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SOLUTIONS FOR RAKHINE

Gov't welcomes recommendations by Advisory Commission on Rakhine State

THE Union Government welcomed the interim recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State to address the problems in Rakhine State.

Following the commission's press conference in Yangon yesterday, the State Counsellor's Office issued a statement welcoming the recommendations that include a renewed call for unimpeded access for humanitarian groups and journalists to the affected areas in northern Rakhine and for independent and impartial investigations of the allegations of crimes committed on and since 9 October 2016.

"The Government would like to express its sincere thanks to the Chairperson Dr Kofi Annan and members of the Commission for their visionary and constructive approach to the need for stability, peace and prosperity in Rakhine," said the press release. "The Government concurs with the recommendations set forth in the report and believes that these will have a positive impact on the process of the national reconciliation and development," said the press release.

"The large majority of the recommendations will be implemented promptly with a view to maximum effectiveness.



SEE PAGE 2 >> Former U.N. chief Kofi Annan is seen in a video conference in Yangon, Myanmar, March 16, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Health ministry tells nurses to submit their difficulties to MNMC

THE Ministry of Health has asked disgruntled nurses to submit their complaints to the Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Council, saying that there would be no loss incurred in signing an agreement that requires them to work for the government for three years after graduation.

The remarks came at a press conference at the ministry in Yangon yesterday following protests Tuesday by hundreds of nurses who believe the agreement is unfair.

The priority of the council is putting patient safety and quality

assurance first, which is why the MNMC urges accepting the agreement and to submit their difficulties to the Council, said Dr. Phyu Phyu, the chairperson of the Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Council at the press conference.

Dr. Phyu Phyu stated that

there is a severe shortage of nurses in government hospitals and a high rate of absence, which prompted the 2015 agreement requiring three years of civil service upon earning a nursing degree/diploma. The MNMC issues Registration IDs to nurses and midwives practicing in

accord with rules and regulations, and issues a 2-year valid license upon entering the workforce. The MNMC maintains a rigorous process in ensuring nurses and midwives receive valid registration licenses and forbids practicing without one. See page 2 >>



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမာန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

MPs debate Ks30 billion allocation for sufficient power supply to Yangon Region in summer

HLUTTAW representatives proceeded to discuss an appeal issued by the President on allocating Ks30 billion for supplying adequate electricity to the Yangon Region during the summer in accord with the 2016 Budget Allotment Law.

Similarly, eleven Hluttaw representatives also discussed an appeal by the President on borrowing 23.883 million euros from Germany's KfW Development Bank for the Ministry of Electric Power and Energy in supplying adequate electricity to 416 villages in Southern Shan State.

Afterwards, U Than Soe (Economics) from Yangon constituency (4) discussed an appeal by the President on borrowing US\$200 million from the World Bank under their Development Policy Operation (DPO).

Then Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced questions and topics raised and discussed in yesterday's meetings will be replied and opened for discussion in the 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 4th Regular Meeting's 17th day which will be held today.

Ks5.5 billion from President's special fund goes to highway project

Special maintenance work for the new Phaungpyin-Pinlebu Road, an important road for the development of the upper Chindwin River region, that will be constructed using the president's special fund was discussed yesterday in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The Members of Parliament discussed the case sent by the president to spend Ks 5.5 billion from the president's special fund under the 2016 Union Budget Law for performing special maintenance work for the 29 mile-long road in Sagaing Region at the 16th day of fourth regular session of second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

"The road which would be constructed is important for the development of the upper Chindwin Region. I support it," said U Tin Maung Win, Member of Parliament for No. 10 constituency in Sagaing Region.

He added that the government needs to upgrade not only the highway but also all the connected roads to be travelled in



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

any season and to execute bridges and roads for long-term use after being upgraded.

"I welcome the implementation of the road because the upper Chindwin can be reached not only by waterway but land route. It should be done for the people who depend only on the risky water transport," said Daw Yin Min

Hlaing, Member of Constituency for Gangaw Constituency.

She highlighted the responsible persons when presenting the road implementation section and pointed out the need to present more details in the implementation plan so that quality roads can be built by responsible use of public money spent.

The speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw announced the recording of cases for the reforming of territorial extension and re-naming, to extend town, quarters and villages in Regions and States sent by the president office, under section 58 of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law. —Myanmar News Agency

Government welcomes recommendations by Advisory Commission on Rakhine State



Members of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State at the press conference in which the commission's recommendations for the Rakhine issue were released. PHOTO: PHOE KHWA

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The implementation of a few will be contingent upon the situation on the ground but we believe there will be speedy progress".

Kofi Annan also recommended that Myanmar should allow the Muslim communities of Rakhine State to return to their villages and ultimately close down camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs).

More than 120,000 people have been living in what were meant as temporary shelters for IDPs since bouts of communal violence roiled the state in 2012.

"It's really about time they close the camps and allow the people in the camps, particularly those who have gone through the

(citizenship) verification process, access to freedom of movement and all rights of citizenship," Annan told Reuters by telephone from Geneva. Hundreds of displaced people, whose return home would be feasible and safe, should be moved back "immediately, as a first step and sign of goodwill," the panel said. "The Government of Myanmar will be happy to cooperate with the Advisory Commission in its endeavours to assist us in finding viable and sustainable solutions to the complex situation in the Rakhine State," said the statement from the State Counsellor's Office released yesterday.

In related news, the European Union yesterday called for the

United Nations to send an international fact-finding mission urgently to Myanmar to investigate allegations of torture, rapes and executions by the military against the Rohingya Muslim minority.

The UN is scheduled to vote on the resolution on March 23-24.

If adopted, the Council would "dispatch urgently an independent international fact-finding mission" to Myanmar to investigate violations "with a view to ensuring full accountability for perpetrators and justice for victims".—GNLM/Reuters contributed to this report

(Excerpts from the Interim Report of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State will be covered in tomorrow issue.)

Health ministry tells nurses to submit their difficulties to MNMC

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Those who fail to follow the agreement must pay Ks400,000.

The MNMC has the right to issue announcements, promulgations, rules and regulations under MNMC Section (52)-subsection (B). Which is why a recommendation letter similar to a license is being issued along with Registration IDs, and from the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) point of view the compulsory three-year service agreement will assist in opening opportunities for working in other ASEAN countries.

Various universities and training schools currently have over 9,000 trainees in attendance. Director General Dr. Myint Han of Health Department for Healing explained on the agreement signed by nurses to serve as public servants after their three years of study. They will be issued a nursing license and nursing ID card upon signing and allowed to

practice in private hospitals and clinics outside of the government working hours. There is also a high attrition rate among licensed nurses and various complications in appointing to regional and state hospitals.

Professor Dr Thet Naing Win, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Sports, said that the Ministry of Health and Sports has been performing its duties of upgrading the standard of the whole populace's health, protecting medical expenses of the people from being too high, providing more health care services towards the people as much as possible, by laying down better health policies. The State has granted larger budget allotments year after year.

Nationwide, there are 1,123 hospitals, with a nursing staff of 37,704 needed, but only 20,683 employed -- leaving 17,021 nursing positions vacant. —Myanmar News Agency

(D D) Those who are admitted to Nursing University must attend till the end of the academic year. After graduation from the University, all the graduates shall have to sign an agreement to serve at least 3 years in the time of necessity for the country.

(E E) Those who fail to follow the agreement must indemnify Ks400,000 and have action taken against them according to existing law.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for documentary photo with Singapore's Emeritus Senior Minister Mr. Goh Chok Tong in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor receives Singapore's Emeritus Senior Minister

STATE COUNSELLOR Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received Singapore's Emeritus Senior Minister Mr. Goh Chok Tong at Thingaha Hotel at 11:30 am in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Singapore's Emeritus Senior Minister Mr. Goh Chok Tong, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe, National Security

Advisor to the Union Government U Thaug Tun, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Robert Chua had documentary photo taken.

Afterwards, the State Counsellor and Singapore's Emeritus Senior Minister held talks at the private dining room at Thingaha Hotel.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the 4th regular meeting with Myanmar entrepreneurs



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the 4th regular meeting with Myanmar entrepreneurs in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

WITH a view to fulfilling the needs encountered in respective sectors, for entrepreneurs to promptly and smoothly meet success in operating their businesses, the 4th regular meeting with Myanmar entrepreneurs was held at the meeting hall of the UMFCCI on Minye Kyawswar Road, Lanmadaw township, Yangon at 8 am yesterday.

At the meeting, the Vice President, Chairman of Private Sector Development Committee U Myint Swe said, "the PSDC has met with businesspersons for 4 times for the development of the private sector. At the first meeting held on 1st December, 2016, 27 decisions were made, at the 2nd meeting held on 13 January 2017, 11 decisions and at the 3rd meeting held on February 18, 16 decisions—54 decisions in all. Respective ministries and working committees from Regions and States are dealing with the reports submitted by the three meetings, sending reports of their performances to the UMFCCI. And, the UMFCCI has been informing the respective businessmen accordingly. Ministries have sent the accomplishments as records. With a view to making economic enterprises in the country to develop and helping to solve difficulties

of entrepreneurs effectively, the committee for private sector development was formed and 5 sub-committees were formed to support the main committee."

The Vice President added, "The Working committee for the development of rules and regulations is to work on amending laws needed to be amended concerning rules and regulations which are no longer compatible with current situations and giving legal advice for promulgating new economic laws. The Working committee for performing the search for monetary sources managed to stabilize the currency, due to cooperation with responsible officials from respective departments including the Central Bank of Myanmar, and the Ministry of Planning and Finance. The Working committee for upgrading trade and investment are solving the delay problems in loading and unloading at the port which occurred from the arrest of illegal smuggling of timber and logs and drugs found in import-containers of a cargo ship. The committees managed to make commodity flow smooth as much as possible. The Working committee for renewing the sector of the State in economic and service enterprises is cooperating with all respective departments to help solve

difficulties encountered by entrepreneurs. The Working committee for building fundamental human resources will hold a seminar in March, on cooperation between the government and private sector for the development of human resources in the private sector."

He added "On assessing the foreign investment in the financial year 2016-2017 when the incumbent government took office, the target was estimated at US \$ 6 billion but the actual investment was US \$ 6.612 billion, thus exceeding the estimate. Committees are implementing for Regions and States to develop proportionally, via investments from home and abroad. The Investment Commission has issued an order with the approval of the Union government concerning designation of zone 1, zone 2 and zone 3 which are to be exempted from income tax under the investment law depending on regions, states and townships."

