of the agricultural sector.

It is of vital importance for the government to provide necessary infrastructure and facilities which can progress the agriculture sector and enhance foreign trading. The authority concerned and policymakers should prioritize maintenance of the stable rice price as well as sufficient supply of affordable rice to consumers.

Glory Days

Historically, Myanmar was once the world's largest exporter of rice due to a wealth of natural and labour resources and still to be on the fast track to development.

Myanmar's economy continues to hold strong in the wake of economic reforms and liberalization. If properly nurtured, the resources and adopted effective policies, the production of rice can help the country regain much of its former standing as a lead producer in the region.

To do so, however, efforts should be made to invest in the agricultural sector and to provide the provision of better financing for the farmers.

Reasons of dwindling rice exports

Myanmar is a country with an abundance of agricultural resources and it has been a major producer and exporter of rice in the world market.

Although Myanmar was one of the largest rice exporters in the world market, it became less prominent in the Southeast Asian regions. Reasons of dwindling rice exports are many and varied but some of the major reasons are low productivity, decline of surplus and lack of big markets.

Another obstacle is lack of skills and facilities in the process of growing paddy. The majority of the farmers don't try how to develop farming methods with proper drainage, irrigation because they don't take advantage of land development and modern techniques.

Mechanization Agriculture

Even if they are interested, farmers have to develop the land with traditional methods using cattle and only very few of them can use machines.

Moreover cropping patterns can also affects crop productivity per acre because the majority of the farmers are able to grow single crop in a year due to various constraints. As a result, crop yield becomes fall off and year after years.

Now with the change of policies and regulations on agriculture in Myanmar, the farmers are able to use machine for land development.

Renaissance Rice Production

According to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF), rice export in the 2018-2019 fiscal Year exceeded its target of 2 million tons, which had an estimated export value of US$600 million.

Rice exports are likely to hit about 2.5 million tons, as of the end of March, 2018. It is a milestone in Myanmar's rice market history.

Thanks to the leadership of MRF and strenuous efforts of private businessmen, rice export volume has reached more than 2 million tons, the highest record within five decades.

Officials report that 60 per cent of rice exports went to China's market, along with 44 countries in Africa, Asia and Europe. Rice plays a vital role for Myanmar, in a bid to pursue export-led growth strategies and MRF is planning to increase its target to more than 2 million in the following fiscal year.

Outlook

In order to export to other countries, it is essential to take into consideration of not only the improvement of land use rights, financing, skills and infrastructure, but also better food safety standards so that exports to developed countries can be expanded.

While modernization is under way in Myanmar's agricultural industry, the agriculture sector continues to play a major part in the country's economic growth which still remains a significant engine for growth. Indeed, concerted efforts should be made to play a key role in the country's economic transformation which can make Myanmar's land more productive, improve the earnings of farmers and generate higher income. ■

Translated by
Win Ko Ko Aung

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Building a climate-resilient Asia-Pacific

To build long-lasting resilience to climate change, the Asia-Pacific region must address the root causes of two of its most pressing challenges: human vulnerability and gender inequality.

Women and girls in Asia-Pacific make up 80 per cent of all those living on less than $2 per day.

They also face barriers to access natural resources, finance, energy, technologies, and healthcare, education, housing and property.

Part of the solution is to ensure that women and disadvantaged groups have the chance to take part in decisions and actions related to climate change.

On 8 March, International Women's Day, the Government of Sweden is joining forces with UN Women and UN Environment to ensure that human rights are protected and gender equality is promoted in efforts to reduce disaster risk and mitigate and adapt to climate change in the Asia-Pacific region.

Achieving this ambitious goal will require increased technical capacity among national governments, civil society groups, regional institutions and other stakeholders.

"Cooperation is crucial to addressing the challenges the Asia-Pacific region faces today and this innovative collaboration between two UN organizations with different thematic mandates is a good step in that direction," said Anne-Charlotte Malm, Head of Regional Development Cooperation at the Embassy of Sweden, Bangkok.

"The project fits well with Sweden's priorities in Asia and the Pacific: to contribute to sustainable development by working regionally, through mutual interaction between human rights, democracy, gender equality, environment and climate change.

In this way, we are convinced that this partnership will strengthen resilience in the region," she added.

A large proportion of rural women in Asia and the Pacific earn their livelihoods in climate-sensitive sectors such as agriculture and fisheries, thereby increasing their sensitivity to the effects of climate change.

Women are also more at risk because of discriminatory gender norms and power imbalances in the region.

The project will enable women to be a part of climate change and disaster risk reduction actions, and give them the tools they need to become renewable energy entrepreneurs.

Such support can unlock a brighter, more climate resilient future.

