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Philippines promises continued cooperation

President U Htin Kyaw welcomes Philippine President Mr. Rodrigo Duterte

PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Htin Kyaw and President of the Philippines Mr. Rodrigo Duterte attended a welcoming ceremony at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The ceremony began with the two leaders receiving a salute from the Guard of Honour. President U Htin Kyaw then introduced his entourage to the Philippine President, who later introduced his delegation to the President. After signing the guestbook of the Presidential Palace, the President of the Philippines and President U Htin Kyaw held a bilateral meeting in the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace.

At the meeting, both sides discussed matters on enhancing bilateral cooperation in the ASEAN Community, promoting the Philippines' investment in Myanmar, strengthening cooperation in the agricultural sector, providing technical assistance in food manufacturing and the energy production sector and cooperation in the tourism industry.



SEE PAGE 9 >> Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte is welcomed by President U Htin Kyaw in Nay Pyi Taw on 20 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

New chapter in history of Philippines and Myanmar opened

RODRIGO Duterte, the President of the Republic of the Philippines, spoke yesterday of the enduring bond between his country and Myanmar, which has had a six-decade diplomatic relationship, longer than the existence of the ASEAN organisation, of which both countries are members.

At an official state dinner last night, Mr Duterte and President U Htin Kyaw both gave speeches that highlighted the significant history shared by the two nations.

“My visit happens at an auspicious time for the Philippines and Myanmar,” Mr. Duterte said last night at a state banquet in Nay

Pyi Taw held in his honour. “Last year, we marked the 60th anniversary of the establishment of Philippines-Myanmar bilateral relations. This year, we turn the page for a new chapter of ties that should rightly be stronger and deeper. Six decades of formal diplomatic relations have seen the growth of

an abiding and flourishing friendship. With our common historic experiences and shared dreams of peace, progress and prosperity for our peoples, we have a unique bond that we must continue to nurture and strengthen. We have sought and seen remarkable progress and active cooperation in

the areas of agriculture, labor, and trade and investment. And we aim for more.”

Earlier in the day, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the countries on food security and agricultural cooperation.

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သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမာန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Maungtaw Investigation Commission meets local residents

MEMBERS of Maungtaw Investigation Commission U Aung Naing, U Saw Tala and other officials discussed with No (1) Border Guard Police Force Chief Police Brig-Gen Thura San Lwin, Maungtaw Deputy Commissioner U Ye Htut to report to the Investigation Commission's Chairman on progress made in Maungtaw. The meeting was held at the office of No (1) Border Guard Police Force on the morning of 18 March.

Afterwards, the commission members and the deputy commissioner visited Pwintpyuchaung, Kyarkaungtaung, Yaytwinkyun, and on 19 March visited Dargyisar, New Yaymyattaung, Kyatyoeypin, Pyuangpate and Nganchaung villages to meet with the local residents.

The commission members met with resettled families and individuals who fled during the incidents in October. The resettled individuals told the reasons behind their fleeing was because of feelings of



Members of the Investigation Commission meeting resettled families in Maungtaw at the hall of No (1) Police Border Guard Force. PHOTO: MNA

insecurity in their own region but now thanks to rescue efforts by respective organizations they are able to return to their homes. Then commission members discussed about plans to ensure health, shelter and food which requires correct statistics for a smooth and

effective result. Maungtaw deputy commissioner then explained on preparations being made for local residents to visit imprisoned family members and then answered to other questions raised by residents. Commission members Deputy Director Daw Than Than Win



and Dr. Daw Htar Htar Linn met individually with elderly women and mothers to discuss on psycho-social matters and how to get help and support for women and child abuse among other breaches to human rights from mobile organizations travelling around Maungtaw

and delivering medical aid. The medical aid includes vaccination and oral medical treatment, and for medical officers to be able to come provide assistance it is important that everyone participates to ensure there is safety in the area. —Myanmar News Agency

Maungtaw Investigation Commission inspects Rakhine housing sites

MEMBERS of the Maungtaw Investigation Commission, who have already visited north Rakhine several times, arrived at Zinpaingnyar village's post-primary school yesterday morning and met with residents from Zinpaingnyar and Wapeik villages who returned home after being displaced by armed conflicts.

In the meeting, there were discussions on numerous matters, such as the need to know the language so it is easy to communicate with the people concerning health, social welfare and the economy and so that they can cooperate with respective administrative bodies at different levels after assessing experiences encountered in the region.

It was also said that the arrested are required to have the protection of the law in compliance with rules and regulations, and to be eligible for punishment according to the findings from trials.

Only if there are accurate statistics and data for providing subsidies will the respective departments and organisations be able to help to solve difficulties, so it is necessary to report the correct situations and needs to ward and village-tract administrators.

And, if actions for asking for help were made in accord with the facts described in the notice-boards, necessary help will be provided. Afterward, designating days and dates for

the family members to meet those arrested over the October incidents and arrangements for transportation and getting permission to meet the arrested were clarified, following questions raised by the villagers.

Commission members then arrived at Wapeik village, inspecting the construction sites for housing estates to resettle families whose dwelling places were lost in the October incidents, which was being implemented under the instruction of the Rakhine State Cabinet.

The construction was being managed by the Maungtaw district and township management committee. U Myint Khaing, chairman of Maungtaw township management committee explained in detail.

In the village of Wapeik, each family will be helped in getting a plot.

It is learnt that the housing estate will be built with a street crossing in the middle of the village, path going around the village and an entrance way linking with Maungtaw-Kyeinchaung.

The religious edifice existing in the village will remain intact and the use of the building will be granted as previously allowed.

Afterward, commission members inspected the trials for the 42 suspected of involvement in the armed attacks at the court of justice (Maungtaw District Court) in Buthidaung. —Aye Mya (Mandalay), Aye Min Thu

Narcotics seized in Maungtaw



Four suspects from the seized boat and narcotics worth Ks 370 million are seen. PHOTO: MNA

YESTERDAY morning in Maungtaw, around 185,000 amphetamine tablets were seized from a boat floating along Naf River and 9,750 amphetamine tablets were seized from a house in Myomataung ward.

A naval security troop was on patrol when they spotted a suspicious looking boat sailing in the direction of Bangladesh around 3 in the morning. Chas-

ing in pursuit, they were able to seize the boat in Myanmar waters and apprehended the 4 people on board along with gunny sacks full of 185,000 tablets of the WY drugs worth an estimated Ks 370 million. The gunny sacks were opened at the inspection gate in Maungtaw Township.

Similarly, around 7 in the morning a joint group with border security troops searched the

house of 32 year old Maung Hla Win (also known as) Mahmoud Yiyas in Ngakuya Village, Maungtaw. They discovered under a table in the basement around 9,750 tablets of the WY drugs worth an estimated Ks 19.5 million and an Honor Smartphone used in the drug transactions.

It is reported that the arrested suspects are under legal proceedings.—Myanmar News Agency

Thirteen suspects arrested in Buthidaung



ACTING on a tip-off, police and border guards arrested 13 people as they descended a hill east of Tinmay Village in Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State.

The 13 people had fled earlier while being questioned by police. They were found to be residents of Tinmay village and one of them has been identified as Adu Shaw Shi. It is reported that the arrested suspects are under legal proceedings. —Myanmar News Agency

New chapter in history of Philippines and Myanmar opened

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In turn President U Htin Kyaw said the rich history the countries have shared has been a mutually beneficial relationship.

“Myanmar has always attached great importance to her relations with the Philippines,” President U Htin Kyaw said last night. “Last year, our two countries celebrated the 60th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties. We are happy to witness a steady growth in friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation between Myanmar and the Philippines. The bonds of friendship between our two countries have been strengthened as we are working hand in hand in building a better and stronger ASEAN Community. As a fellow member of ASEAN, Myanmar will support and fully cooperate with the Philippines’ efforts towards a successful stewardship of ASEAN this year.”

ASEAN, an organization of 10 Southeast Asian countries, elects one country to be the host of the organization. The Philippines was selected this year.

President Duterte noted that Myanmar has helped his country in times of need, and expressed a desire to return the kindnesses.

“I thank you and the people of Myanmar for the timely assistance, particularly for those affected by typhoon Pablo, which



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte attends a state dinner with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in Nay Pyi Taw last night. PHOTO: REUTERS

hit my island of Mindanao, the earthquake in Bohol, and Typhoon Haiyan,” Mr. Duterte said. “Indeed, it is in times of need that you know that the Philippines is ready to support Myanmar in its own humanitarian challenge.

President Duterte was referring in part to Myanmar’s ongoing challenges in Rakhine State.