He said "The Private sector played an important role in the economic development of the State. The State will fulfill the needs of entrepreneurs and lay down policies which can be implemented in accord with the time. Accordingly, regular meetings with entrepreneurs will be held once a month."

Afterwards, Dr Than Myint, Union Minister for Commerce, U Myint Thaug, Yangon Region Cabinet's Minister for Planning and Finance and U Win Maw Tun, Deputy Minister for Education clarified concerning performances.

Present at the 4th regular meeting with entrepreneurs were Dr Than Myint, Union Minister for Commerce, U Win Maw Tun, Deputy Minister for Education, Yangon Region Cabinet's Ministers, departmental heads, Chairman of the UMFCCI and responsible personnel and entrepreneurs.—*Myanmar News Agency*

U Thaug Tun visited Moscow

NATIONAL Security Advisor to the Union Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thaug Tun visited Moscow, Russian Federation as a Special Envoy of the State Counsellor.

The National Security Advisor was received by Mr.

Nikolai Patrushev, Secretary of the Security Council of Russian Federation in the Kremlin on March 13. During the meeting, the two sides discussed matters of mutual interests and bilateral cooperation as well as regional security issues.—*Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor*

U Myint Naung presents credentials to President of Romania

U Myint Naung, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Romania, presented his Credentials

to His Excellency Mr. Klaus Werner Iohannis, President of Romania on 14 March 2017, in Bucharest.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Singapore Senior Minister departs from Nay Pyi Taw

Mr. Goh Chok Tong, Emeritus Senior Minister of Singapore and entourage departed yesterday evening from Nay Pyi Taw's International Airport.

Singapore Senior Minister and party were seen off at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport

by Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Zeya, Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Robert Chua and officials.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Officials see off Singapore's Senior Minister at Nay Pyi Taw Airport. Photo: MNA

LOCAL Business

Myanmar Citizens investments mostly enter real estate development sector



Most investments of Myanmar Citizens get into real estate development sector. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

THE real estate development sector ranked first receiving the most investments of Myanmar Citizens with over Ks 2.76 trillion in 61 projects, according to the source of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The total amount of citizen investment permitted in the

country was over Ks 13.11 trillion as of the end of February.

After the real estate sector, the manufacturing sector was in second place with investments of over Ks 2.43 trillion in 744 projects, while the transport sector received investments of over Ks 2.23 trillion. The hotel and tourism sector had over Ks 1.40 tril-

lion, construction over Ks 942 billion, industrial estate over Ks 575 billion, power over Ks 456 billion, mining over Ks 138 billion, livestock and fisheries over Ks 69 billion, agriculture over Ks 50 billion and others sectors had Ks 2.03 trillion, according to official figures of DICA.

MIC permits the project

proposals only after verifying the sector-specific development, job opportunity, innovation, technical sharing, getting country's revenue, domestic and foreign market conditions, local requirements, environmental impact assessment EIA and social impact assessment SIA, it is learnt.—*Mon Mon*

Over US\$ 262 million investments permitted to put into Thilawa SEZ

A TOTAL of US\$262.6 million was permitted to be invested in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone as of the first week of March, said U Aung Naing Oo, the secretary of Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) at a press conference held at DICA on Tuesday.

Out of 2,400 hectares of land in the Thilawa SEZ, 400 hectares are for Zone A, with the work 96 per cent completed. The construction of Zone B on 101 hectares of areas is slated to be completed in mid 2018.

Over US\$1 billion has been put into Zone A so far. Investors who create more job opportunities, are engaged in the export business, and cooperate with local industry outside zones are more likely to be prioritised to make investments in the Thilawa SEZ.

The country is currently implementing three Special Economic Zones —Thilawa, Kyaukp-yu and Dawei. Out of the three, Thilawa is probably the most successful because of its good infrastructure and successful businesses.—*Ko Khant*

Top Thai Brands 2017 expo to be held on 23-26 March

A four-day exhibition of Top Thai Brands 2017 will be held from 23rd to 26th March at Hotel Melia on Kaba Aye Road, Yangon between 10 am and 7 pm.

This exhibition will bring opportunities for business matching between Myanmar and Thailand entrepreneurs.

In addition, there will be demonstrations of make-up, boxing and cooking shows that

will be a part of the expo, in which 113 companies will be on display in 130 stalls, said Mr. Pakainay Leng from Department of International Trade Promotion (DITP).

The expo businesses include health and beauty, education, clothing and fashion designs, food, beverages, auto parts, housewares, electric products, stationery and services.—*200*

Low-and-medium-cost housing to be exhibited

LOW-and-medium-cost housing units will be sold through a zero per cent interest installment plan at the upcoming property expo, which is due to take place on 17-19 March in Yangon.

Under the arrangement of iMyanmarhouse.com, an online property website, the new event will be held at No. 59 Panhlaine Road (Home Road), near Asia Royal Hospital in Kyimyindaing Township on the last three days of this week.

U Nay Min Thu, director of iMyanmarhouse.com, said that the aims of the exhibition are to introduce low-and-medium cost housing that will be sold at a price ranging from Ks10 million to Ks30 million through a zero per cent interest installment payment plan on a first-come, first served basis.

The expo also aims to fill the housing needs of Yangon residents, he added.

According to a survey, between 50,000 and 80,000 people

from some regions and states annually move to Yangon for the purpose of living and working in the commercial capital.

Low-and-middle-cost housing apartments from three projects in Dagon Township (South), Hlaingthaya Township and Dagon Township (North) will be exhibited during the three-day event.

For further information, dial the hotline number 09 252 605 671 of the organizer.—*Khine Khant*

Restricted enterprise types for investment to be submitted to economic committee

A LIST of the types of businesses restricted by the government will soon be released, perhaps by the end of this month, multiple sources said.

The restricted types of enterprises for investment according to section 42 of Investment Law will be submitted to the government's economic committee at the end of March, according to the Directorate of Investment

and Company Administration (DICA).

The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) is reportedly going to release the edicts concerning the investment businesses within this month. Myanmar Investment bylaws will also be submitted to the economic committee.

"The types of businesses restricted by the competent authorities are soon to be revealed. We

have discussed with the organisations concerned. After submitting it to the economic committee, we will proceed to the cabinet," said U Aung Naing Oo, the director-general of the DICA.

According to section 42 of Investment Law, there are four different types of restricted businesses; the businesses which are not allowed in this country and foreign countries, businesses at

which foreigners are not permitted to work; some joint ventures between local and foreign partners; and businesses which need to seek approval from the ministries concerned even though citizens and foreigners are permitted to work there.

"There are not many business types which are not allowed to work by the citizens and the foreigners. We are still under final

discussion concerning this matter," U Aung Naing Oo added.

With a total of 1,135 foreign enterprises as of first week of March, foreign direct investments have reached US\$ 6.61 billion, whereas 49 enterprises conducted by Myanmar Citizens were permitted to make investments of over Ks 1,572 billion, according to the source of DICA.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Performances in One-Year Period



Reuse workers helping to the victims of the flooded area. PHOTO: MNA

Performance of Ministry of Home Affairs during one year period

RULE of law is crucial for the firm strengthening of democracy and also sine qua non for the livelihood of the people in peace and stability.

Myanmar Police Force of the Ministry of Home Affairs has been carrying out the tasks including eradication of drug menace, building peace and stability of the state, bringing out the criminals and prosecuting them and preventing the crime with four objectives, to sustain peace and stability in the state, to strengthen the rule of law, to prevent the drug menace and striving to contribute to the good of people.

Ministry of Home Affairs constituting Office of the Union Minister, Myanmar Police force, General Administration Department, Bureau of Special Investigation, Prison Department and Fire Services Department is working for the country.

Ministry of Home Affairs is also an enthusiastic and ardent participant in building the nation with the objectives; State security, rule of law, peace and stability in the country and contributing for the good of the people.

Permanent Secretary, U Tin Myint stated that Myanmar Police Force, exercising the Community Policing, has been practicing the patrolling the areas by cars, motor cycles, bicycles and also by water craft in cooperation with the local people. Educating programmes for rule of law including home visit and exhibition car visit featuring the crime with its causes and effects. Besides, the plans are drawn and implemented for the prevention and reduction of crimes and rule of law.

During one year period of the new government, the 2559 cases of 10 varieties of serious crimes, 54114 cases of other crimes were taken action and

10 varieties of preventive cases were apprehended. Moreover, out of 351 cases of harassing and threatening through the social network, 92 cases involving alleged male 104 and female 24, 128 in total were sent to trial for conviction. The remaining 175 cases were still under investigation and 25 cases were closed.

183601, vehicles breaching traffic rules

“From April 2016 to February 2017, 80297, motor cars, 101519, motor cycle, 700 Tractor

Educating programs for rule of law including home visit and exhibition car visit featuring the crime with its causes and effects.

G, 1085 Tri-wheel motor cycle, totaling 183601 vehicles were taken action and 279 cars without license, 9 motor cycles without license were arrested. Moreover, 8404 motor cars were arrested for over speed as there were 744 car accidents causing 170 fatalities along the express highway” disclosed Police Lt-Col Tin Win.

In accordance with the Announcement (1/2016) of State Counsellor’s Office, the cases of the sued activists who were on trial at the judicial court and the cases still under police investigation were closed in 10 Regions and States.

Revocation of the political cases

The ministry has executed

the rapid acquittal of prisoners of conscience and political activists. According to the Announcement 1/2016 of State Counsellor’s Office the political cases engaged in the trial of law suit were revoked exercising the Act 494(Ka) of Criminal Code and those under police investigation were closed under the Union Attorney Rule Act 96.

“Between 8 April and 1 July of 2016 (174) cases were revoked and (100) cases were closed involving (380) male defendants and (75) female defendants and (2) children totaling 457 persons” said Police Lt-Col Tin Win.

Ratification

Myanmar Police Force has made an endeavor to prevent and deter the use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances by raising seizure of drugs and amphetamine tablets, destroying the poppy plantation. 1993 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act is being amended to meet international standard and now under preparation to be ratified at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Myanmar Police Force is also undertaking the prevention, relief and resettlement works for the victims hit by natural disasters in cooperation with other departments. Myanmar Police Force has carried out amending and drawing the laws and 22 laws are under the management of MPF. Under the supervision of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission, MPF has amended and redrawn the existing laws to be compatible to the changing systems, to be in line with the policy of incumbent government, to become the law that protect the people’s interest and that can be abided by people.