This is true not just for women alone, but also for the communities they inhabit. Having access to clean energy has a multiplier effect that spills over into livelihoods, health, education and even safety and security of women.

"UN Women is excited that through this project we are addressing crucial issues of gender equality and human rights in the context of resilience to climate change and disaster.

In five years' time, UN Women, together with its partners, hopes to see women and disadvantaged groups not only more resilient but also empowered to take decisions and lead actions on climate change and disasters," said Ms. Miwa Kato, Regional Director for UN Women in Asia and the Pacific.

"UN Environment welcomes this unique partnership with UN Women, which will support women and marginalized groups to participate in climate change action and provide them with the means to access renewable energy, which can transform lives," said Dechen Tsering, Regional Director for UN Environment in Asia-Pacific.—*UN Environment* ■

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What's in a name? France's Le Pen proposes far-right rebrand

PARIS—French far-right leader Marine Le Pen proposed changing the name of her party to the National Union on Sunday as part of efforts to improve its image after she was re-elected for a third term as leader.

Le Pen announced the proposed change at a party conference in northeast France, arguing that it needed to drop its historic name of the National Front (FN), used since 1972 when it was co-founded by her father Jean-Marie.

The switch is meant to signal a new beginning and a decisive break from the toxic legacy of Jean-Marie Le Pen, a former paratrooper who has a long history of making racist and anti-Semitic remarks.

The party severed the last tie by stripping him of an honourary title on Sunday, the final act in a vitriolic and highly personal power struggle with his daughter, who took over the party in 2011.

Marine Le Pen said the National Front name was "associated with a glorious and epic history that no one can deny", but the 49-year-old added it was also an impediment that prevented the party winning power in elections.

"For a lot of French people... it's a psychological barrier," she said.

Her efforts to distance the party from its association with racism were dealt an immediate blow, however, when the deputy leader of the National Front youth movement was suspended for offensive remarks.

Davy Rodriguez, who is also a parliamentary assistant for the party, was filmed apparently calling a bouncer at a bar in Lille a "black piece of shit" during a drunken late-night dispute on the eve of the party conference.

He was suspended on Sunday in a decision that was approved by Le Pen, a party source told AFP. Rodriguez admitted to an argument but told the Buzzfeed website that the video was a fabrication.—AFP

Marine Le Pen is trying to improve the French National Front's image. **PHOTO: AFP**

Nerve agent used in ex-spy attack found at UK pub, restaurant

LONDON—Traces of a nerve agent used in the suspected attempted murder of a Russian ex-spy have been found in a pub and a restaurant he visited, England's chief medical officer said on Sunday.

Sally Davies said up to 500 people who had visited The Mill pub and the Zizzi restaurant in Salisbury, southwest England, needed to wash their clothes and belongings as a precaution.

The 4 March attack on former double agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia is being treated by detectives as attempted murder.

The pair were found slumped on a bench in Salisbury. They remain in a critical but stable condition in hospital.

"There has been some trace contamination by the nerve agent in both The Mill pub and Zizzi restaurant in Salisbury," Davies said.

"I am confident this has not harmed the health of anyone who was in The Mill pub or Zizzi's.

"However, some people are concerned long-term exposure to these substances may, over weeks and particularly months, give rise to health problems.

"I am therefore advising... the people who were in either the restaurant or the pub at 1:30pm last Sunday until evening closing on Monday should clean the clothes they wore and the possessions they handled while there."

Traces of a nerve agent used to poison Russian ex-double agent Sergei Skripal have been found at The Mill pub and the Zizzi restaurant in Salisbury. **PHOTO: AFP**

Pub and restaurant-goers were told to wash their clothing in the washing machine, while dry clean-only clothes should be put inside two tied plastic bags and safely stored while awaiting further advice. Mobile phones, handbags and electronic items should be wiped with sanitary wipes, which should then be disposed of in domestic waste.

Items such as jewellery and spectacles should be handwashed in warm water and detergent, before being rinsed in cold water. The risk to public health remained low and the advice was precautionary, Public Health England said.

"It is possible, but unlikely, that any of the substance which has come into contact with clothing or belongings could still be present in minute amounts and therefore contaminate your skin," PHE said in a statement.

"Over time, repeated skin contact with contaminated items may pose a small risk to health."

Home Secretary Amber Rudd, Britain's interior minister, said Saturday that police were examining more than 200 pieces of evidence, had identified more than 240 witnesses, and were ploughing through security camera footage.

Around 180 troops, including chemical warfare experts, have been deployed in Salisbury after investigators requested specialist assistance.

Skripal, 66, came to Britain in 2010 as part of a spy swap. He was a former colonel in Russia's military intelligence who was jailed in his country for betraying agents to Britain's MI6 secret service.—AFP

Slovak interior minister quits after journalist murder

BRATISLAVA—Slovak Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Robert Kalinak announced his resignation on Monday following tensions sparked by the murder of an investigative journalist probing links between the government and the mafia.

