

■ NATIONAL

Paddy husk-fired power plant opened in Nay Pyi Taw

► PAGE 3

■ LOCAL BUSINESS

Fuel oil importers to request Ministry to review invitation of FDI

► PAGE 4



■ NATIONAL

Performances in one-year period of Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and Bago Region Government

► PAGES 5+6,11+12

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. III, No. 342, 12<sup>th</sup> Waning of Taboung 1378 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Friday, 24 March 2017

## Sagaing Region needs to boost transport, electricity



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addresses in coordination meeting between ministries and Sagaing Region Government at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has stressed the need to improve the transport and electricity infrastructures in Sagaing Region to be able to attract foreign investments in the region.

“There is weakness in the transport and electricity sectors in Sagaing Region. It is necessary to assess why these happened. We need to find out which sector out of the two, planning or implemen-

tation, has weaknesses,” she said at a work coordination meeting between Sagaing Region Government and Ministries concerned while discussing about a small-scale hydro power plant project and improvement of the transport sector at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Present at the meeting were Union Ministers Dr. Aung Thu, U Ohn Win, U Pe Zin Tun, U Kyaw

Win and U Win Khaing, Chief Minister of Sagaing Region Dr. Myint Naing, Deputy Minister U Min Thu and responsible officials.

In her speech, the State Counsellor underlined the great importance of coordinating with the Union Government in attempts to seek ways for overcoming the region’s current challenges, pledging to assist the region, which lags behind in development compared to

other regions and states.

Afterward, Dr. Myint Naing, Chief Minister of Sagaing Region, presented a briefing on transport and the present availability of power supply, needs and problems, arrangements for drawing up a plan for the development of the transport and electricity sectors and matters to be implemented further.

SEE PAGE 3 >>

**Sagaing Region sees weakness in the transport and electricity sectors.**

## Conspiracy to launch armed attack in Maungtaw District foiled



Mawlawi Adulamein.

ATTEMPTS to carry out violent attacks in Maungtaw District have been foiled and suspects arrested for attending terrorist training, according to statements released by the State Counsellor’s Office Information Committee yesterday.

Acting on information that a group of suspicious looking men had been near the village of Tinn May in the Taung Bazar region

of Buthidaung township, border guard police forces carried out an area clearance operation in the evening of 7 March, discovering a dwelling house and three small huts in the gorges nearby. Upon searching the gorges, Mawlawi Adulamein, 32, of Kyaungtaung village and Mamed Zubai, 20, of Tinn May village were discovered and interrogated.

Upon interrogation, Ma-

med Zubai said that he went to Mezaligone to make a phone call to his uncle living in Bangladesh as the Mezaligone had a better internet connection. For illegal use of a SIM card, he was charged under the law of Import/Export Law, it is learnt.

According to Adulamein’s statement, he had attended terrorist training. Marsaung, a teacher appointed by the village living in

the 3rd ward of Tinn May village, was involved in the Kyikanpyin armed attack and escaped into Bangladesh to attend armed attack training. He brought five men living in the Kuluparlung refugee camp to conduct armed attack training in the second week of February 2017 to Tinn May village, Buthidaung township.

SEE PAGE 2 >>



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်



## Professionals of JICA Discuss at Dental Institute, Yangon

DELEGATION Led by Izumi Ohno Izumi, professor of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) arrived at the dental institute, Yangon, studying and assessing the matters related to the development of dentures work skill training school at the institute. It is learnt that matters concerning prospects of cooperation of future education were discussed. —*Myanmar News Agency*

## Conspiracy to launch armed attack in Maungtaw District foiled

>> FROM PAGE 1

Marsaung organized Rawfi, Shaungshoo Arlong, Mawlawi Adukawrein, Mawlawi Marmauk (a) Inus, saying that everyone was responsible to take part in demanding for human rights by means of armed attacks.

Mawlawi Adukawrein and Mawlawi Marmauk told people in the village to support them with money. They received money from Abularshein, Raman, Mawlawi Isu, Norarmein, Mawlawi Marsaung, Marmauk Rawfi, Zarbay, Rawfi, Mawlawi Lobby, Mawlawi Nurarlarmein, Mawlawi Adukawrein and others.

Then they organised 36 trainees to conduct armed attack lectures on 1 March, saying that each trainee would be paid K3,000 per day.

Rawfi, Harbat Seerar, and Shaungshoo Ahlong have been found to have recruited trainees for the indoctrination and action is being taken against them under the Unlawful Association Act.

During the interrogation, Abularshein confessed that he provided Ks100,000 to Mawlawi Sauli Mullah and Norarmein and Ks100,000 to Malawi Mamauk (a) Al Sud to spend during the terrorist training.

Acting on information that other people who provided cash assistance to violent attackers were hiding in the mountains near Tinmay Village, security forces searched the area and arrested 13 suspects.