SEE PAGE 6 >>



Rescue staff carrying assistances to the natural disaster hit area. PHOTO: MNA



Prisoners receiving vocational skill through vocational training program. PHOTO: MNA

PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

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Laws not changed

The Unlawful Association Act (India Act 4-1908, Vol.II) 1908, The Myanmar Passport Act (India Act 34-1920, Vol.I) 1920, The Myanmar Official Secret Act (19, 1923) 1923, The Public Order (Preservation) Act (Myanmar Act 16, 1947, Vol. II) 1947, The Explosives Substances Act (India Act 6, 1908, Vol.II) and other 7 laws are under the management of MPF and those 12 laws are not changed and will keep its origin.

Eight laws including The Arms Act (India Act XI,1878), Temporary Amendment Act (Act LI/1951), Yangon Police Act (India Act 4. 1899, Vol.I), The Police Act (6, 1945), The Police Act(1904), Myanmar Extradition Act, 2005, Human Trafficking Act, 2014 and Money Laundering Act are revoked and will be supplanted by the newly drawn one.

Four Types of Tax Collected — 104.04%

Four types of tax including Excise Tax is targeted to reach 27,908.657 millions Kyat and 29,035.274 millions Kyat has been collected hitting 104.04%. The registration of organization was done only by central office and now registration works can be done at the offices of Union, Region and States, Nay Pyi Taw, districts and townships. 100,000 kyat for annual fee at Union level; 30,000 kyat at regions and states and Nay Pyi Taw level; free of registration fee at lower levels.

During one year period of the new government, 1,581 NGOs and 30 INGOs were formed and 2,295 organizations have been formed.

In fulfilling the basic needs of the people different departments are put under the same roof and established the "OSS" offices to provide the services to the people efficiently and effectively.

Myanmar Border Guard Police Force

"The amended two laws are Anti-Prostitution Act, 1,949 and The Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substance Law and Law of Myanmar Border Guard Police Force is to be drawn new"- said the Police Lt-Col Tin Win.

General Administration Department is taking part in building the nation with 4 objectives rule of law, peace and stability of the country, regional development and betterment of the people's life.

Organizing the systematic establishment of towns and villages, systematic implementation of rural development, offering the honourable titles, carrying out the transferring the immovable properties, land management according to the law, excise management, collecting the four types of tax to meet the target are the principal works of the General Administration Department.

In fulfilling the basic needs of the people different departments are put under the same roof and established the "OSS" offices to provide the services to the people efficiently and effectively.

OSS for the people

"The One Stop Shops has been opened in line with the slogan "OSS for the People" with a view to provide quality- services, to culture the habit of serving the people effectively and properly renouncing the corruption, bribery and grafting, to forge the better confidence on the government and departments and to put check and balance practice among the departments" explained the Director of General Administration Department, U Lin Thaik Win.

The sub-committees to undertake the task of opening the "OSS" offices in Nay Pyi Taw, Regions and States were formed and under the effort of those sub-committees 316 OSS Offices with 15 service departments are now in operation.

The Ministry of Home Affairs established 1,558,761 public services offices nationwide.

Taking probe into criminal cases

Since the new government took office one year ago, Bureau of Special Investigation, has stepped up its efforts and could expose criminal cases and corruptions, could take measures for state security.

Probes were taken into 93 cases related with money laundry, 56 cases were completed and 16 cases are under investigation during the one year period.

Efforts for elimination of corruption at governmental institutions, orgs. Special projects were carried out in regions and departments in attempt to prevent and eliminate the malpractices and corruptions. "One-year period has seen achievements in reducing and prevention of corruptions at the governmental institutions thanks to the investigative efforts and measures in accordance with law," said Permanent Secretary U Tin Myint.

The Bureau of Special Investigation has stepped up efforts for investigating into suspected corruptions and malpractices at the governmental institutions in the one-year period and could exposed money laundry and corruptions.

Relaxation of rules for prisoners

In the one-year period, the Correction Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs has relaxed rules for prisoners, including giving permission to families and relatives of the prisoners to meet them once a week of 25 minutes in duration.

Meanwhile, the department have helped the prisoners to receive convocational skills so that they can stand on their own feet for their livelihood when they are released.

The Correction Department has also assisted the inmate students to continue their education as part of the department's objectives, and in the 2015-2016 Academic Year, 19 students sat for the matriculation examination and of them, 11 passed it.

Meanwhile, the department has helped 35 male students and three female students to sit for the matriculation examination in this 2016-2017 Fiscal Year.

Fire safety measures

The Fire Services Depart-



Firemen trying to extinguish the fire of a major market. PHOTO: MNA

ment of the Ministry of Home Affairs has conducted out fire safety awareness door to door at wards, towns and villages and gave suggestions to the people for fire safety at high-rise buildings. Besides, the department has worked together with local

The number of fire outbreaks decreased thanks to fire safety awareness and campaigns.

authorities to raise awareness at factories, workshops, hotels, motels, markets and small and medium industries.

The Director-General of the Fire Services Department is the secretary of the Myanmar Na-

tional Rescue Committee which was formed to coordinate with regional countries for jointly carrying out rescue and evacuation efforts when the countries are hit by disasters.

Water donation

The Fire Services Department supplied more than 3.6 million gallons of drinking water to the people in areas which was affected by the El-Nino-induced drought.

More than 10,000 permanent members and 11,210 auxiliary members of the Fire Services Department also carried out rescue and evacuation in 1,485 incidents including disasters from April 2016, to February 2017.

Fire engines

The number fire engines of the Fire Services Department has increased from 2920 in 2016 to 3136 up to March, 2017.

"In the one-year period, the number of fire outbreaks decreased thanks to fire safety awareness and campaigns. Meanwhile, we grasped the opportunities for cooperation with international organizations and conducted workshops and trainings. So, we could learn international fire fighting skills and methods and management of fire fighting equipments and got chances to cooperation," said U Thein Tun Oo, Director-General of the Fire Services Department.

To sum up, the Ministry of Home Affairs has contributed to the State security, the rule of law, community peace and tranquility and public welfare in the first one-year period of the incumbent government.



A reuse team delivering the aid to the disaster hit places. PHOTO: MNA



Prisoners have chances to continue their study in prison. PHOTO: MNA

Vice President U Henry Van Thio visits PyinOoLwin



Vice President U Henry Van Thio visits office of Immigration and National Registration Department. PHOTO: MNA

VICE President U Henry Van Thio visited and inspected the Dhoe Kwin coffee mill and other private coffee plantations and also inspected the implementation status of the New Yadanabon City in Pyin Oo Lwin yesterday morning.

U Ye Myint, Chairman of Myanmar Coffee Association (MCA) explained to the delegation

led by U Henry Ven Thio in the reception hall of the mill how the MCA was founded and achievement of market share, how they were doing quality control, marketing, exporting to other countries and cooperating with foreign partner organizations.

Next, U Henry Van Thio, in his capacity as a Head of the Lead-

ing Committee for Farmers Rights, Protection and Interests Promotion, looked around the quality testing of the coffee beans, grinding of the coffee bean samples and coffee fruits by machines, storing of the coffee beans in the warehouse and drying of the coffee beans by drying machine in the mill.

After that, the delegation led

by the Vice President visited the coffee garden of Pwint Kaung and Khin Nwe Yi Co., Ltd. and manager of the garden explained about planting of the coffee fruits, annual yield of coffee fruits from the garden, growing of multiple crops, market conditions and better quality accessing methods.

During the visit of the Vice President to the coffee plantations, he said planting of coffee could not only provide better weather conditions but also aid in getting more foreign income to the country; for that reason it was necessary to upgrade and maintain the quality of coffee products by drawing up systematic schemes.

It is known that, the quality of PyinOoLwin coffee meets the world standard and 19,000 acres of coffee plants had been planted around PyinOoLwin Township.

Later, U Henry Van Thio and party visited the National Kandawgyi Botanical Garden, the fossil museum and saw many species of plants and flowers of the garden by vehicles.

Next, the Vice President visit-

ed the Public Service Office where he delivered a talk saying that Public Service Offices have been opened all round Myanmar and instructed public service personnel of the office to be dutiful, to provide effective service to the public, to gain their confidence and trust and not to get involved in bribery and corruption.

After that, the delegation also visited the New Yadanabon City planning area and looked around the complex of the city by vehicles. When they arrived at the main building of the Yadanabon Teleport, U Aung Kyaw Oo, Director of Urban and Housing Development Department explained about the aims of the project, payment of compensation for the confiscated lands, how land has been allocated to the IT companies, the proposed Master Plan, the acreage allotment for various phases of the plan, and other details of the plan. Then a representative of the entrepreneurs explained about difficulties they were encountering.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Provisions provided to returning families in Maungtaw

A ceremony to provide provisions to families returning after going into hiding from Maungtaw's Oohsaykya village was held yesterday morning in the village's BEHS School.

Rakhine State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Colonel Htein Lin gave a speech

at the ceremony.

Afterwards Chairman of Maungtaw District Management Committee Deputy Commissioner U Ye Htut explained on the reasons for providing provisions, with Senior Field Coordinator from UN-HCR Mrs. Marco reviewed on the collaborative processes conducted

with the government. The State Minister and officials then distributed provisions to the twelve families, which consists of 106 people.

The provisions included 1 bag of rice, 2 viss of salt, 2 viss of oil, and 2 viss of chick peas to each family.—*Aye Mya (Mandalay), Aye Min Thu*



An official gives provisions to one of the returning family members. PHOTO: MNA

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Arms missing from Aungzan police outpost recovered

MILITIA troops were able to recover a BA-63 rifle, the last of three weapons stolen by 5 assailants who attacked the Aungzan police outpost in Aungzu area of Maungdaw Township on 11 March.

Two BA-94 guns with their cartridges missing, two of the three arms that were stolen, were found near the Waylataung creek near

the 42 milepost near the border on the same day of the attack at 5pm. The Aungzan militia was led by a temporary Aungzu Area Chief and recovered the two guns while pursuing the assailants.