"I think to fulfil my mandate I have to do everything to preserve stability in Slovakia," Kalinak told reporters. "For this reason I have decided to resign as deputy prime minister and interior minister."

Last month's murder of Jan Kuciak and his fiancee prompted huge protests against the government of Prime Minister Robert Fico, with tens of thousands of Slovaks turning out for rallies in Bratislava on Friday.

Following the protests, Fico's Smer-SD party, to which Kalinak also belongs, came under fire from small coalition partner Most-Hid, which threatened to quit if the minister stayed.

The bodies of Kuciak and his fiancee Martina Kusnirova, both 27, were found on 25 February at their home near Bratislava. The couple, who were to have married in May, had both been shot dead.

Police have said Kuciak's death was "most likely" related to his investigation resulting in an article on ties between Slovakia's top politicians and Italy's notorious 'Ndrangheta mafia, which his employer posthumously published. The murder and the article sparked a wave of anti-government sentiment in the EU and NATO member of 5.4 million people.

On Friday, some 40,000 people gathered in Bratislava to protest against Fico and his government, making it Slovakia's biggest protest since the 1989 Velvet Revolution that toppled Communism in former Czechoslovakia.—AFP

Following the journalist's murder, some 40,000 people gathered in Bratislava to protest against the government in Slovakia's biggest demonstration in nearly two decades. **PHOTO: AFP**

Cuba vote opens final chapter of Castro era

Cubans, including First Vice President Miguel Diaz-Canel (R) and his wife Lis Cuesta (L) stand in line to vote on a new National Assembly that will choose the country's next president. **PHOTO: AFP**

HAVANA — Cubans voted on Sunday to ratify a new National Assembly, a key step in a process leading to the elevation of a new president, the first in nearly 60 years from outside the Castro family.

The new members of the National Assembly will be tasked with choosing a successor to 86-year-old President Raul Castro when he steps down next month.

"The next president may not have that surname, but he will undoubtedly be a son of the Revolution," the Foreign Ministry said on Twitter.

Castro voted in the southeastern province of Santiago de Cuba while his first vice president and likely successor, Miguel Diaz-Canel, cast his ballot in the central Santa Clara province.

"The triumphal march of the revolution will continue," Diaz-Canel said after voting, promising "peace, liberty, independence and the sovereignty of the people will endure."

Raul Castro took over in 2006 from his ailing brother Fidel, who had governed since seizing power during the 1959 revolution.

Eight million Cubans were expected to turn out to ratify 605 candidates for an equal number of seats in the Assembly, a process shorn of suspense and unique to the Communist-run Caribbean island nation.

"They're the most important elections of recent years, because we are going to vote for new people who will govern from then on," daycare center guardian Ramon Perez told AFP.

Sunday's general election is the first since the 2016 death of Fidel Castro, and marks the beginning of major change at the top in Cuba.

The change "will be a challenge but it's the natural law of life. We get old and have to retire," said retired lieutenant colonel Rigoberto Celorio, 82.

"This is the right moment," he added. "Raul will stay on as first secretary of the Communist Party, so whoever comes out of the process will be well oriented."

Candidates may be either members of the Cuban Communist Party or not, and may also belong to trade unions or be students.

"The designation of candidates is based on merit, abilities and the commitment of the people," Raul Castro said when he announced the elections last year.

The official daily Granma wrote: "Nobody exchanges promises for votes, or boasts of his abilities to get supporters... This is the true and exceptional face of what we proudly call socialist democracy."

- Succession -

More than half of the candidates, 322, are women.

The new National Assembly selects a 31-member Council of State, whose head is automatically president of the country.

Castro had already announced that he would not be seeking a new term, although he is expected to remain head of the all-powerful Communist Party until 2021.

Diaz-Canel, 57, is widely expected to succeed him and is committed to guaranteeing continuity.

Born after the revolution, the engineer slowly climbed to the top rungs of Cuba's hierarchy over a three-decade career under Raul's mentorship.

"Diaz-Canel is a person known to us. I sincerely wish it will be him," said Xiomara Gonzalez, after voting in Diaz-Canel's home town of Santa Clara.

Julio Cesar Guanche, a professor of law and history, said on the OnCuba website that the legitimacy of the country's next president would come more from "institutional performance" than personal history such as involvement in the 1959 revolution.

Turnout for the election is expected to be around 90 per cent. Although voting is voluntary, not voting is frowned upon. Going to the polls is considered an act of sovereignty and of "revolutionary affirmation."

The final results will be announced on Monday.