Earlier in the day during a meeting with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Mr. Duterte donated US\$300,000 to the State Counsellor, who is chairperson of the Central Committee for the Implementation of Peace and Development in Rakhine State, to be used for humanitarian assistance for Rakhine State.

The two countries share more than just geographical affinity, and it is to their mutual benefit to continue and deepen their close relationship, Mr Duterte said.

“My visit demonstrates the commitment of my country to expand cooperation with Myanmar on a broad range of issues.

As developing countries, we face many similar and complex problems. We must not be afraid to confront them head on.

We should use our friendship as a solid base, a fulcrum of collaboration that transforms challenges into opportunities.

In defense and security, we must work closer to address the threats of terrorism and violent extremism that can undermine the economic progress we have so far achieved. We should be unremitting in our fight to dismantle the apparatus of the illicit drug trade. This menace is a challenge that knows no borders and affects us all in the region,” Mr. Duterte said.

President U Htin Kyaw echoed Mr. Duterte’s thoughts.

“I would like to reassure Your Excellency of Myanmar’s readiness to work closely with the Philippines both in bilateral and other regional and international contexts to enhance our bilateral cooperation and promote peace, stability and prosperity in the region and the world as large. Once again, I would like to express my deep appreciation and sincere thanks to Your Excellency Mr Rodrigo Roa Duterte for this opportunity to share our hopes and joys,” President U Htin Kyaw said.

Mr Duterte arrived in Myanmar on Sunday and returned to the Philippines last night.—*Myanmar News Agency*

State Counsellor meets Philippine President

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received Mr Rodrigo Duterte, the President of the Philippines, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to strengthening cooperation in ASEAN, promoting bilateral relations, cooperation and provision of technical assistance in agriculture and vocational training sectors including trade sector

and production of quality seeds compatible with the region, Rakhine issues and humanitarian aid. Cooperation in anti-human trafficking, anti-drug campaigns and anti-terrorism efforts were also discussed at the meeting.

After the meeting, the President of the Philippines Mr. Rodrigo Duterte donated US\$300,000 to State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Chairperson of the Central Committee for the Implementation of Peace and Develop-

ment in Rakhine State to be used for humanitarian assistance in Rakhine State.

The meeting was attended by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Sein Win, Dr Pe Myint, Dr Aung Thu, U Khin Maung Cho and Dr Than Myint, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister U Min Thu, Myanmar Ambassador to the Philippines U Win Naing and responsible officials.—*Myanmar News Agency*



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte. PHOTO: MNA

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Head of service organizations confirmed and appointed

1. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on the expiry of one-year probationary period from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(1) U Min Min Oo	Managing Director Myanmar Pearl Enterprise Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation
(2) Daw Mi Mi Khaing	Director-General Department of Electric Power Administration Ministry of Electric Power and Energy

2. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(1) Professor Dr Khin Zaw Pro-rector (Academic) University of Medicine 2 (Yangon) Ministry of Health and Sports	Rector University of Medicine (Magway) Ministry of Health and Sports
(2) Daw Thway Thway Chit Deputy Director-General Project Appraisal & Progress Reporting Department Ministry of Planning and Finance	Director-General Project Appraisal & Progress Reporting Department Ministry of Planning and Finance

LOCAL Business



Traders evaluate jade stones at the Gems and Jade emporium in Nay Pyi Taw on 21 March 2017. PHOTO: MNA

Gems and Jade Emporium enters its second day

THE second day of the emporium featuring raw and uncut gems and jade stones available for sale in local currency (kyats) commenced this Monday at Mani Yadana Gems Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

Those who are permitted to exhibit the gem lots and citizen jewellery merchants appraised

the jade lots from 8am to 5pm. The price bidding form for jade lots which will be sold under open tender system were put into the tender boxes concerned.

A total of 195 gem lots and 4,454 jade lots were exhibited. The emporium was reportedly packed with a teeming crowd of potential buyers. The sales with

open tender system will start on 22nd March.

Union Minister U Ohn Win of the Ministry for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and officials visited the emporium yesterday afternoon to observe the displays of jade and jewellery.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Rice exports through normal trade rose in March

THE rice export through normal trade has risen this month, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Myanmar received more demand from the African market this year, offsetting the drastic decline in rice exports to China via the Muse border resulting from the continuing armed conflicts in northern Shan State, said U Ye Min Aung, the general secretary of the MRF.

About 200,000 tonnes of rice was shipped to Africa through sea routes in March, a higher volume from that of last year, he added.

Low-quality rice exported to European Union countries fetched US\$315 per tonne in 2015. This year, low-quality

rice fetched only from US\$280 to \$300 per tonne, whereas price of high-quality rice was about US\$375 per tonne.

Although rice export prices this year were not as high as that of last year, the dollar price in the local currency exchange market was on the rise, allowing the merchants financially to do well, said U Aung Myint, the secretary of Myanmar Rice Merchants Association.

Myanmar exported rice of 1.4 million tonnes in 2012-2013 FY, 1.2 million tonnes in 2013-2014 FY, 1.8 million tonnes in 2014-2015 FY and 1.4 million tonnes in 2015-2016 FY, according to statistics from the Commerce Ministry.—*Phyo Lwin Aung (AMIA)*

Entrepreneurs from Japan and China to open machinery sales centres

ENTREPRENEURS from Japan and China will reportedly open machinery sales centres in the country in the middle of this year as the Commerce Ministry granted permit for anyone with a bank account of at least Ks750million at the Central Bank of Myanmar to open a sales centre.

Japan and China, the main producers of industrial machinery and equipment, are exploring the Myanmar market. Four businessmen from Japan and China are reported to have opened sales centres in Yangon and Mandalay. The centres are wholly foreign owned, sources said.

Currently, the machinery

sales centres are permitted for those who directly open the sales centre, distribute the machines as an official representative and import them as the sales representative.

Foreign investors will open centres hoping to take advantage of the promising market in industrial machinery. They will extend their businesses depending on the market shares, said Ko Aung Win, a manager of a machinery sales centre.

Foreign investors will import and sell new and used equipment such as bulldozers and cranes. In addition, four local companies are also preparing to open sales centres.—*200*

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV V BRAVO VOY. NO (K1718E)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV V BRAVO VOY. NO (K1718E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-4 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S ERIKA SHIPPING PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV GSM 02 VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSM 02 VOY. NO (-1) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-5 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S BAY LINE SHIPPING PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV MCC MERGUI VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC MERGUI VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

Performances in One-Year Period

Ministry of Construction's one-year efforts for facilitating road transport and the flow of goods

Naing Linn Kyi + Ko Min

TRANSPORT plays a vital role in the national development. Currently, the Ministry of Construction in serving public interest with the aim of achieving economic progress has been striving with might and main for betterment of the road transport sector in ensuring a smooth flow of commodities in all regions and states. The ministry upgraded Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putao road into an all-weather facility to cut travelling time to about 10 hours. Previously, it took 24 hours in the open season and about seven days during the rainy season to travel between the two destinations.

Machanbaw Bridge

The muddy part of the road was reinforced to become usable during the rainy season. The 102-mile section was paved with tar or concrete. Soon, the 840-

The completion of the five-year Thanbyuzayat-Phayathonzu road will cut the travelling time between Yangon and Bangkok to just 12 hours. Concrete laying of the Hpa-an-Nonglon-Eindu road is under BOT system. The No 2 Thai-Myanmar Friendship Bridge at Myawady will be opened soon. It is an important link of the east-west corridor that will eventually connect India and China via Myanmar.

JICA and World Bank loan

Kalay-Falam-Haka road, Haka-Gangaw road and Thaingswin-Tiddim road in Chin State are being upgraded under JICA loan and Kalay-Falam-Haka road in Chin State under World Bank loan. After the opening of Natzan and Baynu bridges the road can be used in all seasons.

Yangon-Mawlamyine-Dawei-Myeik in Mon State and Taninthayi Region and Thanbyuzayat-Phayathonzu are also under upgrading project. Moreover, Thanlwin Bridge (Chaungzon) linking Mawlamyine and Belugyun will be opened soon. The bridge will ensure safe and sound trip to the island and link it with the mainland.

Because of the curves at Myetkwe hill range, it took one hour and 20 minutes to travel on the 16-mile Buthidaung-Maungtaw road in Rakhine State. As the said part of the road has been strengthened and extended the travel time can be cut to just 40 minutes.

New axis

Maungtaw-Angumaw section of Kanyindan-Alethankyaw-Angumaw road has been upgraded into an all-weather road. It took only two and half hours to drive on the road, down from there and half hours in the past. A new axis for Sittway-Ponnagyun-Pauktaw-Minbya road has been searched for shortening the travel time.