The remaining BA-64 was discovered with 15 bullets and cartridge intact by two Boristayli villagers in a bush two miles

to the East of their village. Boristayli lies on the opposite side of the border, Northeast of border outpost No. 42. The two villagers who discovered the gun were able to report to the border outpost with border police receiving the arms and ammunition near the borderline at 9am.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Notice issued for combined fleet exercise in Coco Island

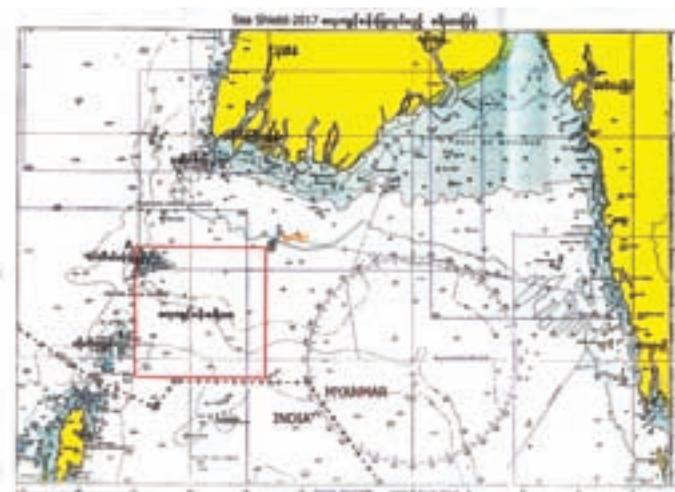
THE Myanmar navy will conduct military exercises off the coast of Coco Island from March 23 to 31, according to official notification.

The area has four points — A, B, C and D, where A is between North Latitude 15 degrees 00 minutes and East Longitude 93° 30', B is between North Latitude 15° 00' and East Longitude 94° 40', C is between North Latitude 13° 50' and East Longitude 94° 40' and D is between North Latitude 13° 50' and East Longitude 93° 30'.

Aircraft and helicopters have been warned against flying under an altitude of 15,000 feet above sea level, and the ships, big and small, cargo motorised boats, fishing vessels and motorized sampans have also been warned for their safety against cruising, anchoring, fishing and deploying

fishing equipment and apparatus within the five-mile radius of the above mentioned areas where the

combined fleet manouvres are taking place.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Outlined area of the navy's fleet exercise near the Coco Island. PHOTO: MNA

Opinion

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

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Responsibility and Accountability go together with Human Rights

Khin Maung Oo

FREEDOM of speech, thought, expression, worship and assembly are what we mostly hear almost every time and everywhere. There is no one who dislikes freedom. So, those who have not savored the taste of freedom yet, want to have freedom, while those who have gained freedom want to maintain it. As for those who have lost their freedom, they are willing and ready to fight for regaining it. Accordingly, our forefathers sacrificed their lives for independence. Even after gaining independence, we still do not have freedom to the full yet, until recent years. Officials of the video and movie censor board did not allow us to use many Myanmar words in describing English dialogues with Myanmar subtitles, for excessive fear of provoking the anger of senior officials. Excessive suppression of people's freedom made people demand for democracy.

Here, we need to assess the meaning of democracy. Oxford Advanced American Dictionary defines democracy as a system of government in which all the people of a country can vote to elect their representatives. And, it also defines as, "fair and equal treatment of everyone in an organization, etc., and their right to take part in making decisions." On a careful analysis of it, as we can vote to elect our representatives, we will choose leaders assumed to be acceptable and regarded to be qualified enough to lead us. According to the second definition, the wording "fair and equal treatment of everyone in an organization" highlights not only our inborn rights but also those of others. If our rights happen to harm others, will it be fair and equal treatment of everyone in our society any longer? It does not come to an end, yet. It is also defined that we have our right to take part in making de-

isions. As per the above definition, we are required to take part in making decisions. Whatever it is, we must be prudent to do so. After making a decision, we must implement it. Our decision or implementation will bring about a result—good or bad. In other words, the result depends upon our performances; responsibility and accountability. To sum it up, responsibility and accountability go together with human rights.

At a time when we are demanding for human rights or civil rights, we have a tendency to forget our potential contributions. As our State Counselor frequently says, we need to ponder as to what we can give for our children, for our community and for our nation, instead of just demanding for our rights. If we aspire to have a brighter future for our children, we need to be ready to forgo our excessive demands.

We experienced bitter experiences for nearly 7 decades. Now is only a short period of time that the incumbent government took office, to be exact, one-fifth of its first tenure or one-seventieth of many long years of struggle and strife working for democracy. I never mean that we must sit aside without saying anything about the government's performances. We can criticize and point out weaknesses and mistakes, if ever, with constructive attitudes. Living in accord with laws, developing good habits in youths, abstinence from taking and giving bribes, building our self-esteem and cultivating these kinds of habits and attitudes in the minds of our offspring are in fact what we can contribute nation building. Ultimately, I want to say that we will surely reach our goal, if we take responsibility and accountability as our inborn rights.

Seventy Years Journey of MOFA

May Hnin Aye

WHILE Myanmar celebrates its sixty-ninth anniversary of independence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) turns seventy. In human nature, seventy year-old is an aging grandpa or grandma; for an institution, seventy years' existence is just the age of maturity.

In olden days of monarchy, there were remarkable diplomats such as Shin Di-tha-pa-mauk, U Kaung and Yaw-min-gyi U Pho Hlaing who did effective negotiation in resolving crises, but there was no foreign ministry. Under the British colonial rule too, since there was no sovereignty, foreign relation was managed by the Defence and External Affairs Department according to 1935 Burma Act. During the Japanese occupation 1942-45, Myanmar had Chancellor Dr. Ba Maw and Foreign Secretary U Nu (1943-44) and Thakin Mya (1944-45). However, this administration did not have real power to manage, and there was no linkage with the future administration structure.

The Aung San-Attlee Agreement, which paved the way for Myanmar's independence was signed by General Aung San and Prime Minister Lord Attlee in

London on 27 January 1947, was also the origin of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In line with this agreement, Governor's Executive Council composed of six members of AFPFL led by General Aung San and five members of British representatives was to act as an interim government. Therefore, the Department of Foreign Affairs, which is a necessity for a functioning independent state, was formed on 17 March 1947 with the Government decree No. 77 D (MM) 47. Since General Aung San was Vice Chairman of Governor's Executive Council, he was in charge of Foreign Affairs and was regarded as the first Foreign Minister; ICS U Shwe Baw was the Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Without sovereign independence, a country cannot engage with defence and foreign affairs. That is why the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the symbol of sovereignty as it safeguards the sovereignty through diplomacy and works for the national interest. As a saying goes, "Diplomacy is the first line of defence", an army protects the sovereignty of a nation with physical strength while the Ministry of Foreign Affairs does the same with the intangible, tactful diplomacy.

Even in the independence preparatory period, High Commis-



Foreign Affairs Ministers in the 70 years journey of Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

PHOTO: MNA



sioner U Win for the Indian Union and U Pe Khin for Pakistan were appointed on 5 August 1947. Diplomatic missions were established in 1947 with countries important for Myanmar including Pakistan,

United Kingdom, India, China and the United States of America. Soon after the independence in 1948, Myanmar diplomatic and consular missions were established in Thailand, France and New York. Since independence, the establishment for foreign affairs was known as "Foreign Office" and that name was changed into "the Ministry of Foreign Affairs" on 25 May 1967 by the Revolutionary Council government.

At its seventieth anniversary, the physical progress can be seen in diplomatic relations with (114) countries and functioning of 35 embassies, 3 missions and 6 consulates throughout the world.

There are also seven departments and over one thousand personnel at headquarters and missions abroad. Apart from this tangible progress, there are also records of incidents and crises that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had diplomatically intervened in the interest of the country and its people. Foreign Policy is formulated by the ruling government, but the execution and implementation is done by the Foreign Ministry which diligently highlighted the determinants of foreign policy and added value with wisdom, experience and efficiency reflecting the Ministry's integrity.

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Seventy Years Journey of MOFA



Foreign Affairs Ministers in the 70 years journey of Ministry of Foreign Affairs. PHOTO: MNA

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During the decade of 1947-1958, when the Foreign Ministry was just established, the Ministry performed well in establishment of new diplomatic relations with the countries of the world, membership to the UN and other international institutes and treaties, reparation from Japan and border demarcation relying on the experience of former British civil servants, strengthening with some Myanmar experienced ICSs and adding up with the seasoned politicians and academics. The relationship with the political elites in China and India in struggle for independence also supported Myanmar's foreign relation activities after independence.

Especially Myanmar's firm position on non-alignment between the East-West blocs at the peak of cold war was highly appreciated and respected in the region. Myanmar took active part in the Bandung Conference fostering Africa-Asia relations, in creation of the third group of power as the Non-Aligned Movement. Myanmar could even support China's membership to those groupings while China was under pressure from the Western bloc. Myanmar's active participation in UN also suited well in handling the Kunmington which intruded into north eastern part of

Myanmar with strong backing from a powerful state. Although Myanmar was a newly independent country, Myanmar's active engagement in world affairs and efficiency of its diplomats earned a first Asian Secretary General of the United Nations from Myanmar- U Thant.

After 1962, there was political change in Myanmar and Foreign Ministry contributed to the successful deliverance of Myanmar socialism. Although Myanmar maintained friendly ties with western countries and enhanced cooperation with socialist countries, it could not play an active role in regional and global affairs.

In 1979 when unprecedented tensions between the East and the West blocs, the influence of super power penetrated to the decision of the Non-Alligned Movement, Myanmar reacted in strongest terms and left the association. MOFA also successfully contributed to the end of China's support to Burmese Communist Party (BCP) by approaching China at the right time. The Ministry also had the rare experience of issuing statement in severing the diplomatic relations when the third country attacked the visiting delegation within our own territory.

From 1980 to 2010, the Ministry also had unprecedented ex-

perience in diplomatic front. Myanmar diplomats found themselves in a very difficult position in facing with accusation, blames and insults. Normally, diplomatic channel is always open even in the time of war. However, Myanmar had to cope with isolation.

Despite those difficulties, MOFA seek new friends, established diplomatic relations with more countries and joined the regional groupings like ASEAN and BIMSTEC, rejoined NAM and tackled the actions at the United Nations Security Council. We had to state that situations in the country was our own internal affairs; on the other hand we were seeking the international acceptance. We had to convey the message of the international community to our own government while trying to reintegrate in international system through our engagement with the UN and ASEAN.