Opposition criticism of the process centres around the fact that the president is not chosen in direct elections.

Cuban dissident Rosa Maria Paya, of the Cuba Decide movement, wants a referendum on modifying the island's government system and says her group will be watching for signs "of rejection of the electoral process, in which in reality we cannot elect" anyone.

US lawmakers headed by Republican Marco Rubio, who is of Cuban descent, have written to President Donald Trump urging him to ignore Castro's successor "in the absence of free, fair and multiparty elections."

Cubans who want to demonstrate opposition typically spoil their ballots.

The Otro18 opposition movement is also calling for change.

"The citizens do not participate in the choice or the election of the president and we think it's a decisive moment for the citizens to push a request" to change the electoral system, said Ostro18 leader Manuel Costa Morua. —AFP ■

Police officers remove bodies from the scene of a helicopter crash in Manhattan's East River that left five people dead. **PHOTO: AFP**

Five dead in New York river helicopter crash

NEW YORK — Five people have died after a helicopter owned by a tour group plunged into Manhattan's East River, police said on Monday.

The red chopper, which is owned by tourism group Liberty, was carrying six people including the pilot when it crashed into the river near the upscale Upper East Side neighborhood shortly after 7:00 pm (2300 GMT) on Sunday. "Five people are deceased," a New York Police Department spokesperson told AFP, saying the dead were all passengers on the helicopter.

Following the crash, "the pilot freed himself, the other five did not," Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro told reporters during an earlier press conference.

Divers rushed to the scene and freed the passengers, two of whom were pronounced dead, while three others were taken to hospital in critical condition, Nigro said. "We are told the five people were all tied tightly in harnesses that had to be cut and removed," he said.

Liberty organizes aerial tours of America's financial capital. Police chief James O'Neill said the aircraft had been leased by photographers. The cause of the accident was not immediately clear, but local media indicated the pilot had sent a distress signal that mentioned an engine problem shortly before the crash.

The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the incident.—AFP ■

Krasukha-4 ground-based electronic warfare system. **PHOTO: TASS**

Russian army has cutting-edge laser weapons at its disposal, defence official says

MOSCOW — Russian army has laser weapons in service, which can hit predetermined targets, Deputy Defence Minister Yuri Borisov said in an interview with Krasnaya Zvezda newspaper on Monday.

"We can talk a lot about laser weapons and movies were made about them a long time ago and fantastic books have been written, and everyone knows about this. But the fact that these systems have started entering service is indeed a today's reality," Borisov said.

"Starting from last year laser systems have been entering service, what allows disarming a potential adversary and hitting those facilities, which are the targets," the deputy minister said.

The Russian scientists have learned to focus the energy needed to hit the adversary's armaments "within fractions of a second."

Russian President Vladimir Putin announced the creation of laser weapons in his State of the Nation Address to the Federal Assembly on 1 March. Putin said these laser systems significantly expand Russia's possibilities to ensure its security.—Tass ■

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Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Dated **13th March 2018** lmm@kcyangon.com

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BATAM VOY. NO. (143 W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BATAM VOY. NO. (143 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-3-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES
Phone No: 2301185

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Dated **13th March 2018** lmm@kcyangon.com

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Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Dated **13th March 2018** lmm@kcyangon.com

TRADEMARK CAUTION

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Reg. No. 4/8781/2013 (14 August 2013)

Reg. No. 4/8779/2013 (15 August 2013)

TEA+

Reg. No. 4/8780/2013 (15 August 2013)

MYTEA

Reg. No. 4/8778/2013 (15 August 2013)

Reg. No. 4/8783/2013 (16 August 2013)

OTPP

Reg. No. 4/8782/2013 (16 August 2013)

All in respect of "Dietary and nutritional supplements; dietary food supplements; dietary supplemental drinks" in **Class 5;**

"Coffee; artificial coffee; coffee beverages with milk; coffee-based beverages; tea; flavored tea; iced tea; tea-based beverages; flavored tea-based beverages; oolong tea; oolong tea-based beverages; cocoa; cocoa beverages with milk; cocoa-based beverages; sugar; rice; tapioca; sago; flour and preparations made from cereals; bread; pastry and confectionery; ices; honey; treacle; yeast; baking-powder; salt; mustard; vinegar; sauces (condiments); spices; ice" in **Class 30;** and

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The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Dated **13th March 2018** lmm@kcyangon.com

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At least 49 killed, 17 injured in US-Bangla Airlines plane crash in Nepal

KATHMANDU — At least 49 people were killed and 17 injured after a passenger plane of the US-Bangla Airlines crashed at Nepal's Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) on Monday afternoon, authorities confirmed.