Panzin Creek Bridge on Buthidaung-Yathedaung Road will be put into service soon. Its completion will shorten the travel time to Buthidaung by car. The use of z-crafts to cross the creek is a life-threatening adventure. The bridge will be much useful for the students crossing the facility twice every school day.

New Gokhtaik Viaduct

A new two-way concrete



With the opening of the Machanbaw Bridge, an all-weather road will emerge in Machanbaw. PHOTO:MNA

bridge was completed as a substitution to Tarsai bridge in Namhsan Township, Shan State (South) that is losing its durability. A new Gokhtaik Viaduct in Nawngkhio Township in Shan State (North) will be erected on Mandalay-Muse road which is notorious for its many inclines and curves. The construction of the new viaduct on the section linking Nawngkhio and Kyaukme townships will start soon.

A number of roads in Sagaing Region have already been concreted to become all-weather facilities. Soon Chindwin Bridge

will be opened and the facility will ensure safe crossing on the river and cut travel time. Moreover, the bridge will help enhance border trade with India and develop Sagaing Region and Chin State.

Chindwin Bridge (Htamanthi-Pinma)

Completion of the Chindwin Bridge (Hkamti) and Chindwin Bridge (Homalin) will facilitate transport to Naga Self-administered zone and will help the remote area enjoy social, health, education and economic improvement. Additionally, one more

bridge on the river — Chindwin Bridge (Htamanthi-Pinma) — will also be built.

In Taninthayi Region, Dawei-Myeik and Meik-Tonkha sessions of Yangon-Kawthoung road were cemented. Moreover Daweil town circular road has been also cemented. Of the 26 bridges under construction in the region, 24 will be completed this year.

Of the nine bridges under construction in Bago Region Tonkan Bridge on Yangon-Toungoo-Mandalay road will be put into service soon.

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feet Machanbaw Birdge will be opened. After the opening of the bridge heavy trucks can travel on the road in all seasons.

As the Belu Creek Bridge on Toungoo-Leiktho-Loikaw-Hopone road is losing its durability the new one with the durability of withstanding up to 60-ton trucks has been built. The 270-foot long concrete facility will be put into service in the very near future.

ADB loan

Eindu-Kawkareik section of Myawady-Kawka-reik,-Hpa-an-Kyaikhto-Yangon road or the east-west corridor of Kayin State is being upgraded under ADB loan. Some other parts of the road are being built under ODA loan from JICA assistance. Advanced technology and methods are being applied in implementing the project.



A road in Kachin State under upgrading with new pavement. PHOTO:MNA

PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

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Local products

The 17 roads in Mandalay Region will be expanded up to 48 feet under BOT system. The opening of Dokhtawady Bridge (Shwesayan) soon will facilitate transport, cut travel time and ensure safety on the upgraded No 2 district-to-district road of the region. A new Thaketa Bridge in Yangon is being constructed with advanced methods under JICA assistance. Sixty per cent of the project has been completed at present. The completion of Kokkkowa Bridge will cut travel time between Bago and Ayeyawady regions as the road avoids passing through the crowded Yangon. Plans are under way to build Dala Bridge and No 3 Bago River Bridge under foreign loan. Dala Bridge will help extend the Yangon urban area and develop the extended parts.

The two-lane Yangon-Pathein road will be extended to a four-lane facility with the help of ADB loan. Most of the parts of the road pass through Ayeyawady Region. Ngathaingchaung-Gwa Road project will be implemented with World Bank loan.

Yangon-Mandalay Expressway is being extended to upgrade the facility and to ensure road safety. Moreover, raised median will be turned into depressed median. Work is under way to install electronic toll collection system on the expressway. The 40-mile section between Yangon and Phayagyi is being ungraded under ADB loan. The restcamp at milepost 76/0 will also be upgraded.

Normally, the Ministry of Construction is implementing its projects under the government budget. But in some other cases, it is implementing the projects under Private Partnership (PPP) program if possible. It is also implementing many of its public works including bridge, road and housing projects with the participation of development partners such as JICA, ADB, World Bank, KOICA and TICA or grant loans of the donor countries. The ministry has also adopted the Road User Law in maintaining its road facilities and providing necessary services.

One million apartments

The target of the ministry includes the work of upgrading over 42000 kilometres of roads

The target of the ministry includes the work of upgrading over 42000 kilometres of roads to reach at least the ASEAN Class III (18-foot wide tar/concrete roads); improving all bridges to become 24-foot wide steel-frame R/C or P/C type two-lane facilities; redesigning 330 towns under urban planning; and building one million apartments in them by the government and the private sector in 2030.

Of the 14 bridges under construction in Ayeyawady Region the 340-foot long Natchaung Bridge has been completed. The completion dates of Thakan Bridge, Sethsan Bridge and Ngawun (Laymyithna) are in fiscal year 2017-2018.

The Road and Bridge Department under the Ministry of Construction has concreted over 102 miles of roads in the whole country. It is planning to concrete more roads.

Median shoulder of the

to reach at least the ASEAN Class III (18-foot wide tar/concrete roads); improving all bridges to become 24-foot wide steel-frame R/C or P/C type two-lane facilities; redesigning 330 towns under urban planning; and building one million apartments in them by the government and the private sector in 2030.

The Road and Bridge Department under the ministry has substituted the 12 bridges damaged by the abnormal floods



Pyathatgyi Pagoda is being repaired with the aid of the government and other organisations in Bagan. Photo:MNA

caused by heavy rains in eight regions and states with temporary bridges as a measure to prevent a transport break. It will erect steel reinforced bridges at the places under the emergency funds of the Union.

Equality

The improvement of roads and bridges in regions and states will develop the socio-economy of the people, bring equal development in the whole country and develop the nation's transport network.

The ministry's task also includes accepting construction orders from all central organizations of the Union, ministries and government departments. It is adopting laws, bylaws, rules, norms, basic standards and directives necessary for the development of the nation's construction sector. It is also doing research work and forming relevant organizations.

The ministry has drawn the much needed rules of housing development in Myanmar with the participation of local and foreign technicians and other relevant ministries and institutions under the UN-Habitat aid program. After the approval of the departments and the Union government they will become acceptable rules for ever related organization and individual.

Bagan earthquake

Some pagodas in Bagan ancient cultural zone were damaged by the earthquake occurred on 24 August 2016. The ministry took immediate action in repairing Sulamuni Pagoda, Pyathatgyi Pagoda, Tayokpyay Pagoda, Wtingyi Pagoda, Gupyaukyi Pagoda, Setanagyi Pagoda and Buleithi Pagoda which needed emergency care. The ministry has already formed a special body for pagoda maintenance and repair work. It built 13 necessary infrastructure projects of 13 institutions including central government bodies, ministries and other organizations during the fiscal year 2016-2017.

The project included 22 hospital extensions, three staff quarters, four township hospitals, nine station hospitals, and 32 district public health department offices of the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Higher Education Department, Haka College, Teachers Training Department, Haka Edu-

cation College, Sagaing Education College Monywa Education College and Katha Education College of the Ministry of Education.

Urban policy

The ministry is drawing the bills on urban and regional development and national housing development. It has also adopted urban and housing policies in implementing the nationwide urban and housing development project and cooperating with other relevant organizations.

"The Construction Ministry is striving for the development of roads and bridges in the whole country alongside the social progress of the people with the aim of developing socio-economy of the entire people, and roads, bridges and public housings in the entire nation, assuring parallel infrastructural progress in all regions and states, and minimizing transport cost and travel time in support of GDP growth," explained Minister for Construction U Win Khaing.

The improvement of roads and bridges in regions and states will develop the socio-economy of the people, bring equal development in the whole country and develop the nation's transport network.



Development of low-cost housing seen in uptown of Mandalay. PHOTO: MNA



Operation centre of Mandalay General Hospital is being built as a ten storey building. PHOTO:MNA

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population
Notification (1/2017)
Nay Pyi Taw
5th Waning of Tabaung 1378 ME,
(17 March 2017)**

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population has hereby made the following notification for employers and employees to be well informed of the amendment of five national holidays during the 2017 Myanmar Thingyan Festival.

- (a) The Office of the Government of the Union has already issued notification 31/2017 on 10th March 2017, designating five national holidays for Myanmar Thingyan Festival.
- (b) For the employees who had already arranged in advance, to go on trips during the holidays official holidays are only five days, but they are to be allowed 10 days to be able to proceed to go as arranged beforehand.
- (c) For five holidays to be granted in substitution---
 - (1) by negotiating between employers and employees in suitable ways,
 - (2) by negotiating in accord with the prescribed laws, or
 - (3) by granting eligible category of leave, leaves must be granted.

Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population

Delegation led by Secretary of Philippines Agriculture visits Nay Pyi Taw



A DELEGATION led by Secretary of the Philippine Department of Agriculture, Mr. Emmanuel F. Pinol visited the white elephants house at the foot of Uppatasanti Pagoda yesterday morning.

During the visit, the members of delegation fed the white elephants with feed.

Next, they visited Myanma Gems Museum in Nay Pyi Taw and looked around the gems and jewelries shown on the ground floor and first floor of the museum.

—Myanmar News Agency

Yangon Region Hluttaw discusses Development Bill

IN the 2nd Yangon Region Hluttaw 4th Regular Meeting conducted on 20 March, Yangon Region Minister for Planning and Finance U Myint Thaug submitted a Bill for Yangon Regional Plans in the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year. The bill covered creating job opportunities, supplying adequate electricity, health, smooth transitions of merchandise, and development of the transportation sector. It also included plans

for industrial zones and development of small and medium-sized enterprises.

“We included plans for developing urban and suburban areas and increasing the income of each citizen in the coming fiscal year. This bill is submitted for approval from the Regional Hluttaw,” said Regional Minister U Myint Thaug.

The bill is based on the allotted budget of Ks278.457 billion

from the union government’s funding as well as Yangon Region’s budget. The aforementioned bill has already been approved by Yangon Region’s Chief Justice.

Other matters were also discussed in the Regional Hluttaw Meeting yesterday and were addressed by their respective regional officials. The Regional Meeting will be continued on 23 March.—Ko Moe

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Opinion

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

ICT for Development

Kyaw Myaing

MARCH is the last month of the financial year and very soon we will be starting a new year. It is thus an opportune time to look back how much the new NLD-led government has accomplished during its one year in office.

Taking the reins of government after years of rule by military rule was not going to be an easy task. When it took power in April 2016, the new government was faced with many challenges and opportunities. However on the plus side, the new government led by NLD had an overwhelming majority in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. If we look at the opportunities, the new government has the tremendous support of the people.

Let us look at the challenges. After years of military rule the country was beset with many problems and one of the

biggest challenges was to boost the morale of the people and to instill confidence and hope.

The most critical and sensitive problem that loomed overhead like a dark cloud was the problem of the long-standing armed conflicts that had continued since the country gained Independence in 1948. In order to solve this problem, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi reformed the NPC - National Peace Centre and renamed it the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre with a special emphasis on the word "reconciliation".

Then how does ICT fit into this scenario. ICT means Information and Communication Technologies. In UN circles, especially at the UNDP - United Nations Development Programme headquarters, ICT for Development is a phrase widely used by development professionals. It means how to use information and communication technologies for development

purposes.

Leaving aside the natural resources that Myanmar is endowed with, it is the opinion of the writer that ICT as a tool can be used to uplift the morale of the people and to prepare them for the long and arduous journey towards our goal of a modern, developed Democratic Federal Union. The people are the country's most valuable asset and for democracy to be sustainable we need an educated citizenry. Beginning with the administration of President U Thein Sein in 2011, Myanmar has seen many reforms in the political, economic and social spheres. However, much remains to be done and nation building is a never ending task. For all citizens of Myanmar who understand the immensity of the problems in almost every sector of the economy, opportunities also come with challenges.

In my opinion, one of the biggest opportunities that we have is the fact that Internet ac-

cess is getting much better and communication networks are expanding day by day. Furthermore, smart phones and SIM cards have become more affordable for ordinary citizens. This in itself presents us with a tremendous opportunity to mobilize and guide our people towards our national goals, the biggest of which is to achieve internal peace.

One of the simplest ways to use ICT for Development is to encourage the establishment of Knowledge Centers all over the country. To set up such a center, the most important ingredient is the "team". What we need is a group of highly motivated young people who are willing to volunteer their time to set up a KC or Knowledge Center. They would of course need encouragement and support from NGO's and community leaders.

It is true that the current government and many NGOs and private sector companies have been working hard to set

up libraries in urban and rural areas. However, we need to take these efforts a step further and onto the next stage.

Now that all government ministries have their official websites and more and more Myanmar citizens are able to use smart phones, we may say that Myanmar is now poised to move onto the next stage of development. Therefore, let us use our smart phones wisely to disseminate knowledge, promote feelings of brotherhood and peace, discuss ways and means of protecting our youths from the dangers that lurk on the Internet and make sure that we use social media networks like Facebook for entertainment, learning and knowledge sharing instead of being misled by ruthless people who use FB to spread their messages of hate and intolerance. In short, let us act smart, and be smart now that we have these smart phones in our hands. Use these ICT tools for development wisely.

Let us conserve the corals

Kyaw Soe (Kawthaung)

KAWTHAUNG of Tanintharyi Region has a beautiful long coast studded with isolated islands with their own white sand beaches and also richly endowed with various trees and plantations, mangrove swamps, wide varieties of fauna and flora and different species of birds. The most striking off shore feature of the region is coral reef that attracts all the local visitors and tourists as well.

With the development of tourism in Myanmar, the number of both local visitor and the foreign tourist to Kawthaung are rapidly increasing as the area is widely famous for its pristine beautiful natural endowments, especially coral reef and variegated sea weeds. Tourists make a remark that the pristine and unspoiled natural features of Kawthaung coastal area is more attracting than Phuket of Thailand.

Kawthaung having the pristine corals has become the main attraction spot in Myanmar Tourism Industry.

Coral reefs are constructed by small living marine creatures called corals of coelentrata class that usually flourished in tropical marine region. The moving living corals once attached to a rock be-



A variety of organisms: colorful fish, corals and sponges on the coral reef. PHOTO: KYAW HAN (HOTELS & TOURISM)

come sedentary for life and build their house secreting calcium and form the coral reef. Some corals are living solitary life while some are in colony. Reproduction in the colony makes growth of the colony having hard calcareous (calcium carbonate) structures and eventually forming the great reef being composed of the calcareous remains of assorted species of coral creatures with different forms, shapes and colours.

The coral reefs also play an important role in ecology of marine habitat. Coral reefs are breeding and growing places of some types of fish. According to the researches, there are 42 fish species, 42 species of crabs, 50 species of hard-shelled snails, 41 species of

clams, 35 species of sea leech, 73 species of sea weeds, 11 species of algae and 333 planktons.

Most of the tourists and local visitors visit Kawthaung and its off-shore islands with ardent passion to see and record the corals and marine life of the sea by snorkeling.

Some fishermen and greedy businessmen lacking awareness on environmental conservation do the grasping and stupid works such as catching fish with dragging net in the shallow part of the sea, fish catching by blasting, anchoring the fishing boats in the reef area and careless disposal of waste and garbages. Such hazardous and selfish activities are the major challenge to the conserva-

tion of corals and the rare species of marine fauna.

Competitions in all sectors are now highly keen in the world of globalization and the tourism industry is not an exception. So beautiful attractions especially corals along the unspoiled coastal region become the lifeblood of Myanmar hospitality industry which is the source of national income without any limit. The awareness campaigns were done by some tour companies, nevertheless not so effective as the campaign did not have the wide coverage of the region. The tourists, marine workers and people living in coastal villages should expansively be include in the activities of awareness campaign.

Kawthaung having the pristine corals has become the main attraction spot in Myanmar Tourism Industry.

Tourists make a remark that the pristine and unspoiled natural features of Kawthaung coastal area is more attracting than Phuket of Thailand.

Jeep vehicle owners hiking rental prices ahead of Thingyan Water Festival

THE prices for rentals of Jeeps have risen substantially for this year's Thingyan, the popular water festival in Myanmar, with a threefold increase, according to Soe Thingyan Car Rental Services.

Rental cars are in high demand at during Thingyan throughout the country, as people traditionally visit water-throwing pandals around town by car.

Persons, especially young women, on the pandals throw buckets of water onto the cars at what is considered the happiest event of the year.

The rental price for

an open-topped Jeep was Ks120,000 a day in previous years.

The prices this year have gone up to about Ks320,000.

Despite the rising cost of hiring a Jeep, users mainly choose Jeeps, which can carry a maximum of 15 people, followed by light trucks and then pickup trucks, said Ko Nanda from the Soe Thingyan Car Rental Services based in Bahan Township.

Since the beginning of this month, holidaymakers have started booking rental cars prior to the four-day

water festival, according to the car rental market.