On 2nd and 3rd of May 2008, Myanmar was severely hit by the Nargis cyclone. International communities were impatient to render humanitarian assistance. The then government was reluctant to receive them in fear of humanitarian intervention. Finally we were able to formulate the mechanism of TCG-Tripartite Core Group of ASEAN-Myanmar and the UN. It was indeed a successful diplomacy. Within a few days after the cyclone, Myanmar hosted an international donors' Pledging Conference attended by nearly 500 delegates from 51 countries including the UNSG and Ministerial delegations. It was really a challenge for MOFA to host a conference at such a scale in 6 days of preparation. Then, the Ministry also facilitated the citizens abroad's participation in 2008 constitution referendum and 2010 general elections which were important for the political transition.

For the period of 2011-2016, Myanmar experienced a peaceful

transition to democracy under a quasi-civilian rule. International community recognized the change, and delegation after delegation were queuing to engage with the government. The number of foreign diplomatic missions were increased significantly (currently 47 embassies, 4 consulates, 8 honorary consulates and 17 UN agencies) MOFA had to respond to those changes with limited capacity in human resource, expertise and experience. In last two decades, we did not have much experience in state level foreign trips, but we had to arrange head of state's visit to the USA and other European countries with our simple and earnest effort.

In 2014, Myanmar had to take the rotating presidency of ASEAN for the first time since we joined the association in 1997. MOFA is the most responsible ministry for the ASEAN Chairmanship, and we successfully accomplished the task of the Chairmanship with the help of friendly and partner countries. Then, the 2015 General elections came with high emotion of Myanmar citizens abroad to cast a ballot. This was a challenging task for many of our embassies abroad.

Then, the new democratic government was elected by people and the Ministry assisted a peaceful government transition in the aftermath of 30 March 2016. We had guidance from leaders to practice "the people-centered diplomacy". We made efforts to balanced diplomatic maneuver, to serve our citizens most, to use diplomacy positively for everybody's concerns, not only for our own country but also for the countries which we are engaging, to contribute to peace and national reconciliation and holding up national unity with wider perspective.

When we are tasked more duties, it's a call for own service personnel to make more efforts to

be more effective, efficient and compatible.

Throughout seventy years' journey, the generations of MOFA service personnel were able to serve the national interest with different approaches, depending on the policies of consecutive governments. Foreign Policy is formulated by ruling government, diplomats are implement it through diplomacy. Since independence, the consecutive governments declared its foreign policy of independent active and non-aligned based on the country's geological position, power structure and in line with international order.

When we assess the seventy years' journey of MOFA, there are success, weakness, difficult challenges, struggles, suffering, satisfaction and valuable experiences. Such experiences drive us to be stronger and more mature institution.

Responsibility for development of a nation lies with all citizens. In the same way, all service personnel are responsible for the building up of MOFA as a perfect institution. Man is mortal, but experiences and lessons learned can be handed over generation to generation. The strong point with institution is the handing over of institutional memory so that the institution be respectable and honorable with dignity. Seventy years journey is the collective journey of two to three generations.

There are many diplomatic academies in the world, but the study of diplomacy is incomplete if we don't count on sharing experience, continuous learning, apprenticeship and nurturing. Tha-Kaung-taman (good diplomat of the motherland) always takes bold step in all eras to serve the country and its people preventing the crisis. We will continue our efforts in defending and promoting our national interest.

May the MOFA be perpetual and developed to serve the country and people most!

Myeik Archipelago attracts more foreign tourists



Cruise ships in the Myeik Archipelago. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

MORE THAN 1,300 motorboat tourists visited Myeik Archipelago in the first two months of this year, a rise from the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

The Mergui Archipelago, which consists of more than 800 untouched islands, is part of the Taninthayi Region. All islands lie in the Andaman Sea off the coast of southern Myanmar. Since 2016, the natural, unspoiled islands have become increasingly popular among international tourists, most of whom enter through neighbouring Thailand.

In February alone, the beautiful coastal area hosted over 600 motorboat tourists. It received nearly 4,000 visitors last year. In 2015, a total of 3,270 visitors entered Myeik by boat.

Motorboat tourists from

Asia, Africa and some European countries enjoy visiting Myeik Archipelago for its beautiful landscapes along the coast such as coral reefs, mangroves and a diverse species of birds and aquatic animals and traditional culture, such as the sea-based life of the Salon, also known as the sea gypsies, a seafaring ethnic minority.

Tourists also visit the country's first marine national park on Lampi Island, 115 Island, Nyaungwee Island, Philar Island, Myaukni Island, Bocho Island, Nanatthi Island, Tower Rock Island, Cave Island and Satan Island.

Tourism in Myanmar is growing rapidly. International tourists arrivals have increased significantly every year since 2011.—200

Over 5,500 students in Mandalay unable to sit for matriculation exam during this academic year

MORE THAN 5,500 students across Mandalay Region failed in one or more subjects in their matriculation examination, an important step for admission into university, according to Mandalay Region Education Office.

The nationwide matriculation exam for 2016-2017 academic year started on 8 March and ended on 15 March. However, students of arts subjects continue to sit for exams in the sub-

jects of history and geography.

The region education office said that nearly 100,000 students of all subjects took the examination. A total of 3,734 students studied arts-science subjects and over 1,800 learners of science subjects failed to take the examination due to illness or other reasons. Dr Soe Myint Tun, deputy director-general of Mandalay Region Education Office, said the authorities opened 180 exam

centres in the region. Two centers were opened for two patients at the Mandalay General Hospital and 11 inmates at Ohbo Prison as the numbers of registered students this academic year have increased.

Last year, the education authorities opened 165 exam centres for 91,688 students across the region. More than 32,551 of them passed the exam. —*Myitmakha News Agency*

Sea turtle conservation in Rakhine so far unsuccessful

Sea turtle conservation is not succeeding in Rakhine State because local people are still catching sea turtles, according to Fisheries Department.

Rakhine local residents perhaps do not know the precarious future of the sea turtle and are violating the prohibition of the fisheries department, which can affect the reproduction of sea turtles.

“The sea turtle is one of the spices of animals that is nearly extinct. So, I want to request of fishermen that if they find the sea turtle, please release it into the river. We do not allow digging for

the sea turtle eggs. But the local people are still digging,” said Dr. Nyunt Wai, the state head from Fisheries Department.

One out of one thousand sea turtles from an egg survives, according to the researchers.

“If we have to point out the extinct animals, we will point out the sea turtle in Rakhine state. Previously, we can find many of the sea turtles in Rakhine state. Then, female sea turtles become scared to come out on to the island to lay eggs. We also do not catch the sea turtle exclusively. Sometime, the sea turtles are caught in the fishing

net. Then, the sea turtle dies inside the fishing net. If fishermen find a live sea turtle, they are released into the sea,” said a fisherman from Myebon township.

The female sea turtles come to the beach to lay eggs at night. The sea turtle lays between 60 and 200 eggs. Then they cover their eggs with sand and return to the sea. The sea turtles mostly lay their eggs at Ngapathon island and Kyaungthayar from Myebon township and, west Phayonkar and east Phayonkar from Pauktaw township in Rakhine state. —*Myitmakha News Agency*

Myanmar to establish 750,000-acre community forest this year

THE FOREST Department plans to develop about 750,000 acres of community-owned forest plantations throughout the country this year, its spokesperson said.

U Bo Ni, director of the department, said that the aims of the establishment of community-managed forest plantations are to reforest and prevent desertifi-

cation, boost production of forest products for socio-economic development of residents and conserve the natural environment.

The department established more than 340,000 acres of community-owned plantations across the nation last year, mostly in Shan State. Locals may improve their earnings from the commercial sale

of forest products manufactured from the community-managed plantations, said U Ye Khaung, from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The forestry authorities hope to develop up to 2.27 million acres of plantations by 2030 as a part of its 30-year National Forestry Master Plan. —*Myitmakha News Agency*

Reduced deposits for four Mandalay toll gates tender

MANDALAY City Development Committee (MCDC) have reduced deposits for four Mandalay toll gates tender in 2017-2018 fiscal year, according to the Mandalay City Development Committee.

Four Mandalay toll gates are Shwekyin, Shwekyetyet, Htonbo and Aungpinle gates. Last fiscal year, the tender deposit was 50 per cent for the price of the Ks140,000 tender. Some of the businessmen found it hard to participate because of the high deposit. So the MCDC has reduced the deposit payment to 25 per cent. The tender will call for four toll gates to collect wheel taxes and

tolls starting 20 March. The tender deposits have to be paid three days ahead before the tender event. The application form for tender can be bought for Ks 50,000 starting 14 March.

Daily tolls for vehicles will range Ks150 per tonne for 20-tonne vehicles and Ks300 per tonne for over 20-tonne vehicles. The wheel tax will be Ks50 for a motorbike, Ks100 for a trailer, Ks200 for a vehicle under two tonnes, Ks300 for vehicles between two and three tonnes vehicle and Ks500 for vehicles over three tonnes. —*Myitmakha News Agency*

Waste-to-energy plant slated for early April

THE country's first-ever waste-to-energy plant being established in Yangon's Shwepyitha Industrial Zone is expected to be commissioned into service early next month, said Factory Manager U Kyaw Soe Win.

Since 2015, the project has been implemented using US\$8 million contributed by the Yangon City Development Committee and \$8.2 million by the Japanese Future Engineering Cooperation Agency.

After completion of the project, the new plant will generate 700 megawatts the mos. Of them, 300 mega kilowatts will go to Yangon residents through national power grid and the rest will be used for operational

process of the plant.

The regional MPs have already inspected the plant to ensure that fly ashes produced from the plant will not damage the natural environment or endanger humans.

The new incinerator can produce five tonnes of ashes when it burns 60 tonnes of waste materials. The plant can also emit half a tone of ash from chimney smoke.

The waste collection in Yangon is estimated at over 2,000 tonnes per day.

The YCDC has collected garbage from every township and disposed of them to designated areas in Shwepyitha, Hlawga and Mingaladon, Dagon Seikkan and Dala townships every day. —200

Crime NEWS

Maungtaw villager found dead

A VILLAGER from Punt, Maungtaw township was discovered dead with knife wounds on the side of Taungpyo-Kyainchaung road yesterday morning. Tandarmyar, 59, left to attend to cattle on the morning of 14

March. When he didn't return home, family members and the village chief filed a missing persons report to Taungpyo police station.