Bishwo Raj Pokharel, a senior police official involved in the rescue operation at the TIA, told Xinhua on the spot, "49 people were killed and 17 others injured in the incident. Now we are carrying out rescue operations."

The 17 injured in the incident had been sent to hospitals for treatment, he added.

Photo taken on 12 March, 2018 shows the crash-landing site in Kathmandu, Nepal. A passenger plane of the US-Bangla Airlines crashed at Nepal's Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) on Monday, with dozens feared dead and at least 17 people injured. **PHOTO:XINHUA**

The Bombardier Dash Q-400 aircraft, with 67 passengers and four crew members onboard, crashed while landing. The UBG211 flight was en route to Kathmandu from Dhaka, Bangladesh. The TIA has been closed for the incoming and outgoing international flights following the accident. The details of the incident are yet to be ascertained.

Nepali Prime Minister K.P Sharma Oli, Defense Minister Ishwar Pokharel, Home Minister Ram Bahadur Thapa and senior officials reached the airport following the crash.

The prime minister told reporters that the government would launch a probe into the crash.

The US-Bangla Airlines is a privately-owned Bangladeshi airline headquartered in Dhaka. This is the deadliest air crash at the TIA airport after a Turkish Airlines flight crash-landed in March 2015.—Xinhua ■

Space bases could preserve civilization in World War III: Elon Musk

WASHINGTON — Bases on the moon and Mars could help preserve human civilization and hasten its regeneration on earth in the event of a third world war, billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk, said on Sunday.

Musk, the founder of rocket and spacecraft company SpaceX, said the company's interplanetary ship could begin test flights as soon as next year.

There is "some probability" that there will be another Dark Ages, "particularly if there is a third world war," Musk said at the SXSW conference.

"We want to make sure that there's enough of a seed of human civilization somewhere else to bring civilization back, and perhaps shorten the length of the Dark Ages," he said.

"I think a moon base and a Mars base that could perhaps help regenerate life back here on earth would be really important."

Musk said he thinks that SpaceX's interplanetary ship will "be able to do short flights, short sort of up and down flights, probably sometime in the first half of next year."

SpaceX launched the world's most powerful rocket, the Falcon Heavy, last month, sending Musk's red Tesla Roadster car toward an orbit near Mars.—AFP ■

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‘Black Panther’ tops ‘Wrinkle’ as Disney dominates at the box office

LOS ANGELES — “Black Panther” kept up its record-setting ways in North American theaters over the weekend, easily defeating a challenge from another Disney product, newly released “A Wrinkle in Time,” to again dominate box offices, industry analysts said. The Disney/Marvel superhero collaboration took in an estimated $41.1 million for the three-day weekend, website Exhibitor Relations reported. That bumped it up to a domestic total of $562 million in its four weeks out, making it the seventh biggest domestic release ever.

Director Ryan Coogler, left, poses with ‘Black Panther’ star Chadwick Boseman at last month’s London premiere of the movie, which is continuing to set box-office records. **PHOTO: AFP**

The film’s opening in China meantime boosted its international takings to $516.6 million, pushing its overall total past the $1 billion mark.

“Panther” stars Chadwick Boseman as the superhero king of a utopian if fictional African country. It is now the first movie since “Star Wars: The Force Awakens” to top North American box offices for four consecutive weekends.

“A Wrinkle in Time,” a science fantasy adventure that celebrates diversity and powerful women, took in $33.3 million for its opening weekend. Analysts said that was something of a letdown for a big-budget Disney film. “Wrinkle” has garnered mixed reviews. The movie, about a search through time and space for a missing father, stars Storm Reid, Oprah Winfrey, Reese Witherspoon and Chris Pine.

Its director, Ava DuVernay, became the first black woman to helm a movie with a $100 million budget, Hollywood Reporter said. “Black Panther,” which was also directed by an African American, Ryan Coogler, had nearly twice that budget. In third place this weekend was new horror film “The Strangers: Prey at Night,” from Aviron studios. This sort-of sequel to 2008’s “The Strangers” took in $10.5 million. The poorly reviewed movie — Variety says it serves up “the same old meat-puppet gore and cattle-prod scares” — stars Christina Hendricks and Martin Henderson as a couple whose house is invaded by three masked men. Next was Fox spy thriller “Red Sparrow,” with Jennifer Lawrence as a Russian ballerina-turned-elite spy. The movie, which took in $8.2 million in its second week out, also stars Matthias Schoenaerts, Jeremy Irons and Charlotte Rampling.

And in fifth spot was comedy thriller “Game Night” from Warner Bros, which netted $7.9 million. The movie, starring Jason Bateman and Rachel McAdams, tells the story of six friends who get together for beer and games and stumble into a dangerous reality game.