Some service firms have received confirmed bookings for half of their rental Jeeps, the sources said.

Maha Thingyan is one of the largest and most widely celebrated public holidays in Myanmar.

Myanmar celebrates the New Year Water Festival of Thingyan during the month of Tagu, which usually falls around mid-April.

The Thingyan holiday period this year starts on 13 April and continues until 16 April.—200



People play with water as they celebrate Myanmar New Year Water Festival in Yangon on 12 April 2016.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Crime NEWS

Two injured in separate accidents on Ygn-Mdy Expressway

A white Toyota Corona driven by Soe Min Than crashed into a light truck from behind between mileposts 252/6 and 252/7 in Pyawbwe Township on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway at 12:30 pm on Sunday.

Three men on board the Toyota Corona were not injured. Out of four passengers in the light truck, U Aung Thein, 50, was injured but not seriously. The victim was taken by Pay Lay Pin Highway Police Station's vehicle to

Nyaungdon Station Hospital to receive medical treatment.

In a separate incident, a black Toyota Caldina driven by Win Naing Oo hit the barrier rail protecting the Ye Nwe Creek Bridge and plunged into the ravine between mileposts 83/5 and 83/6 at 3:05pm on the same day.

The driver was injured but not seriously. Highway Police have taken action against the reckless drivers under the law.—*Than Oo (Lemyethna)*

An express catches fire on Ygn-Mdy Expressway

A passenger express bus from the Man Shwe Myo Taw bus company caught fire en route from Yangon to Nay Pyi Taw in Daik-U Township yesterday. The 25 passengers on board were not injured. The bus had extensive damage. Police are still investigating.

The fire broke out due to short-circuit in the bus's electrical system between mileposts 67/3 and 67/4 at about 7:30 am on the Yangon-Mandalay expressway.

Firefighters from the Local Township Fire Services Department put out the fire with the use of four fire engines and two management vehicles at about 8 am.

Damage to the bus was estimated at Ks 25 million.

Local Township Police Highway Station opened a file of lawsuit against the reckless driver due to the outbreak of fire under section 279/285/202 of the Penal Code.—*Than Oo (Lemyethna)*



Firefighters put out the fire on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway. PHOTO: MPF

Philippines promises continued cooperation

>> FROM PAGE 1

Present at the meeting were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Sein Win, Dr Pe Myint, Dr Aung Thu, U Khin Maung Cho and Dr Than Myint, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister U Min Thu, Myanmar Ambassador to the Philippines U Win Naing and officials. The visiting President of the Philippines was accompanied by the Philippine Ambassador to My-

anmar Mr. Alex G. Chua.

A ceremony in which a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed followed. Union Minister Dr Aung Thu and Secretary of the Department Agriculture of the Republic of the Philippines Mr. Emmanuel F. Pinol signed an MoU on Food Security and Agricultural Cooperation between Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Depart-

ment of Agriculture of the Philippines in the presence of President U Htin Kyaw and the Philippines President Mr. Rodrigo Duterte.

In the evening, President U Htin Kyaw and First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin hosted a dinner in honour of the delegation led by the Philippine President Mr. Rodrigo Duterte. The dinner was also attended by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Vice Presidents U Myint Swe and

U Henry Van Thio, Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers and officials. At the dinner, President U Htin Kyaw and the Philippine President Mr. Rodrigo Duterte exchanged brief dinner speeches.

After the dinner, Mr. Rodrigo Duterte and party were entertained with music and dance by artistes from the Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.—*Myanmar News Agency*

More domestic visitors going to Viet Nam this Thingyan

FOR those domestic travellers who wish to celebrate Thingyan in another country, Viet Nam seems to be the most popular destination, according to outbound tour operators.

The country has seen significant growth of outbound tourism, tour operators said.

The number of local

travellers who chose Vietnam, a Southeast Asian country on the South China Sea, for an overseas trip has gradually increased, followed by Singapore, an island city-state off of southern Malaysia. In previous years, neighbouring Thailand topped the list of popular outbound trips.

The Viet Nam trip is

relatively inexpensive at about US\$500 compared to other outbound trips. The cost starts approximately \$550 per head. Based on destinations, accommodations and travel period, prices of package tours are different, an official from Nice Style Travel and Tour Company. For those wishing to visit Singapore, a trip

will cost between \$850 to \$1,100 per person.

Viet Nam is known for its beaches, rivers, Buddhist temples and bustling cities. Khai Dinh Tomb, Con Dao Islands, Marble Mountains, Saigon Notre Dame Cathedral and Temple of Literature are popular tourist attractions in Viet Nam.—200

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV MCC JAVA VOY. NO ()

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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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AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

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C-in-C meets Philippine President



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing welcomes Philippine President Mr. Rodrigo R. Duterte. PHOTO: MNA

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met with Philippine President Mr. Rodrigo R. Duterte at Nay Pyi Taw's Horizon Lake View Hotel.

Also present at the meeting together with the Senior General were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe

Win, Chief of the General Staff General Mya Tun Oo and senior military officers while Philippine Secretary of National Defence Mr. Delfin Lorenzana, Philippines Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Alex Chua and other officials were with the Philippine President. In the meeting, discussions were made on security, defence, and anti-drug issues. —Myanmar News Agency

Union Minister for Information meets with Presidential Communications Operations Secretary from Philippines

Dr Pe Myint, Union Minister for Information, met with Mr Jose Ruperto Martin Marfori Andanar, Secretary of Presidential Communications Operations Office of the Philippines, a member of the delegation led by H.E Mr Rodrigo Rao Duterte, the President of the Philippines, at the hall of the Ministry of Information yesterday morning.

In the meeting, there were cordial discussions concerning the implementation of a MoU in the information sector between the Ministry of Information and the Philippines signed in 2013, performances of reformation of the information



Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint (6th from Left) poses for photo with Mr Jose Ruperto Martin Marfori Andanar and members of the delegation. PHOTO: MNA

sector of the Philippines, bilateral cooperation in the sectors of print media, broadcast media and online media. In addition, an invitation was made by the Philippines for responsible officials of the Ministry of Information to attend the

ASEAN meeting to be held in the Philippines and to observe the image of the Philippines and broadcasting media. And matters on exchange of holding workshops on the information sector were discussed.

Present at the meet-

ing were Director-General of MRTV, Director-General of Information and Public Relations Department, Managing Director of the News and Periodicals Enterprise and deputy permanent secretary.

—MNA

Mawlamyine Children's Literary Festival coming soon

THE Children's Literary Festival, Literature Exhibition and Book Bazaar will be held at Mawlamyine University from 9 am until 5 pm on March 25, 26 and 27.

The Literary Festival is organised by the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Education and the Mon State Government, with a vision to sharpen children's intellect and thinking skills, nurture their creativity, expose them to reading as a contented pastime, and

as a fun occasion for children.

The festival will include literature exhibitions and sales of books, 38 recitals, poem recitals, storytelling contests, ad lib contests, colouring contests, paper folding contests, cartoon exhibitions and portrait drawings, painting exhibitions, construction contests, proverb recitals, toy assembly contests, games, literary talks and discussions.

To ensure everyone can happily participate in



Children's Literary Festival in Mandalay attracts large number of children and adults. PHOTO: MNA

the literary festival, posters have been set up to inform the public of the event.

The first literary festival was held in Nay Pyi

Taw on 5 November 2016 and the second one held in Mandalay from 27 to 29 January 2017. —Aung Min Han (Research)

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PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD



Signing ceremony for establishment of sister city relationship between Maehongson and Loikaw. PHOTO: NYAN LIN HTUT (IPRD)



Eradication of illegal poppy fields carried out in Nanlyar and Isant villages in Loikaw. PHOTO: NYAN LIN HTUT (IPRD)



Kayah State Chief Minister U L Phaung Sho visits Htiprunu Cave, a popular tourist attraction in Prusho Township. PHOTO: NYAN LIN HTUT (IPRD)

Kayah State enjoying higher socio-economic status in the time of the new government

Soe Soe Tun (IPRD) and Nandar Win

SITUATED in the east of the country, Kayah State called Ngwetaung Pyi is sharing border with Thailand to the east, Shan State to the north, Kayin State to the south and encircled by Kayin State and Shan State to the west. With an area of 4529.563 square miles, accounting for 1.72 per cent of the country's area, it is a hilly region lying at an altitude of 3000 feet.