A security force went on a search expedition and discovered

Tandarmyar dead near Pazunkan Lake on the side of Taungpyo-Kyainchaung road yesterday morning with incised wounds to the head and neck. The investigation into his death is ongoing. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Four more car accidents occur on Ygn-Mdy Highway

A TOYOTA van driven by Soe Naing Oo hit a guard rail on the road-divider as he fell asleep between mileposts 113/3 and 113/5 at 2:15 am on Thursday on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway. The vehicle was en route from Yangon to Nay Pyi Taw. The collision with the guard rail caused the vehicle to overturn and plunge into a ravine on the right side of the road.

Six passengers on board were not injured, but the vehicle was slightly damaged. Phyu Highway Police filed a case against the reckless driver under section 279 of the Penal Code.

Similarly, a gray Honda In-

sight driven by Rajuu plunged into the drain when he lost control en route from Yangon to Nay Pyi Taw at milepost 113/7 at 8:45 am on the same day. Fortunately, the driver was not injured.

Likewise, a micro bus driven by Myo Min collided into a Probox driven by Soe Hlaing Htay from behind and the latter overturned when the driver lost control. No one was injured on board the Probox but three passengers aboard the micro bus were injured in the accident, but not seriously. The victims were taken by Phyu Police Station's vehicle to Pyu General Hospital to receive medical treatment.

Moreover, a light truck driven by Naing Oo hit an aluminum safety rail and overturned en route from Nay Pyi Taw to Mandalay as he fell asleep at 9:50 am on the same day between mileposts 302/5 and 302/6 on Yangon-Mandalay Highway.

Out of seventeen passengers including the driver on board, eleven passengers suffered minor injuries. The injured persons were taken by car from Theegon highway police station to Meiktila General Hospital to receive medical treatment. Police from respective townships filed charges against the reckless drivers. —*Than Oo (Lemyethna)*

Maungtaw villager missing

A LOCAL resident living in Sintaung Village, Maungtaw went missing on Sunday after he left his home at around 5pm.

Mamad Rozi, 21, was preparing to take a shower when he received a phone call and left his

home in area 5 of Sintaung Village, Maungtaw. He did not return home.

The Ngarkhuya Area Police Station has included Mamad Rozi to their missing persons list. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Vehicles overturn on Ygn-Mdy Highway



Highway policemen inspect at the overturned vehicles. PHOTO: MPF

A GRAY Nissan AD van driven by Aung Kyi Min crashed into the back of a light truck driven by Hein Htet Aung en route from Nay Pyi Taw to Mandalay at 10:30 am on Wednesday. The collision caused the two vehicles to overturn on the right side of the Yangon-Mandalay Highway near milepost 230/0.

As the vehicles overturned, a passenger aboard the van and two passengers aboard the light truck were injured. The injured victims were taken by car from Phayataung Highway Police Station to the 1,000-bed Nay Pyi Taw Hospital. Highway Police have taken action against the reckless driver. —*Than Oo (Lemyethna)*

PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

Performances of Union Attorney General's Office during one-year period of new government

Maung Swe and Theint Theint Moe



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo gives the interview to a reporter. PHOTO: MNA



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo meeting with law officers at the Rule of Law Centre in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo delivers address at workshop at the Rule of Law Centre in Mandalay. PHOTO: MNA



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo delivers an address at first coordination meeting on the Rule of Law and Justice. PHOTO: MNA

“Out of the scrutinized and suggested laws, for example investment, Myanmar Investment Law was promulgated. According to the law, all Myanmar citizens and foreigners have the equal rights of exemption and easing.” Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo said.

He also said that his office has scrutinized Myanmar Investment Rule (Draft) and made a suggestion on it. According to the attorney general it is expected that it will come into force in the near future.

Another topic he highlighted is an intellectual property rights. He also expressed his hope that these laws will surely contribute much to Myanmar's investment sector.

The role of Attorney General's office in three branches of power

The Attorney General's Office has to deal with all the three branches of power of the State namely legislation, executive and judiciary. The office is organized with Legal Advice Department, Legislative Vetting and Advising Department, Prosecution Department and Administration Department. Under it, 14 region and state law offices, 72 district offices and 330 township offices are formed.

During the one-year period,

the Legislative Vetting Department scrutinized 68 bills and 131 rules and regulations, order, notifications, directives and procedures. Moreover, 80 Myanmar laws were translated into English.

With the goal of bringing Myanmar's laws into more effective compliance with international conventions, Prevention and Protection of Violence against Women and Children Bill was also scrutinized and suggestions were made on it

Importance of laws to the country

Of the laws which have been scrutinized, Myanmar Investment Law, Foreigners Law, such as intellectual property laws as industrial design, invention,

trade mark, and literature and arts are of great importance for the country. Similarly, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Rule and Myanmar Investment Rule were also scrutinized and then made suggestions by the office.

According to the Attorney General's Office, it is learnt that Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law and the Third Amending Law of the Ward and Village Tract Administration Law and the Emergency Provisions Act were scrutinized and made suggestions on it.

Suggestions

With the goal of bringing Myanmar's laws into more effective compliance with international conventions, Prevention and Protection of Violence against Women and Children Bill was also scrutinized and suggestions were made on it, said an official of the Attorney General's Office.

According to the records of the Attorney General's Office, the Legal Advice Department, during the one-year period, scrutinized, made suggestions and replied to 490 international and ASEAN laws, 564 business agreements signed between governments and companies at home and abroad and 132 legal advices.

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Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo poses for photo with local and foreign experts at the Rule of Law Centre in Mandalay. PHOTO: MNA

PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD



Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint welcomes Professor Dr Karl Jackson of the Johns Hopkins University. PHOTO: MNA

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In making suggestions on technical, financial and cooperation agreements between Myanmar and international and regional counterparts and for both parties, the Attorney General's Office has involved in realizing Myanmar's intention to be a party to International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which is one of the major treaties concerning human rights. It has also engaged in signing of MoU on human rights and law enforcement between Attorney General's Office and Denmark. According to the procedure of Mutual Evaluation among Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering, the Attorney General's Office joined the 2nd Round Evaluation on Myanmar and it also conducted own assessment and evaluation in accord with The United Nations Convention against Corruption.

Before filing a lawsuit against a criminal offence, the Prosecution Department gives legal advice and it also acts as prosecutor on behalf of the State, and it is applying writs, on behalf of the State, at the Supreme Court. At the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, it acts for the State, and at the Union Election Commission it has an office-acquaintance.

The Attorney General said that not to cause delay in filing against a criminal offence or in court proceedings, a subpoena is given to the main witnesses to appear before the court and not to prolong the gap between one appointment at court and the other, his office is coordinating with other courts and prosecuting agencies adding that if they seek advice from the Attorney General Office, it takes prompt actions together with the prosecuting agencies.

Withdrawing a case

According to laws, the Attorney General's Office takes quick actions for withdrawing cases not to cause delay. Of 5310 cases which were filed at the different level of courts to be closed, 5211 cases were settled.

Concerning criminal offence

es which are under the investigation of prosecuting bodies, six cases can be allowed for withdrawing. Due to the death of the accused, fraudulence and false the cases have to be withdrawn.

If prosecuting agencies make requests to withdraw a case at the different levels of courts, these courts have to consider whether the case should be withdrawn or not. Such facts as evidences are enough to file against the accused or not, more evidences can be obtained or not, and according to the police diary the investigation is completed or not are scrutinized. Of the 19943 cases filed at the different levels of courts to be withdrawn, 18610 cases have got the green lights and 1258 have not.

Notification No. 14/2017

To accelerate law enforcement activities, Law Enforcement Department and Justice Coordination Team was formed under Notification No. 14/2017. The body comprises chairmen and members of Hluttaw Affairs Committees, deputy minister of Home Affairs and others.

2015-2019 Strategic Plan

The Attorney General said that they have laid down and are implementing 2015-2019 Strategic Plan with the motto "Towards the Goal of Law Enforcement".

The duties of Law Enforcement

Not to cause delay in filing against a criminal offence or in court proceedings, a subpoena is given to the main witnesses to appear before the court and not to prolong the gap the office is coordinating with other courts and prosecuting agencies.



Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint holds talks with the delegation of the Johns Hopkins University led by Professor Dr Karl Jackson. PHOTO: MNA

ment Department and Justice Coordination Team include coordinating and cooperating on law enforcement and justice affairs with organizations within and without the country; in doing so government departments and organizations are to render assistance as much as possible;

Better case management system is produced not to cause delays in the different levels of courts. Moreover, to contribute towards fair judicial system, pilot law offices have been opened at Pyi Oo Lwin District Law Office, Chanayethasan Law Office and Mawlamyine Law Office.

pressed that his office has exerted all-out efforts to make prompt reply as there are more demands for legal advice from ministries during the one-year period. He also said that although correctness is more important than prompt action, they tried to be prompt and correct. He urged all the people and organizations to cooperate with his office for development of the judicial sector.

Dagon University law students visit Union Attorney-General's Office

LAW students from the University of Dagon made a study tour of Union Attorney-General's Office in Nay Pyi Taw in August, 2016. In his welcoming speech, Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo elaborated on the Office's prioritisation on the rule of law, judicial reform and legal assistance to the people and called on the students to work hard in their studies.

Next, Associate Professor Dr Thin Thin Maw of Dagon University spoke words of thanks.

The Union Attorney-General presented law books for the Law Department of Dagon University. Afterwards, 132 law students and faculty members heard presentations of heads of respective departments and observed functions of the Attorney-General's Office.



Law students visit the Union Attorney-General Office. PHOTO: MNA

and coordinating on matters which should be carried out, eased or taken remedial actions.

The Fair Trial Standard manual is being worked out together with The International Development Law Organization (IDLO) for law officers enabling them to follow fair judiciary system and norms. With the help of UNDP, ethics of law officers to be practiced by law officers is being drawn.

USAID and KOICA

In accordance with the Strategic Plan of the Attorney General's Office, cooperation has been made with USAID to open Public Relations Units. Furthermore, the Attorney General's Office and Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Korea have made cooperation to set up legal information data in Myanmar with the assistance of ROK.