Rounding out the top 10 were:

“Peter Rabbit” ($6.8 million)
“Death Wish” ($6.6 million)
“The Hurricane Heist” ($3.2 million)
“Annihilation” ($3.2 million)
“Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle” ($2.8 million).
—AFP ■

I can’t wait to get married: Kaley Cuoco

PHOTO: PTI

LOS ANGELES — “Big Bang Theory” star Kaley Cuoco says she cannot wait to get married to her “soulmate” Karl Brook.

The duo got engaged in November on Cuoco’s 32nd birthday and are currently busy planning their wedding.

“We’re totally going to get married. We are planning it. We are thinking about it. I can’t wait. I don’t want it to be much longer. That’s the truth. I really can’t wait.

“We are so happy and in love. He is excited as I am, which is sweet. I finally found my soulmate, so we’re ready to do it,” she told E! online.

Cuoco and Cook first sparked romance rumours in March 2016. A month later, Cuoco posted a cozy picture of her with her boyfriend on Instagram, saying, “That’s what happy looks like.” In September 2016, they made their relationship red carpet official.—PTI ■

Barack and Michelle Obama would provide Netflix with exclusive content, with the format and number of shows yet to be determined, US media reported. **PHOTO: AFP**

Obama in negotiations to create Netflix series: report

SAN FRANCISCO — Former US President Barack Obama is in negotiations with Netflix about producing a series of shows for the online streaming giant, according to US media reports.

Obama and former first lady Michelle Obama would provide Netflix with exclusive content, with the format and number of shows yet to be determined, The New York Times reported citing people familiar with the matter.

Netflix declined to comment.

As the world’s leading on-demand internet television service, Netflix would offer Obama a global platform to delve into topics that marked his presidency, such as health care, immigration, foreign policy, and fighting climate change.

His wife, Michelle, would also have a stage to explore subjects she was passionate about while first lady, such as nutrition.

The format could include talk-show-style or documentary productions. Obama does not plan to use shows to respond directly to President Donald Trump or other critics, but instead to showcase inspirational stories, according to the Times.

Netflix said it ended last year with about 117 million users, including slightly more than 110 million paid subscribers.

Having shifted its focus to original content, Netflix has scooped awards and helped shake up both the television and film industries with its deep pockets.

Netflix is available in some 200 markets worldwide and produces programs in several languages. It said it expects to spend between $7.5 billion and $8 billion on content for 2018.—AFP ■

Russian opera legend Hvorostovsky awarded professional music award BraVo posthumously

MOSCOW — Russia’s late opera star Dmitri Hvorostovsky has been posthumously awarded a BraVo international professional music award for his last record of Verdi’s Rigoletto.

The awarding ceremony was held at Moscow’s Bolshoi Theatre on Sunday. The award was handed over to the singer’s parents, Alexander Stepanovich and Lyudmila Petrovna.

Hvorostovsky, who is broadly viewed as one of the greatest opera baritones of our time, was diagnosed with a brain tumor in the summer of 2015. He quit the opera stage in 2016 but carried on with concerts. Hvorostovsky died of brain cancer on November 22 in London where he lived with his family. The legendary singer was 55 years old.—Tass ■

Shwe Taung Group hands over 99th school to MoE

Shwe Taung Group handed over its 99th school building for a basic education middle school in Thepyintaw village, Nyaung-U Township, Mandalay Region on 11th March.

The ceremony held at the village was attended by Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Colonel Kyaw Kyaw Min, Mandalay region's minister of security and border affairs, Hluttaw's representatives, Brazilian Ambassador to Myanmar, Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar and diplomats from Thai Embassy as well as Shwe Taung Group Chairman U Aik Tun and a wellwisher Mrs Maneerat Neenchaisak, and local people.

Shwe Taung Group funded the construction of a 60'x30' one-storey steel structure building with lavatories, water supply facility and full furniture.

"We will open our 100th school building next academic year. We are delighted to donate facilities for education in cooperation our friends," said U Aik Tun.

Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi delivered the opening speech at the ceremony followed by a speech by Shwe Taung Group Chairman U Aik Tun.

Afterwards, the donors presented air-conditioners, computers, water treatment machine and other relevant materials for the school.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe and officials open Basic Education middle School in Nyaung-U Township,Mandalay Region. **PHOTO: MNA**

Austria marks 80 years since annexation by Hitler

VIENNA— Austria on Monday marks the 80th anniversary of its annexation by Nazi Germany, with the country's President Alexander Van der Bellen urging young people not to be "taken in" by neo-fascist and far-right ideologies.

On 12 March, 1938, Adolf Hitler ordered 200,000 soldiers, SS officers and police to invade Austria, his native country, subsequently declaring its "Anschluss" or annexation by the Third Reich.

A "Day of Commemoration" will be held on Monday to mark the events of 1938 that changed the course of Austrian history and served as a prelude to World War II.