Kayah national races

Kayah State is home to a variety of national races such as Bamar, Kayin, Pa-O, Shan, Intha and other tribes apart from Kayah tribe where have been living through thick and thin for ages. Kayah national races made up of Kayah, Kayankadaung (Padaung), Kayankangan (Yinbaw), Kayankedokh (Gaykho), Kayanlahta (Zayein/Kaungto), Kayaw (Paye), Kayahmonu (Manumanaw), Yintale and Gaybar tribes.

With a view to ensuring all-round development of Kayah State, altogether seven ministries formed under the Kayah State government led by the Kayah State Chief Minister have been making relentless efforts towards this end.

Agreement signed

For the emergence of a democratic federal Union, that can only be realized through peace and stability, a total of seven national race armed groups apart from Kayinni Na-

tional Progressive Party-KNPP had signed National Ceasefire Agreement-NCA with the government and are working with local authorities for national and regional development. For Kayinni National Progressive Party-KNPP to be able to sign the NCA, six rounds of meeting were held between the authorities concerned and national race armed groups in the time of the new government.

In the past, movement of foreign tourists has been restricted on the ground of security reasons in Kayah State. Nowadays, ecotourism has been launched extensively in Tanitarle, Panpet, Dawkalawdu and Ngwetaung villages in Demawso township.

Easing of restricted areas

In the past, movement of foreign tourists has been restricted on the ground of security reasons in Kayah State. Nowadays, ecotourism has been launched extensively in Tanitarle, Panpet, Dawkalawdu and Ngwetaung villages in Dimawhso township, and the opening of a border route enables foreign tourists to

have access to wards of Bawlakhe, Phasaung and Mae Se towns. The accessibility of foreign tourists to different parts of the state can be attributed to easing of restricted areas.

Land-rent grants

Under the programme of issuing land-rent grants to each village in each township in Kayah State, a total of 450 land-rent grants had been provided—66 land-rent grants to Mawchisusi village in Loikaw township, 60 to Dawkaleiklin village in Dimawhso township, 52 to Dawnyekhu village in Prusho township, 47 to Salaung village in Shadaw township, 79 to Wanche village in Bawlake township, 72 to Susi village in Phasaung township and 74 to Nanpeinlein village in Mae Se township.

Likewise, Loikaw residents were provided with land-rent grants in accordance with rule and regulations—16 people in Dawookhu ward, 18 people in Dawtama ward, 21 people in Minelon ward and 18 people in Dawnoku ward. A total of seven people's service centres have been opened, and 4441 were provided though the facilities.

Regional development

Altogether 96 work activities including road works, water supply works, health development works and energy security works are being implemented with the use of K 3743.625 million of state funds in the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

SEE PAGE 12 >>



Kayah State Chief Minister U L Phaung Sho observes at traffic rule awarness raised by mobile vehicles. PHOTO: NYAN LIN HTUT (IPRD)



Fire preventive drill of the firefighters. PHOTO: NYAN LIN HTUT (IPRD)



Kayah State Government and KNPP holds meeting. PHOTO: NYAN LIN HTUT (IPRD)

PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD



Photo shows construction of a retaining wall along Thanlwin River. PHOTO: NYAN LIN HTUT (IPRD)



Kayah State Chief Minister U L Phaung Sho sprinkles scented water marking the opening of 500-bed hospital in Loikaw. PHOTO: NYAN LIN HTUT (IPRD)

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The upgrading and tarring of a road section from milepost 129/5 to 132/3 milepost on Mawchi-Dimawhso-Loikaw-Aungban road has been completed with large and small bridges including 240 concrete bridges of under 50 feet and 26 concrete bridges of above 50 feet constructed in the time of the new government.

Town plan

As regards urban development, the Urban and Housing Development Department drew the town plan for Dimawhso, Mae Se and Phasaung towns in the 2016-2017 fiscal year. Under the plan, five staff housings with 60 apartments in Loikaw and two staff housings with 34 apartments in Bawlake are being constructed, and upon completion, altogether 84 staff families will be accommodated.

Meanwhile, two buildings with 32 rooms that have already been built in Pankan village-tract in Loikaw are to be rented to local people who are in grave need of shelters at a monthly fee of K 37200 per room.

Power supply was made through Bawlake sub-power station, Shardaw sub-power station, Phasaung sub-power station, Hoyar sub-power station and Mae Se sub-power station in Kayah State. Consequently, a total of 37 wards and 344 villages have been provided with electricity and continued efforts are being made for the remaining 162 villages to be facilitated with hydroelectric and solar power.

Moreover, roads, bridges and water supply works are being implemented in Demawhso, Prusho and Bawlake townships, utilizing allotted K 99.87 million.

For rural development, emerald green rural development project was initiated in seven townships from the 2014-2015 fiscal year to the 2016-2017 fiscal year with the use of K 2040 million. As a result, agricultural, livestock and trading sectors in the region are making significant progress, fetching K 315.538 million as interest.

Land plot allocation

The Kayah State government reclaimed altogether 200-acre land plots including 50-acre each in Daw Tamagyi and Daw Nyaekhu Villages in Dimawhso Township and 50-acre each in Lewaing and Wambala Villag-

es in Ywathit Town. Steps have been taken to allocate the newly-reclaimed land plots to the landless farmers in cooperation with local administrative body and local people as land reclamation task was completed on 7.3.2017.

The mechanized farmlands were reclaimed in Dawpawkale and Pangkan Villages in Loikaw Township and Phayaphyu and Hteepoekaloh Villages in Dimawhso Township. The land reclamation task is expected to be completed soon and the reclaimed land plots will be allocated to the rightful owners.

Creation of job opportunities

The South Korea-based Daedong Co., Ltd sold agricultural equipments to the farmers in Loikaw, Dimawhso, Prusho, Shadaw and Bawlake Townships. The new schools were built and school furniture provided in the fiscal year 2016-2017 in time of the new government. The Kayah State government organized job fairs by linking with local companies, creating job opportunities for the residents.

The Loikaw People's Hos-

A total of 4,723 tons of teak and 489 tons of hardwood were extracted from Loikaw Township in Kayah State in the financial year 2016-2017.

Antimony mining industry under the No (1) Mining Enterprise was granted to the mining companies in time of the new government. The permitted mining companies are expected to produce 650 metric tons of antimony for the 2016-2017 FY and so

The Kayah State government will undertake regional development tasks in various sectors with the allotted fund in a transparent manner, seeking suggestions from the people. In doing so, the ethnic people and residents must cooperate with the state government.



KBZ Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation donates cash for disaster relief effort in Kayah State. PHOTO: NYAN LIN HTUT (IPRD)

pital was upgraded to a 500-bed facility and construction of new building and provision of medical equipment were carried out using Japanese Yen 1,900 million contributed by the Japanese government.

The state government provided healthcare services to the ethnic people from Kayah State and Southern Shan State as Dimawhso Township Hospital and Nan Melkhon station hospital were opened.

Antimony mining

far, 299 metric tons of antimony was produced.

Seven companies were permitted to operate tin and antimony mining industry under the No (2) Mining Enterprise in Mawchi, Mohsarkhee and Hteelaykhee regions in Kayah State. The estimated production of tin and antimony by the aforementioned companies was 620 metric tons and 202 metric tons of tin and antimony were produced until January 2017.

Farm City

The Kayah State government and IGS Capital Corporation from the South Korea signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish the Kayah State as "Farm City" on 11 November 2016. The International Trade Center (ITC) is providing technical and financial support to the Kayah State government through a three-year project to boost tourism industry in the region. Community-based tourism industry was initiated in Pangpat and Taneelarle Villages, Dimawhso Township and expanded in Dawtamagyi and Htaykho Villages in time of the new government. The Kayah State government earned K 595.7 million and US\$ 57,171 from the tourism industry during one-year period of the new government.

Sister City

In an attempt to strengthen cooperation and amity between Myanmar and Thailand, efforts have been made to establish Loikaw, capital of Kayah State and Mae Hong Son of Thailand as sister cities. The move aimed at benefiting Loikaw and Mae Hong Son cities and promoting economic

in 2016-2017 fiscal year.

Land plot for flood victims

The land plots were reclaimed in Mawchi region, Phasaung Township for the flood victims from 135 households who left their homes due to heavy rain and landslide in 2015. The Kanbawza Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation (BFM) donated K 234.5 million to construct 60 low-cost housings, school and library and to supply sufficient water and adequate electricity for the flood victims. Out of 60 low-cost homes, the 55 housings were handed over to the flood victims through a lucky draw program and a village called "Brighter Future" was opened on 6.6.2016.

Altogether 152 land plots were reclaimed for the flood victims who reside in the danger zone in Lwepwarkho village in Mawchi Township. The 152 flood victims were evacuated from danger zone to the reclaimed land plots. The Kayah State government elected by the people underwent reform processes in political, economic and social sectors during its one-year term.