After interrogation, the police disclosed that out of the 13 suspects, six, namely Sauli Mullah, Adu Rawkein, Kayphar Mullah, Mammud, Adu Salam and Adu Yawshi, had been attending the terrorist training and that the remaining suspects were under interrogation for further information.

The local police are making arrangements to send the suspects to the court.

According to the interrogation, the suspects had a plan to return to their villages after completing the training equipped with arms from a neighbouring country to attack the border outposts.

They also confessed that plans were made to open terrorist training sites at Tinn May, Ngamyinbaw, Yinma Kyauktaw and Innchaw Badana villages. They were arrested while attending the first training session at Tinmay Village, according to the State Counsellor's Office Information Committee. —*Myanmar News Agency*



Evidences seized from the suspects.

PHOTO: STATE COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE INFORMATION TEAM

# Tatmadaw Troops occupy MNDAA's outposts

THE forces of the Tatmadaw have occupied outposts of MNDAA armed group on border area with China.

The Tatmadaw released an information yesterday and said that its troops occupied the outposts between BP 126 and BP 127, Point 1052 hill.

MNDAA armed groups attacked Tatmadaw camps, police force and civilian targets at Laukkai in the early morning of March 6, taking the strong hold on the hills, which were restricted areas for the government troops to give aerial backup. Upon receipt of the news in advance, the government troops managed to fight against the armed groups. So, their attacks met with failure in the fighting for occupying Laukkai, and they attacked again on the defensive, firing 107 mm launchers into Laukkai.

Tatmadaw troops as well, fought against the armed groups for the peace and stability in



Map shows MNDAA's outposts occupied by the forces of the Tatmadaw. PHOTO: MNA

Laukkai and along the border area starting from 8 March, re-occupying point 1269 hillock, on March 15, point 1052 on March 16 and point 1088 on March 17.

From March 6 till the last time of occupying the hillocks,

28 bodies, 59 various kinds of firearms, ammunition and accessories, more than 130000 tablets of amphetamines were seized, with some members of the Tatmadaw killed and some wounded, said the statement. —*GNLM*

## Japan grants US\$ 18,369 fro four fire engines

Mr. Tateshi HIGUCHI, Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar, and U Kyi Win, Director, Chief of Yangon Regional Fire Services Department, signed the grant contract for "the Project for Strengthening of Myanmar Fire Services Department in Yangon Region" today. Japan's Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGP) scheme covers the cost of US\$ 18,369 for shipping four fire engines donated by Japan-Myanmar Political and Economic Development Association.

With the rapid population growth in Yangon Region, the number of fires has been increasing recently. Fire disasters cause huge damage on not only people lives in Yangon but also their properties and hinder the momentum of Myanmar's development. To tackle this issue, the project will provide four fire engines to Myanmar Fire Services Department, Ministry of Home Affairs, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (MFSD).

The life-saving activities of



Japanese Ambassador Mr. Tateshi Higuchi and Yangon Region Fire Services Department's Chief U Kyi Win sign the grant contract.

MFSD will be more effective through the implementation of the project. Moreover, MFSD will be also able to respond quickly and effectively to disasters, utilizing the vehicles. This is expected to be of great assistance in creating a safe living environment for the people and to contribute to the urban development of Myanmar.

The Government of Japan

has assisted 822 various grass-roots projects in Myanmar under the GGP scheme since 1993: the number consists of 400 education projects, 199 healthcare projects, 138 public welfare and environment projects, 50 infrastructure projects and 35 other projects. It is anticipated that these assistances will further strengthen the existing friendly relations between Japan and Myanmar. —*GNLM*

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe and wife Dr Daw Nang Kham Mai are welcomed by Ambassador of Pakistan to Myanmar Mr Ehsan Ullah Batth and wife on their arrival at the reception to mark the National Day of Pakistan in Yangon on 23 March, 2017. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT (MNA)





# Paddy husk-fired power plant opened in Nay Pyi Taw

VICE President U Henry Van Thio attended the opening of a paddy husk-powered plant held in the compound of the Myanmar Agribusiness Public Corporation (MAPCO) in Maezaligon Village, Pinyinmana Township yesterday morning.

At the ceremony, Union Minister Dr Aung Thu said that the demand for electricity in Myanmar is estimated to increase to 3,100 megawatts in 2017, meaning 244 megawatts of power are still needed. The government's current electricity generation capacity is only 2,856 megawatts. The rural areas will have access to electricity if the paddy husk-fired plants are built in the areas where many rice mills are located. He pledged that the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation would provide necessary assistance for similar projects in accordance with rules and regulations.

Paddy husks are the hard protective coverings of grains of rice that are removed during processing. In addition to protecting rice during the growing season, rice hulls can be put to use as building materials, fertilizer, insulation material, or fuel.

Chairman of MAPCO U Chit Khaing said that the electricity generated by the power plant will be used in operating rice mills under MAPCO and steps will be taken to distribute surplus electricity to nearby areas. Matters on generating power and reducing environmental impact were clarified in detail by officials from Yanmar, the Japanese company that manufactures diesel engines and rice-planting machines.