Asked in an interview with the Kurier daily what future generations could learn from the Anschluss, van der Bellen replied: "Not to be taken in."

People should not take "peaceful cohabitation, co-determination and stable political conditions for granted," he warned. "These things can change."

Van der Bellen — a former leader of the environmentalist Greens who in late 2016 beat an anti-immigration candidate in a polarising and nail-biting presidential election — said minorities enjoy better protection today.

"They can't be outlawed at the stroke of a pen as they could then by a majority. If that weren't the case, the state could be immediately turned into a tyranny of the majority, as happened back then."

Van der Bellen has repeatedly called for vigilance and for tolerance since a coalition government took power in December, headed by the 31-year-old conservative Chancellor Sebastian Kurz, with the leader of the far-right Freedom Party (FPOe), Heinz-Christian Strache, as his deputy.

The FPOe, which counts former Nazis among its founders, is the oldest of the major right-wing nationalist and anti-immigration groupings currently on the rise in the European Union.

FPOe politicians have repeatedly rejected neo-Nazism, racism and anti-Semitism since the party joined the ruling coalition.

The party has also expressed its gratitude to "the Republic of Austria, democracy, parliamentarism and the rule of law".

But the FPOe's position regarding the status of the Austrian state has long been ambiguous, with a strong current within the party — particularly among student fraternities — viewing Austria as part of a wider pan-German or "Greater German" identity. Appearing on Austrian television alongside other leading politicians for the Anschluss commemorations, Strache said it was everyone's individual responsibility to remember "the National Socialist (Nazi) terror regime that murdered people on a large scale because of their religion, their origin and their political opinions."

A billboard set up in Vienna as part of the commemorations of the 80th anniversary of Austria's annexation by Nazi Germany, or "Anschluss". **PHOTO: AFP**

- Embarrassing controversies -

But since it joined the ruling coalition, the FPOe has found itself embroiled in a string of embarrassing controversies regarding its relationship to Austria's history. In January, for example, a leading FPOe candidate in regional elections quit the party because of a scandal over song lyrics praising the Holocaust.

While Strache has been keen to clean up his party's image, other incidents have tarnished it, such as one FPOe member of parliament who declared in 2006 on television that "National Socialism also had its good sides".

Many events marking the Anchluss anniversary feature eyewitnesses of the time, while public debates will focus on the responsibility of Austria and everyday Austrians in Hitler's seizure of power.

Talking about such issues in public was almost unheard of until the late 1980s, as Austria preferred to hide behind the status of Nazi victim that the Allies had officially conferred on it.

Such denial has prevented Austria from embarking on the very painful "Vergangenheitsbewaeltigung" or self-examination and coming to terms with the past that Germany has undertaken.

Austrian conservatives began paving the way for Nazism as early as 1933 when they put an end to parliamentary democracy, then crushed the Social Democrats in 1934 and set up a one-party regime.

In a country in the throes of an identity crisis following the disintegration of the Austro-Hungarian empire, and in full economic slump, anti-Semitism flourished as early as the 1920s.

"Everything had already long been ready by the time the Nazis arrived," Kitty Suschny — who was just 13 in 1938 — told a conference, recalling that a ban on "dogs and Jews" was imposed overnight in the grounds of Vienna's Schoenbrunn Palace.

The persecution of Jews began in the early hours of the Anschluss. And on 15 March, a euphoric crowd greeted Hitler in Vienna.

An artistic installation will be unveiled on Monday at the site where the dictator made his first speech after the annexation of the country. On Wednesday, Chancellor Kurz will ask his cabinet to approve a proposal for a memorial to the victims of the Holocaust to be erected in the centre of Vienna.—AFP ■

Dortmund overpower Frankfurt 3-2 in German Bundesliga

Michy Batshuayi (1st L) of Dortmund scores during the German Bundesliga soccer match between Borussia Dortmund and Eintracht Frankfurt in Dortmund, Germany on 11 March, 2018. Dortmund won 3-2. **PHOTO:XINHUA**

BERLIN — Borussia Dortmund overpowered resilient Frankfurt 3-2 after substitute Michy Batsuhayi scored two late goals to secure all three points on home soil at the 26th round in Bundesliga on Sunday.

Eintracht Frankfurt restored parity twice but even Danny Blum's injury time equalizer wasn't enough as Batsuhayi's last-gasp winner shocked the "Eagles" .

The hosts took the reins from the kick off as it took the "BVB" only 11 minutes to break the deadlock in front of home crowd. Christian Pulisic's low square pass into the box found Frankfurt's defender Marco Russ, whose clearance ended up in the wrong goal.

