Suspect in Rakhine attacks detained

While conducting security operations in Buthidaung, Rakhine State Saturday afternoon, a combined team of Tatmadaw columns and the police border guards captured Swedu Larm, who is suspected of involvement in the violent attacks in Rakhine State last year.

The suspect was handed over to a local police station in order to take legal action against him in accordance with the law. — Myanmar News Agency

157 fire accidents in Bago Region last year

The number of fires that occurred in Bago Region last year reached 157, an increase of seven cases compared with the previous year, according to the Bago Region Fire Service Department.

The majority of fire accidents happened in Bago District, which tops the list of regions with 56 cases, followed by Pyay District with 40 cases, Taungoo District with 31 cases and Thaton District with 28 cases.

Last year’s fires in Bago Region killed five people and destroyed more than Ks150 million worth of properties, including 185 households. Most of the fires were caused by negligence on the part of people who used stoves and electronic devices carelessly, said U Aung Myint, director of the department. Forest fires also occurred in the region twice last year. According to the figures of the Fire Service Department, a total of 150 fire cases occurred in 28 townships in the region in 2015.

The region has over 70 fire stations, 159 fire engines, 148 water tankers, 20 auxiliary vehicles and 22 other vehicles. The fire stations are staffed by nearly 800 officers and other ranks of the fire service department and more than 23,900 auxiliary members. — Myitma News Agency

Camp for retired elephants in Pathein now a tourist attraction

Tourists ride elephants at Thitgatoeeaing Elephant Camp. (News on page). PHOTO: MNA

A TRAD Fair and Car Show on 15-18 February

A TRAD fair and car show is planned to take place next month in Mandalay under the arrangement of Top Y International Co Ltd, said U Kan Zaw, managing director of the host company.

The new event will be held from 15 to 18 February from 9am to 9pm at the City Hall in Mandalay, with a wide range of entertainment programmes including a model show and musical entertainment.

About 50 companies will take part in the event, planning to showcase their products that include auto parts and accessories, electronics, household utensils and kitchenware through over 100 booths.

Mobile handsets and related accessories, communications devices, healthcare equipment, construction materials, clothing and cosmetics will also be displayed for sale during the exhibition.

Companies which provide wedding service and education service will also be participating in the new trade fair. — Myanmar News Agency

Taungoo District IPRD of Bago Region creates happy world for children

40 pupils and three teachers from the Shining Star Pre-School in Taungoo, Bago Region on Thursday visited the Taungoo District Public Library of Information and Public Relation Department (IPRD) under the Ministry of Information.

The children told stories, recited poems and played with toys in the reading room of the library.

The Taungoo District IPRD has arranged a reading room in the library with the aim of developing the intellectual curiosity of children, supporting their creativity, expanding their knowledge and providing relaxation. — Shwe Win (Pyay)
President attends Naga New Year festival

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At the ceremony, Chairman of the Naga Literature and Culture (Central) Committee U Aung Htu extended New Year greetings.

U Kay Sai, Chairman of the Naga SAZ, presented New Year gifts to the President.

Before the Naga traditional New Year was officially launched, the President, Union ministers, regional ministers and donors presented aid to local authorities for the development of the zone.

The Naga ethnic people celebrate the traditional New Year on 15th January after their harvest.

The Naga ethnic tribes have held the New Year festival in individual villages, but since 1956-57, chiefs of the ethnic tribes have collectively held the New Year festival in townships.

Since 1993, the Naga Traditional New Year festival has been held with the assistance of the government. The festival has become a state-level festival since 2001, celebrating in Layshi, Lahe and Nanyun alternatively. This year marks the 17th year in which the Naga New Year has been celebrated as a state-level festival.

—Myanmar News Agency

UN Special Rapporteur tours Rakhine

Ms Yanghee Lee, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, and her team met with Rakhine State Security and Border Affairs Minister Col Hein Lin and officials at district/township levels at the General Administration Department of Maungtaw District yesterday morning.

Then, she visited Shwe Paho Village and Kyikyanpyin (West) Village where the Myo ethnic group lives.

Later, she met with the state security and border affairs minister and Police-Brig-Gen Thura San Lwin and discussed security measures before visiting No. 4 outpost in Kyikyanpyin.

In the afternoon, she visited the scene where two Myo ethnic group residents were killed in an attack which took place last month.

Ms Yanhee Lee, left, meets with members of the Muslim community during her tour of conflict areas in northern Rakhine. PHOTO: KI MIN

Myanmar’s women to participate in Chinese invitational football contest

SELECTED Myanmar female footballers will take part in coming Chinese invitation football tournament to be held from 19 to 24 January in China.

The Myanmar Women’s Team chose 22 players to participate in this year’s competition. Myanmar will play against teams from the host China, Ukraine and Thailand.

The competition will start on January 19, with Myanmar playing against Ukraine. Myanmar will then play against China on 21 January. Myanmar will meet with the team from Thailand on 24 January.

For Myanmar, Mya Phu Ngon, Zar Zar Myint and May Zin Nwe were selected as goalkeepers. Wai Wai Aung, Khin Than Wai, Aye Aye Moe, Zin Mar Tun, Zin Mar Win, Phu Pwint Khaing and San San Maw will perform as defenders, while Khin Mala Tun, May Sabei Phu, Yupa Khang, Aye Myo Myat, Win Thein Tun, May Thu Kyaw, Naw Ar Lo Wah Phaw and Khin Mo Mo Tun as midfielders and Yi Yi Oo, July Kyaw, Khin Moe Wai and Nilar Win as strikers.

The Myanmar Women’s Team will also compete in the 2018 AFC Women’s Asian Cup qualification in April, the ASEAN Women’s football competition in May and the 29th SEA games in August.

—Ye Tint Shine

Union Minister for Information opens community centre, mobile library

A CEREMONY to formally open a community centre and a mobile library jointly founded by the Ministry of Information and the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation was held at the Natmauk Township Information and Public Relations Department in Magway District yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint said at the ceremony that the community centre and the mobile library were founded with the intention of keeping in touch with the public and to create an environment in which the public will always be able to enjoy books.

The union minister also explained the measures taken for publication of children’s literature in order to instill the love of literature at an early age.

The union minister added that the Ministry of Information is an entity that would cooperate with any organisation anywhere in the world that has shared values, wishes and interests. But the union minister pointed out the need for cooperation of the public, including literary enthusiasts, those who wish for community development and officials of government departments for the success of the community centre.

Yesterday’s event was significant because the community centre and the mobile library are situated in the home town of the National Leader General Aung San, and was implemented with the cooperation of the Ministry of Information and the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation.

Region Minister for Labour, Immigration and People Power U Nay Myo Kyaw gave a speech of thanks at the ceremony and Executive Member of the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation explained the functions of the mobile library.

The union minister and officials formally opened the community centre and toured the mobile library bus before viewing local products, computer courses and the children’s reading room.

Later, the union minister visited the museum of General Aung San, which was the childhood home of the national leader, and inspected the Sasanahita Foundation.

The Ministry of Information and the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation jointly opened community centres and mobile libraries in Insein township and Magwaymya District in August and December last year, the third time such events were held. Plans are underway to open similar community centres and mobile libraries in Pyinmana, Myitkyina, and Hpa-an.

In the afternoon, the union minister inspected the Magway District Information and Public Relations Department and television relay station.

—Myanmar News Agency