Kayah State Chief Minister U L Phaung Sho presents cash assistance to a patient. PHOTO: NYAN LIN HTUT (IPRD)

growth for both countries, was approved by the Economic Committee under the Union Government on 5.1.2017.

With a view to eradicating tax-related obstacles, preventing illegal trade and creating job opportunities for the locals, a border trade camp was opened in Mae Se Township, Bawlakhe District on 27.10.2016 to be able to facilitate the border trade between Kayah State and Thailand. Construction of the Mae Se Border Trade Camp was slated to be completed

People's participation

The Kayah State government will undertake regional development tasks in various sectors with the allotted fund in a transparent manner, seeking suggestions from the people. In doing so, the ethnic people and residents must cooperate with the state government.

Only when the ethnic people in Kayah State grasp good opportunities, will peace last in the state and their socioeconomic status improve.

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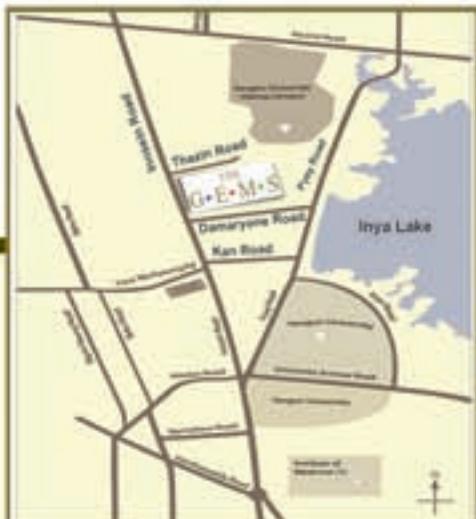
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I now have no problem with anxiety: Zayn Malik

NEW YORK — Singer Zayn Malik says he now has no problem with anxiety and was mainly dealing with it when he was in One Direction.

Although the 24-year-old singer had to cancel some solo performances due to his anxiety last year, he now insists that it was only an issue when he was in One Direction and he has it under control, reported New York Daily News.

“I now have no problem with anxiety. It was something I was dealing with in the band,” Malik says in an interview to Sunday Times Style magazine.

And he believes opening up about his issues with food helped.

“People saw strength in that, and they didn’t seem to expect it from a guy, but they expect it from a female, which to me is crazy. We’re all human. People are often afraid to admit difficulties, but I don’t believe that there should be a struggle with anything that’s the truth.—PTI



Zayn Malik. PHOTO: REUTERS

Kim Kardashian opens up about Paris robbery on reality show

LOS ANGELES — In the latest episode of “Keeping Up With the Kardashians”, Kim Kardashian West tearfully chronicled the events of her Paris robbery as her sisters Khloe and Kourtney sat by her side and listened.

The reality star suffered the most horrific ordeal of her life when a group of armed burglars forced their way into the apartment she was staying at in France five months ago, tied her up and brandished a gun at her while demanding money and making off with USD 10 million worth of jewellery.

For some weeks after the incident, Kim took a break from social media and the spotlight in general to re-evaluate her life and security, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

While recalling the incident, Kim says in the clip, “They asked for money. I said, I don’t have any money. They dragged me out to the hallway on top of the stairs. That’s when I saw the gun, like clear as day.



Kim Kardashian West. PHOTO: REUTERS

“I was kind of looking at the gun, looking down back at the stairs and I was like, I have a split second in my mind to make this quick decision.”

According to Kim, she contemplated escape but realised that there was ultimately nothing she could do to get away from the situation.

“Am I gonna run down the stairs and, like, either be shot in the back... It makes me so upset to think about it but, like, either they’re gonna shoot me in the back or if I make it and they don’t, if the elevator does not open in time or the stairs are locked, then like... There’s no way out.”—PTI

‘Beauty and the Beast’ smashes records with towering \$170 million debut

LOS ANGELES — This is what makes Disney such a powerhouse.

“Beauty and the Beast,” the studio’s latest live action update of a cartoon classic, waltzed its way to a towering \$170 million debut this weekend, setting a new record for a March opening and solidifying the Mouse House’s status as the dominant player in the film business. No other company can match the streak that Disney is currently enjoying, thanks to a series of multi-billion acquisitions that put the likes of Pixar, Marvel, and LucasFilm in its Magic Kingdom.

“Beauty and the Beast” represents another part of Disney’s branded strategy. It’s the latest fairy tale adaptation to hit screens. Others in the lucrative group include “Alice in Wonderland,” which picked up \$1 billion worldwide, “Cinderella” with its \$543.5 million global haul, and last year’s “The Jungle Book,” which racked up a mighty \$966.6 million after finishing its run. Remakes of “Dumbo” and “Mulan” are already in the works, as Disney commits to putting a live action spin on the bulk of its animated properties (Fans of “Treasure Planet” may be out of luck).

The latest fairy tale follows Belle, a bookish girl in France played by Harry Potter film veteran Emma Watson, who helps a tortured Beast (Dan Stevens of “Downton Abbey” fame) break out of his shell. In the process she lifts a curse that’s left the Beast’s kingdom populated by talking



Director of the movie Bill Condon and composer Alan Menken pose with cast members Dan Stevens, Luke Evans, Emma Watson, Josh Gad, Audra McDonald and Gugu Mbatha-Raw at the premiere of “Beauty and the Beast” in Los Angeles, California, US, on 2 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

household items. “Beauty and the Beast” didn’t muck about with the elements that made the 1991 film so beloved. Director Bill Condon kept the basic plot intact, while fleshing out a bit more of Belle’s backstory, and retaining a soundtrack that includes “Be Our Guest” and “Belle.” All those elaborate musical numbers and chatty cutlery don’t come cheap. “Beauty and the Beast” carries a hefty \$160 million budget. It should make that money back manyfold after ticket

sales are tallied and new lines of princess wear are whipped up to satisfy new generations of Belle lovers.

Most major studios steered clear of “Beauty and the Beast.” The only other new release of note, “The Belko Experiment,” debuted to \$4.1 million, which its backers say is success given its model. The film boasts a unique distribution strategy. “The Belko Experiment” opened in 1,341 locations, roughly a third of the theater count

for a major studio offerings. The theaters are chosen because they are more popular with horror fans. Orion, an MGM label, backed the film and is distributing it with BH Tilt. That label is overseen by “The Purge” and “Insidious” producer Blumhouse. It’s trying to find more cost-efficient ways to bring smaller films to the masses. “The Belko Experiment” follows a group of American corporate types, who are locked in a high-rise office in Bogota, Colombia.

They are ordered by a voice on the intercom to kill one another in a gray flannel-version of Social Darwinism.

With “Beauty and the Beast” dominating ticket sales, last weekend’s champ, “Kong: Skull Island,” fell 53% to \$28.8 million. That pushes the monster movie’s domestic haul to \$110.1 million. Warner Bros. and Legendary Entertainment teamed up to produce the remake of King Kong.

Fox’s “Logan” took third place, pulling in \$17.5 million and bringing the R-rated superhero tale’s stateside total to \$184 million. Universal and Blumhouse’s “Get Out,” a thriller about a black man whose girlfriend’s white family holds a sinister secret, nabbed fourth position. It made \$13.2 million, bringing its gross to \$133.1 million. With a budget of \$4.5 million, the film is one of the year’s most profitable. Lionsgate’s “The Shack” rounded out the top five generating \$6.1 million and pushing the faith-based drama’s earnings to over \$42.6 million.

In limited release, “T2 Train-spotting,” a sequel to the 1996 cult comedy about a group of heroin addicts, opened in five locations, earning \$180,000. Ewan McGregor reprises his role as a drug-addict Scot. The actor also has a supporting turn playing Lumiere, a candlestick, in “Beauty and the Beast.” Sony is releasing “T2,” which is heavily geared towards European audiences. The drama has already made \$34 million overseas.—Reuters

Prague's Old-New Synagogue gets first new Torahs since World War Two

PRAGUE — Prague's medieval Old-New Synagogue received two new Torah scrolls on Sunday, the first ones since World War Two shattered the country's once-thriving Jewish community.

The Torahs, funded by donations to the Prague Jewish community, were written in Israel and brought into the synagogue in a ceremony that included scripting of the final letters by guests and members of the community, and a street dance.

"After years when Torahs were being destroyed, burnt ... the community today celebrates with its rabbi a new Torah scroll after many, many years. That is the best expression of the development of the Prague Jewish community," said deputy head of the Jewish Community of Prague, Frantisek Banyai.