Dortmund controlled the proceedings on the pitch but they ceased their forward actions, taking a narrow one-goal lead into the half time.

After the restart, Frankfurt battled their way into the encounter and caused problems for Dortmund's defence with crosses and set pieces into the box.

The visitor's efforts paid off with 75 minutes played as Jonathan de Guzman's pinpoint free kick into the area allowed Luka Jovic to head home the leveller.

However, it was a short-lived joy for Frankfurt as Batsuhayi, who was fielded in the 62nd minute, ensured the 2-1 lead following a one-two with Christian Pulisic in the 77th minute.

The "Eagles" remained unimpressed and pressed forward with the result that Danny Blum snatched a late two-all draw after a low pass to the far post from Danny da Costa in the injury time.

It looked like Frankfurt would hijack a point from Dortmund but Chelsea loanee Batsuhayi wasn't done with the scoring as he shocked Frankfurt after smashing home the winner in the dying seconds of the game.

With the victory, Dortmund tighten their 3rd place in the standings whereas Frankfurt slipped from the 4th to the 5th place.

"We played a good second half and I think we should have grabbed a draw here. In the first half Dortmund was the better team in the second half we were. If you score in the injury time you cannot lose in the injury time," Frankfurt head coach Niko Kovac said.

Elsewhere, newly promoted Stuttgart and Leipzig shared the spoils after 90 goalless minutes. With the draw, Stuttgart slump to the 10th position meanwhile Leipzig stay on the 6th place.

Werder Bremen and Cologne encounter for the relegation battle and will conclude the 26th round in Bundesliga on Monday. — Xinhua ■

No Messi but Barca still top after matchday 28

MADRID — The absence of Leo Messi after parenthood for the third time on Friday night was no problem for FB Barcelona as they cruised to a 2-0 win away to Malaga in the 28th round of Spain's Liga Santander over the weekend.

Barca coach Ernesto Valverde used Messi's absence to hand starts to big signings Ousmane Dembele and Phillipe Coutinho and both responded to the challenge with Dembele setting Coutinho up for Barca's second goal of the game.

By then the league leaders had opened the scoring thanks to Luis Suarez, who with his goal in La Rosaleda has now scored against every side that he has played in the Primera Liga since his arrival in 2014.

Barca's task became much easier when Malaga midfielder Samu Garcia was sent off for a wild challenge of Jordi Alba with an hour still remaining in the game and in the second half they were content to conserve energy ahead of Wednesday's Champions League tie at home to Chelsea.

Second-placed Atletico Madrid remain 11 points behind Barcelona after a 3-0 win at home to Celta Vigo.

Antoine Griezmann was given the award for player of the month for February before the kick off and celebrated by opening the scoring following a wonderful piece of control on the stroke of half time.

He then set Vitolo up for Atletico's second in the 56th minute, a minute after Celta had hit the woodwork, and Angel Correa sealed the win seven minutes later. Real Madrid remain third after Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice away to Eibar in a game which Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane admitted they didn't deserve to win.

However, after Eibar had pegged Madrid back in their own half for much of the opening 45 minutes Ronaldo took advantage of a defensive error and a pass from Luka Modric to open the scoring.— Xinhua ■

Daniel upsets Djokovic at Indian Wells, Nishikori pulls out

Taro Daniel. **PHOTO:KYODO NEWS**

INDIAN WELLS, California — Japan's world No 109 Taro Daniel pulled off a major upset on Sunday at the BNP Paribas Open by beating Serbia's Novak Djokovic in the second round.

Though most of the crowd at Indian Wells came to see the former World No 1 in his comeback following right elbow surgery, it was the 25-year-old Daniel who stole the show with a scrappy 7-6(3), 4-6, 6-1 victory.

"I can't believe I beat someone like (Djokovic) on center court like this, it's pretty crazy," Daniel said.

After a closely fought first two sets, Daniel said he sensed Djokovic, still clearly lacking match fitness, was tiring at the start of the third.

"I think I came out playing a little more aggressive than the other two sets and that made him keep making more mistakes. Because he obviously wasn't playing his best tennis, so I was able to take advantage of that," Daniel said. Daniel, who reached the second round with a 6-3, 1-6, 6-1 victory over Britain's Cameron Norrie, had never beaten a top-20 opponent before Djokovic, and needed to win a pair of qualifiers to enter the main draw of the tournament.

"Getting through qualifying made me a bit more confident, which gave me the belief...to get through the tougher moments, even against someone like (Djokovic)," he said.

His third-round opponent is Argentina's Leonardo Mayer, who had been scheduled to play Japan's Kei Nishikori in the second round before the world No 25 withdrew through illness. Mayer beat Nishikori's replacement Ruben Bemelmans of Belgium 6-4, 6-1.—Kyodo News ■