The Attorney General ex-



Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint poses for photo with the Johns Hopkins University. PHOTO: MNA

Australia floats \$1.5 billion hydro upgrade to help plug power gap

MELBOURNE/SYDNEY — The Australian government said on Thursday it may spend up to A\$2 billion (\$1.5 billion) to expand a huge hydro power scheme to help solve an energy crisis, although the main owners of the dam have yet to be consulted.

The idea was floated by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, the latest in a flurry of announcements over the past week as the country looks to plug a gap in power and gas supplies that has already led to blackouts and outages across the eastern half of the country.

Australia is on track to become the world's largest exporter of liquefied natural gas (LNG), yet its energy market operator has warned of a domestic gas crunch from 2019 that could trigger industry supply cuts and broad power outages.

The 2,000 megawatt expansion of the Snowy Hydro scheme could power the equivalent of 500,000 homes and meet demand in peak periods in the eastern states, Energy Minister



Tooma Reservoir, about 130 kilometres (80 miles) south west of Canberra, which is part of the Snowy Mountains Hydro Electric Scheme, is pictured in this February 28, 2004 file photo. PHOTO: REUTERS

Josh Frydenberg told the Australian Broadcasting Corp. on Thursday.

“The cost will run into the billions of dollars but the Prime Minister has made very clear that we will make all steps necessary to ensure energy security,” Frydenberg said.

The plan so far is just

for a feasibility study to be completed by the end of this year.

The announcement was made without consulting the biggest shareholders in Snowy Hydro, the state governments of Victoria and New South Wales, and scientists said it could damage the sensi-

tive environment around Australia's highest mountain.

“There's no detail. We have the Prime Minister who's come out and made some pronouncement without actually thinking through how much it's going to cost, what does that mean for consumers, when

it'll actually be able to be delivered,” Victoria's energy minister, Lily D'Ambrosio, said on local radio, adding that she heard about the plan on the morning news.

New South Wales energy minister Don Harwin said he looked forward to seeing the result of the fea-

sibility study

Industry experts said boosting hydropower storage would be an important long-term addition to power capacity, but would not meet immediate needs for more supply.

“The thing to stress is you need to plug a gap between now and the next five years,” said Gero Farruggio, managing director of Sustainable Energy Research Analytics.

He said the government could boost energy storage within a year for the same A\$2 billion by subsidizing installation of batteries in just a quarter of the Australian homes that have rooftop solar.

Victoria and neighboring South Australia, which relies on wind and solar for 40 percent of its power, are seen at risk of blackouts next summer due to the closure of a 1,600 MW coal-fired power station this month.

South Australia suffered a state-wide blackout last September, which paralyzed some industries for up to two weeks. —Reuters

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV JIA HE SHAN VOY. NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV JIA HE SHAN VOY. NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

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

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

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Off the catwalk, bloggers and editors vie for fashion fans' attention

NEW YORK/LONDON/MILAN — Dressed in a red top, fuchsia pleated skirt and fluffy boa worn on the shoulder, fashion blogger Beatrice Balaj poses for pictures in her front row seat at a New York catwalk show.

She is among a number of bloggers who use the internet and social media to cover the biannual womenswear events in New York, London, Milan and Paris, as well as everyday fashion, and whose power to set trends has grown to rival that of traditional glossy magazines.

"We basically show people our lives on-camera and off-camera, and people are interested in that and want to know more," said Balaj, whose Instagram feed carries images from a number of once-exclusive fashion week shows.

"We're very influential because people fall in love with our personalities rather than what we do."

Reaching consumers via the web or social media platforms, Balaj and other bloggers post snaps of their outfits and images from the shows and may collaborate with brands that sometimes dress them.

"(Bloggers) belong to a fashion system that ... has been literally reshaped," said Tommaso Aquilano, creative director at Italian fashion brand Fay. "Influencers and bloggers at the end of the day are the mirror of what people are in everyday lives."

But relations with the established fashion media can be frosty. Last year, fashion bible Vogue criticized bloggers in an online post about Milan Fashion Week, with one writer accusing them of "heralding the death of style" by changing into "head-to-toe, paid-to-wear outfits every hour".

The bloggers said that was hypocritical, as magazines borrow designer clothes for shoots and dedicate large spaces to brand advertising.

Italian fashion blogger Carlo Sestini says the two sides help each other, and that "fighting will just not lead to anything".

Grazia Italy magazine editor Silvia Grilli also said press, bloggers and influencers "can work together very well", serving different audiences in different ways. Magazines, for example, offer trends while bloggers share and speak more personally.



Models present creations during the Bora Aksu catwalk show during London Fashion Week in London, Britain, on 17 February 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

"I think everybody serves a very different purpose ... You talk about somebody who reaches somebody in an instantaneous way. Editors have a different level of veteran experience," said Joe Zee, former Elle magazine creative director and now edi-

tor-in-chief at Yahoo Style.

"I think we have so much fashion right now ... and there are so many angles to come at it that there is room for everybody."

Fashion fans say both sides have their strengths.

"I feel like magazines are

awesome for visual inspiration but bloggers have a certain truth to them," London student Ella Light said.

"They get paid sometimes, but I feel bloggers are a bit more real and you can relate to them a bit more."—Reuters

Emma Watson plans legal action over stolen photos

LONDON — "Beauty and the Beast" star Emma Watson is planning legal action over photos said to have been leaked online, but her representatives on Wednesday denied reports that the pictures showed the British actress nude.

"Photos from a clothes fitting Emma had with a stylist a couple of years ago have been stolen. They are not nude photographs. Lawyers have been instructed and we are not commenting further," her publicist said in a statement to Variety and the BBC. Social media and blog posts have claimed that naked images of Watson have been posted this week on an anonymous document-sharing network. It was not clear what action her lawyers are planning, or against whom.

Watson, 26, who made her name as a child star playing Hermione Granger in the "Harry Potter" movies, found herself at the center of a social media controversy earlier this month over a photo shoot she did for Vanity Fair magazine that included a picture in which parts of her breasts were exposed.

Critics called Watson, who is also a United Nations goodwill ambassador on women's rights

and equality, hypocritical and said she was betraying her feminist ideals. Watson hit back, saying feminism was about choice. "It's about freedom, it's about liberation, it's about equality. I really don't know what my tits have to do with it," she told Reuters. Watson appears in the live action version of the Disney classic "Beauty and the Beast," which opens in movie theaters around the world this week and is expected to take some \$200 million at the box-office, according to box office analysts.—Reuters



Emma Watson PHOTO: REUTERS

'Trophy' film tackles African hunting and conservation

AUSTIN, (Texas) — The new documentary "Trophy" opens in a sprawling corner of South Africa run by John Hume, who is praised by some as protecting the continent's rhinos from extinction and vilified by others for trying to turn the animals into cash spinners.

"Trophy," shown this week at the South by Southwest film festival in Austin, examines how efforts to commercialize wild animals and encourage big-game hunting in Africa can generate funds for conservation, while also arousing criticism.

"We want the viewer to go through a roller coaster of being challenged and being confused," filmmaker Shaul Schwarz said in an interview, adding there were no easy answers for protecting Africa's big game.

"Trophy" looks at people like Hume, the world's largest private rhino breeder, who has spent large sums to pro-

tect the animals from poachers seeking to kill them for their horns.

Hume trims the tips of the horns from his 1,500 rhinos every two years, building a stockpile worth tens of millions of dollars that he wants to sell.

He is lobbying to make the trade legal and use proceeds to protect more rhinos.

Some conservationists criticize him for wanting to turn a wild animal into a commodity, similar to the treatment of livestock.

Rhino horns, which can grow back, sell for prices higher than gold in parts of Asia where there is a belief, unfounded by science, that they can cure cancer.

Due to Asian demand, rhino poaching in South Africa surged to a record 1,215 animals in 2014. South Africa has some 20,000 rhinos, or about 80 per cent of the world's rhino population.

The film also asks questions about the role of game resorts sustained by hunting that can restore African ecosystems.

Tourists on photo safaris may spend a few hundred dollars a night to stay at an African game lodge while a hunter can be paying several thousand dollars a night to kill game.—Reuters

Brussels installs memorial to mark attack anniversary

BRUSSELS — A Belgian artist is installing a metal sculpture shaped like rising waves near the seat of the European Union to honor the victims of the militant attacks on Brussels a year ago that killed 32 people and wounded hundreds.

On 22 March 2016, three Islamic State suicide bombers targeted Brussels airport and a metro train in the capital, the deadliest such attack in Belgian history.

It followed coordinated attacks on Paris four months earlier that killed 130 people and sent shockwaves across Europe and beyond.

The sculpture by Jean-Henri Compere is called "Wounded But Still Standing in Front of the Inconceivable" and is constructed from two 20-metre (66 feet) long horizontal surfaces rising skywards.

"Well, it means we've been wounded down to the ground, but we have



Belgian artist sculptor Jean-Henri Compere completes its commemorative work dedicated to the victims of terrorist attacks in Brussels, Belgium, on 15 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

to stand up and say 'no' to those acts that are not believable, that are not bearable," Compere told Reuters at the memorial site.

Compere said the sculpture could also symbolize two plane wings, or a subway train.

"It's a piece that should stay in the city," he said. "I want that the sculpture lives with the city, that it takes on its sheen, that it gets through the years, because time helps us build ourselves back up."

The memorial will

be unveiled on 22 March, exactly one year after the attacks.

"I like the fact that it's supposed to visualize the strength of the city and the resilience of the city," said US citizen Evan Lamps, 31, who works in Brussels.—Reuters

Exhibition charting American pop art opens at London's British Museum

LONDON — One of the UK's first major exhibitions charting modern and contemporary American pop art opened at the British Museum in London this week, with works from New York's Museum of Modern Art and Washington DC's National Gallery of Art.

The exhibition, which showcases about 200 works by 70 artists and runs through to 18 June, looks at American

pop art or printmaking over the past six decades, a period when the country's wealth, power and cultural influence had never been greater.

"In the first half of the show we are looking at pop, conceptualism, minimalism (and) abstraction. In the second part we are looking at various social issues within America (over) those six decades," Hugo Chapman, Simon Sainsbury Keeper

of Prints & Drawings at the British Museum, told Reuters.

"I think the environment that brought (US President Donald) Trump's victory, you can see in this show," he added.

The exhibition, dubbed "The American Dream: Pop to the present", includes works by pop art legend Andy Warhol and others who shaped the movement, like Jasper

Johns, Robert Rauschenberg, Ed Ruscha, Chuck Close, Louise Bourgeois and Kara Walker.