Members of the Czech Jewish Community write final words in a new Torah scroll during a ceremony in the medieval Old-New Synagogue in Prague, on 19 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

The Old-New Synagogue is over 700 years old, one of the oldest existing synagogues in Europe. Apart from its significance to the community, it is the main attraction of Prague's Jewish Town, a popular

destination for visitors.

Before World War Two, there were about 125,000 Jews living in what is now the Czech Republic. About 80,000 were killed during the war.

The Czech Federation

of Jewish Communities estimates 15-20,000 Jews live in the Czech Republic now, although only about a quarter is registered with Jewish communities or other Jewish groups. —Reuters

Norway unseats Denmark as world's happiest country — report

NEW YORK — Norway displaced Denmark as the world's happiest country in a new report released on Monday that called on nations to build social trust and equality to improve the wellbeing of their citizens.

The Nordic nations are the most content, according to the World Happiness Report 2017 produced by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), a global initiative launched by the United Nations in 2012.

Countries in sub-Saharan Africa, along with Syria and Yemen, are the least

happy of the 155 countries ranked in the fifth annual report released at the United Nations.

"Happy countries are the ones that have a healthy balance of prosperity, as conventionally measured, and social capital, meaning a high degree of trust in a society, low inequality and confidence in government," Jeffrey Sachs, the director of the SDSN and a special advisor to the United Nations Secretary-General, said in an interview.

The aim of the report, he added, is to provide another tool for governments,

business and civil society to help their countries find a better way to wellbeing.

Denmark, Iceland, Switzerland, Finland, Netherlands, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and Sweden rounded out the top ten countries.

South Sudan, Liberia, Guinea, Togo, Rwanda, Tanzania, Burundi and the Central African Republic were at the bottom.

Germany was ranked 16, followed by the United Kingdom (19) and France (31). The United States dropped one spot to 14.

Sachs said the United

States is falling in the ranking due to inequality, distrust and corruption. Economic measures that the administration of President Donald Trump is trying to pursue, he added, will make things worse.

"They are all aimed at increasing inequality — tax cuts at the top, throwing people off the healthcare rolls, cutting Meals on Wheels in order to raise military spending. I think everything that has been proposed goes in the wrong direction," he explained.

The rankings are based on six factors — per capita gross domestic product, healthy life expectancy, freedom, generosity, social support and absence of corruption in government or business.

"The lowest countries are typically marked by low values in all six variables," said the report, produced with the support of the Ernesto Illy Foundation.

Sachs would like nations to follow United Arab Emirates and other countries that have appointed Ministers of Happiness.

"I want governments to measure this, discuss it, analyze it and understand when they have been off on the wrong direction," he said. —Reuters

Vietnamese capital to pilot automated street parking

HANOI — An automated car parking technology will be piloted on two streets in Viet Nam's capital Hanoi in the second quarter of 2017.

Specifically, the new technology for car parking management will be implemented on downtown Ly Thuong Kiet and Tran Hung Dao streets, reported Viet Nam's state-run news agency VNA on Monday.

Under the project, surveillance cameras will be installed at the parking lots, recording the number of vehicles, their parking duration and the number of parking slots available. The information will be relayed to a data processing centre.

A sensor device will be attached to the camera poles to read electronic

parking cards and record vehicles' information, such as license number, vehicle type, time-in and time-out.

Parking fees will be calculated based on parking duration, which vehicle parkers can pay in cash or via bank transfer.

The project is part of efforts to improve urban order by monitoring the number of vehicles using parking lots and preventing the lack of transparency in collecting parking fees, said Nguyen Duc Chung, chairman of Hanoi People's Committee.

There are currently some 1,100 parking lots in the city, and 200 of these operate on the roads with people watching the vehicles and collecting fees. —Xinhua



Yachts are parked outside City Hall in Oslo, on 11 December 2012. PHOTO: REUTERS

Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(21-3-2017 07:00am ~ 22-3-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Those Who Never Give Up (Ep-6)-In Pursuit of a dream
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Myanmar Martial Art (EP-1) (Bando)
08:45	Am	Impressionist Myanmar Master Artist — U Lun Gywe
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	The Strokes of Myanmar
09:52	Am	Today Myanmar: CBT in Myaing Township
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Development Momentum of Sittway
10:44	Am	The Beauty In The North of Myanmar

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Monday 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	A Day Out With Sarah (EP-5)
07:52	Pm	Soft Drinks without Vendor
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Taste of Myanmar (Rice Salad with Vegetables)
08:45	Pm	Living in Off-Season

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Monday 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)

Mourinho would prefer Europa League glory to top-four finish



Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho said he would rather win the Europa League this season than finish in the top four of the Premier League, even if his side will be fighting their hardest to do both.

United, who won the League Cup last month, moved up to fifth in the league, four points behind fourth-placed Liverpool, with a 3-1 league win at Middlesbrough on Sunday. They face Anderlecht next month in the Europa League quarter-finals.

“If I can choose, I will choose the Europa League rather than to finish fourth because it gives us the same – Champions League football,” the 54-year-old told the club website.

“It is a trophy, it is prestige, it is Europe and it means playing a European Super Cup fixture next year.”

The Portuguese manager acknowledged the importance of a top-four finish but said the club’s

rivals had a distinct advantage in not having to campaign on both European and domestic fronts heading into the final stretch of the season.

“I know Chelsea, Tottenham, Liverpool, Arsenal, Manchester City do not play in Europe, they only have one match per week,” he added.

“But we are going to fight like we did (against Middlesbrough).” —Reuters

‘I will soon get over my disappointment’ — Liverpool’s Klopp

LONDON — Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp said that the “little disappointment” he felt after losing a lead in Sunday’s 1-1 Premier League draw at Manchester City will have given way to satisfaction with a point by Monday.

In a game of many chances and a number of controversies over penalty decisions, either side could easily have won, as Klopp agreed.

“Maybe it’s OK, but I’m not happy in this moment,” he told Sky Sports.

“Give me a few hours and then I’m happy. To get a point at Manchester City for (any) team in the world is absolutely OK.”

“There were a few situations where we couldn’t defend their quality. We could have won this game, because we forced the goalkeeper into a few outstanding saves.

“We had three or four open goals in the six yard box. They had their moments too.”

The result left Liverpool in fourth place, 13 points behind leaders Chelsea and a point adrift of third-placed City.

Klopp agreed with the general view that it was a fine match in difficult wet conditions.

“A lot of good football from two highly motivated sides, both wanted to win until the last seconds,” he added. —Reuters

City hit back to earn a draw with Liverpool

LONDON — Manchester City had to come from behind to hold Liverpool 1-1 as both teams lost ground in the Premier League following victories for Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur.

City, in third place, stayed a point ahead of the Merseysiders with a game in hand thanks to Sergio Aguero’s equalising goal.

Knocked out of the Champions League by Monaco in midweek, City fell behind when full back Gael Clichy conceded a penalty six minutes after half-time and James Milner scored from the spot against his old club.

Liverpool, who had come into the game more after a slow start, were pegged back 18 minutes later when Aguero scored from Kevin de Bruyne’s fine low cross.

In a game that had been expected to produce plenty of goals, City made the better chances early on, with Simon Mignolet having to push De Bruyne’s low cross-shot round a post and then stopping Leroy Sane’s effort with his feet, David Silva blasting the rebound carelessly over the bar.

Liverpool’s most optimistic moment in the first half an hour was when Sadio Mane felt he was tripped by Nicolas Otamendi in the penalty area.

It was one of number of strong penalty appeals by both sides, City claimed one next as Milner appeared to catch Raheem Sterling.

Towards halftime Liverpool came into the game more, Willy Caballero sav-

ing from Adam Lallana and Roberto Firmino.

They continued to make the better chances after the interval and were rewarded on the hour.



Clichy bundled into Firmino from behind and the reliable Milner calmly converted his seventh successful penalty of the season.

Shortly afterwards Firmino should have doubled the lead when sent clear by Philippe

Coutinho’s pass but Caballero raced out to save.

City improved as they sought an equaliser which came as Aguero beat Ragnar Klavan to De Bruyne’s perfect cross.

De Bruyne, who had been moved to the right flank in a tactical switch by Pep Guardiola, then hit a post and Aguero missed a good chance, but so did Lallana for the visitors.

“It was an intense game and both sides went for it,” Milner told Sky Sports.

“We are disappointed that when we have been up we have not got three points, but a draw was fair in the end.

“It is not the easiest of days coming here, so we can’t be too disappointed with a point.” —Reuters