"As a new president enters the White House and another chapter of US history begins, it feels like an apposite moment to consider how artists have reflected America as a nation over 50 tumultuous years," said Hartwig Fischer, Director of the British Museum.—Reuters

Earliest Jewish manuscript in New World to return to Mexico

NEW YORK — The oldest Jewish document of the New World will be returned to Mexico in March, the Mexican consulate in New York said on Friday, more than seven decades after it disappeared.

The document, a 1595 autobiography of Luis de Carvajal, is considered to be an important artifact showing Jewish life on the American continent, but disappeared from Mexico's national archives more than 75 years ago, according to the consulate. The manuscript was lent to the museum of the New York Historical Society by the government of Mexico after reportedly resurfacing on the auction circuit in 2015.

Luis de Carvajal, a "converso" Jew in Mexico, was put on trial during the Inquisition and executed in 1596, after he denounced

more than 120 other secretly practicing Jews, according to the New York Historical Society.

The "Memorias" manuscript consists of Carvajal's memoirs, a book of psalms and commandments, and a collection of prayers, Mexico's consulate in New York said.

The consulate said the manuscript would be returned to Mexico's Museum of Memory and Tolerance after its exhibition on 12 March. According to Swann Galleries in New York, where the manuscript was on sale last June, Carvajal's wrote under a pseudonym and told of his Jewish faith.

After Carvajal was incarcerated, the auction house said, a cell mate exposed his manuscript whereupon Carvajal gave in under torture and was ultimately killed.—Reuters



Dinosaur robots acting as receptionist greet a hotel employee demonstrating how to check-in to the hotel during a press preview for the newly-opening Henn na Hotel Maihama Tokyo Bay in Urayasu, east of Tokyo, Japan, on 15 March 2017. Japan's second robot-run hotel Henn na Hotel ('strange hotel' in Japanese) opened on 15 March 2017 as the robot-staffed hotel near Tokyo, operating company H.I.S. Co. said.

PHOTO: REUTERS

MRTV Programme Schedule (17-3-2017, Friday)

6:00 Am	◆ Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw	4:40 Pm	◆ Teleplay
7:00 Am	◆ Breakfast News	4:50 Pm	◆ Documentary
7:35 Am	◆ MRTV Travelogue	5:05 Pm	◆ Documentary (Academy) (Part-4)
8:35 Am	◆ Government's One- Year Performance	5:30 Pm	◆ Hyper Sport
9:10 Am	◆ Documentary (Academy)	6:15 Pm	◆ Documentary (Election)
9:30 Am	◆ Weekly Entertainment News	6:35 Pm	◆ Road to Academy (Part-3)
10:30 Am	◆ Weekly Sport Info	7:15 Pm	◆ TV Drama Series
11:00 Am	◆ Current Affairs	8:00 Pm	◆ News/International News/ Weather Report
11:30 Am	◆ MRTV Worker's Programme	8:35 Pm	◆ Political Parties Campaign Speeches
12:30 Pm	◆ TV Drama Series	9:15 Pm	◆ Government's One-Year Performance
1:05 Pm	◆ Myanmar Movie (Part-2)	3:05 Pm	◆ Song In Myanmar Movies (Part-33)
2:35 Pm	◆ Talk On Old Film		◆ Myanmar Video (Part-2)
3:05 Pm	◆ Applied Financial Knowledge		

mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule		(17-3-2017 07:00am ~ 18-3-2017 07:00am) MST	
07:03	Am	News	10:56 Am Art Students: Their Dream
07:26	Am	Trend of Kachin Dress	
07:52	Am	Kindhearted Pet Lovers	
08:03	Am	News	
08:26	Am	Travelogue: Ngwe Saung Beach	
08:47	Am	Toddy Palm Product Shop	
09:03	Am	News	
09:26	Am	Rakhine Tourist Area	
10:03	Am	News	
10:27	Am	The Green Corner (Epi-17) Chinese New Year	
10:38	Am	Strolling Along A Memory Link — U Pein Bridge	
			(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Thursday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
			(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
			Prime Time
07:03	Pm	News	
07:26	Pm	The Korean Treasure, Perilla Oil	
07:48	Pm	Ancient Heritage at Natalin	
08:03	Pm	News	
08:27	Pm	National Literary Icon and Guiding Light of Myanmar Literature	
		"Sayar Zaw Gyi" (Childhood and Student Life) (Episode-1)	
08:49	Pm	A Happy Visit to Zoological Garden (Nay Pyi Taw)	
			(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
			(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Thursday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
			(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
			(For Detailed Schedule - www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

Melbourne, Perth lead Australian push for 2022 Commonwealth Games

SYDNEY — City officials in Perth and Melbourne are leading an Australian push to host the 2022 Commonwealth Games after Durban was stripped of the right this week.

“An event of the scale of the Commonwealth Games would further enhance Perth as a world-class city and destination and greatly stimulate the economy,” Perth Lord Mayor Lisa Scaffidi told Australian Associated Press in a statement.

Melbourne hosted the 2006 Commonwealth Games and local residents would gladly welcome the 2022 event, Melbourne Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said. “We

are one of the few cities in the world with existing sporting infrastructure that can cope with a major world event like the Commonwealth Games,” he said.

English cities Birmingham and Liverpool have already made a pitch to step in for Durban, having already targeted the 2026 event. The northern city of Manchester, which hosted the Games in 2002, also declared its interest, British media reported on Wednesday, citing a city council spokesman.

The Commonwealth Games Federation will invite cities to host the Games rather than launch another bidding process.

Victoria state capital Melbourne has a long tradition of hosting major sports events, including the Australian Open tennis and the series-opening Formula One race at Albert Park.

Perth, the capital of resource-rich Western Australia state, also boasts extensive sports infrastructure and hosted the 1962 Commonwealth Games.

The state governments will need to throw their weight behind the push for Melbourne and Perth to be considered. Neither have committed to an official pitch but Victoria premier Daniel Andrews said his government would have a “close look at it”.—Reuters

UFC boss White says won't block Mayweather-McGregor fight

NEW YORK — UFC President Dana White will not stand in lightweight champion Conor McGregor's way if the Irishman agrees terms to a much-hyped crossover bout with boxer Floyd Mayweather.

Mayweather, a former five-division boxing champion who retired undefeated at 49-0 in 2015, has said he was coming out of retirement to take on mixed martial arts fighter McGregor, who has been challenging the American for months. “It



Floyd Mayweather Jr. PHOTO: REUTERS

doesn't make a lot of sense for my business, but I would never keep Conor from making that kind of money,” White said in a video interview posted on entertainment news website TMZ.

“He obviously has a lot of opportunities right now. Tony Ferguson is out there, the Floyd Mayweather thing is out there, we'll see how this thing plays out.”

Mayweather has asked for a guaranteed \$100 million to make the fight happen, with \$15 million going to McGregor, while White has talked of \$25 million to each plus pay-per-view money.

The pair will also have to agree to a format which Mayweather insisted would be straight boxing when interviewed by British media over the weekend.—Reuters



Monaco's players celebrate after the game at Stade Louis II, Monaco, on 15 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Monaco overturn two-goal deficit as Man City fall short again

MONACO — Monaco swept into the Champions League quarter-finals and left Manchester City to pick up the pieces of another failed European campaign after a 3-1 victory on Wednesday sent them through on away goals.

Monaco needed to overturn a two-goal first leg deficit but French prodigy Kylian Mbappe, Fabinho and Tiemoue Bakayoko scored on a memorable European night for the principality club, who underlined their growing status as one of the continent's most exciting sides.

City, who won the first leg 5-3 in Manchester, were completely overwhelmed in the first half and fell two goals behind, but reacted after the break and Leroy Sane reduced the arrears as Monaco seemed to run out of steam.

Bakayoko, however, headed home in the 77th minute to ensure the Ligue 1 club were celebrating at fulltime after the tie finished 6-6 over two enthralling encounters.

“We deserve this. There is

a lot of pride,” said Bakayoko, whose goal ensured Monaco are the only French side left in the competition after Paris St Germain were knocked out by Barcelona.

It was the first time City boss Pep Guardiola had been eliminated in the competition's last 16, while City became the first team to exit the Champions League after scoring five goals in the first leg.

City, who have consistently been one of Europe's biggest spending clubs, have now failed to get past the last 16 in four of the last five years.

“The second half we had the chances and we didn't take them and that is why we are out. And set-pieces are so important at this level,” said Guardiola.

“Barcelona and Real Madrid scored from them last week. We were not there.”

Leonardo Jardim's team, who were without the injured Radamel Falcao, started brightly and pressed high as Mbappe's pace forced City to sit deep.—Reuters



Kyrgios beats Djokovic again, to face Federer

Indian Wells, (CA) — Nick Kyrgios ended Novak Djokovic's 19-match winning run at Indian Wells by beating the Serb 6-4, 7-6(3) to reach the BNP Paribas Open quarter-finals on Wednesday, while Roger Federer also advanced with a straight sets win over Rafa Nadal. Australian Kyrgios had

beaten Djokovic in the quarter-finals in Acapulco almost two weeks ago in their first career meeting, and repeated the feat on Wednesday to reach the last eight, where he will face Federer. The Swiss defeated Nadal 6-2, 6-3 in the 36th meeting between the pair. It marked the first time Federer had recorded three consecutive wins over the Spaniard. Federer, who got the better of his Spanish rival in a thrilling five-setter at the Australian Open fi-

nal in January, broke Nadal's serve to open the match then survived a break point to hold with a backhand winner down the line for 2-0. The Swiss then took a 4-1 lead before sealing the set and continued to press in the second, keeping Nadal on his heels. “It's a nice feeling to win the last three, I can tell you that,” Federer told reporters. “After the Australian hype, to play here in America right away, all of them are very special. Obviously can't cele-

brate too long this time around. I have to get back to work in a couple of days.”

In other matches, third seed Stan Wawrinka overcame Yoshihito Nishioka 3-6, 6-3, 7-6(4), Austria's Dominic Thiem defeated Frenchman Gael Monfils 6-3, 6-2, and Japan's Kei Nishikori beat Donald Young 6-2, 6-4. Jack Sock defeated Malek Jaziri in three sets while Uruguay's Pablo Cuevas upset 11th-seed David Goffin 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.—Reuters

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