Union Ministers Dr. Aung Thu and Dr. Than Myint, MAPCO Chairman U Chit Khaing and officials from Yanmar cut the ribbon to formally open the paddy husk-powered plant. The



Vice President U Henry Van Thio visits the husk-fired power plant in Pinyinmana. PHOTO: MNA

Vice President and party unveiled the stone plaque of the plant and sprinkled scented water on it, a Myanmar tradition. The Vice President also toured the inside of the plant and heard reports on working processes presented by the officials.

Arrangements are being made to construct paddy husk-fired power plants in Ayeyawady, Bago, Sagaing and Yangon Region. It is learnt that construction of a paddy husk-fired power plant in Kyaitlat Township which is expected to generate 2.2 mega-

watts of electricity in Ayeyawady Region is 99 per cent complete. The newly inaugurated paddy husk-fired plant constructed with the use of state-of-the-art technology from Japan will be capable of generating 0.5 megawatts of electricity.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## National Security Adviser attends BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs Meeting



NATIONAL Security Advisor to the Union Government attended the first annual meeting of the BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs Meeting held on 21 March 2017 at New Delhi, India.

The meeting was attended by the delegations from BIMSTEC member states: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Indian National Security Advisor Shri Ajit Doval presided the meeting and the meeting discussed sharing information and establishing contact points between regional

security agencies and enhancing co-operation in the area of counter-terrorism, cyber security and maritime security.

After the meeting, Indian Prime Minister Mr. Modi met with the National Security Chiefs of BIMSTEC member states. In addition, Myanmar delegation leader U Thaung Tun met with Deputy National Security Advisor of India, Dr. Arvind Gupta at the sidelines of the meeting and discussed bi-lateral co-operation between Myanmar and India.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## MPs discuss New Yangon City project

Ko Moe

SPECIFICS on the New Yangon City project were discussed at the 2nd Yangon Region Hluttaw 4th Regular Meeting yesterday.

In the coming 2017-2018 fiscal year, priority will be given to the New Yangon City project, but it is being advised that details of the project should be submitted in full to the Region's Hluttaw before initiating its development.

"I agree with the policies on the new city development plan for Yangon, but there is a change in the way of investment for the plan's development. Representatives should know who is investing where, who is contributing to which sector, and which part of the plan will be initiated first," said Daw Sandar Min from Seik-kyi/Khanaungtho constituency (1).

This was part of a discussion by six Hluttaw representatives on the 2017-2018 Bill concerning Regional Development Plan

for Yangon. It is reported that 51 per cent of the investment will be made by the Region's government and 49 per cent by Construction Businesses, forming a public company for the project's achievement.

"The Regional Government and businesses should specify to the Hluttaw about which sector they will be involved in. There will be losses if the government is unable to manage business and this will result in loss of the national budget. It is not natural for the government to include a business person in the board of directors because the government is unable of managing business," said Daw Sandar Min.

A number of Hluttaw representatives voiced their opinions that the regional government should only carry out a project if there is firm evidence of the possibility for success.

"The latest news is that there will be investment by the regional government and new companies

as well as three companies from the previous government administration. They should really submit the full details for the project instead of giving us unclear reports after some progress has been made. We cannot do anything with inadequate information," said Yangon Region Hluttaw representative U Kyaw Zayya from Dagon constituency (2).

The New Yangon City project was added after Yangon Region Minister for Planning and Finance U Myint Thaung submitted the Bill for Yangon Regional Project in 2017-2018 Fiscal Year at the 2nd Yangon Region Hluttaw on March 20. The project's location is the 7,200 hectares of land on the opposite shore of Tontay, Kyimyindine and Seik-kyi/Khanaungtho townships. The three companies already listed are Yangon North-West Region Development Company, Shwe Poppa International Construction and Business Capital City Development Ltd.

## Sagaing Region needs to boost transport, electricity

>> FROM PAGE 1

In addition, U Win Khaing, Union Minister, spoke of the projects to be implemented for communication improving Sagaing Region—Thetkaelgyin-Phaungpyin- Homemalin-Khamti Road, Kantbalu-Kyunhla-Chatthin-Kawlin-Wuntho-Indaw Road, Monywa-Yargyi-Kalewa Road, Ye-U-Kalewa Road, Homema-

lin-Ketthar-Aung Zeya-Myo-thit, Tamu Road, Leshi-Htanparswe-Lahe, Namyum-Pansaung Road, Namyum-Shinpweyam Road, Khamti-Pharlamone-Tarmakham-Nyaungbin Road, Tamu-Sittaung-Phaungpyin Road and Mopainglwe-Yannway Road, according to the order of priority.

U Pe Zin Tun, Union Minister, explained matters for increas-

ing sold units of power in respective financial years starting from 2011-2012, availability of power in villages and towns of the regions and states and remaining villages and towns to be supplied, power consumption up to 2016-2017, targeted projects to be implemented in the financial year 2018-2019, natural resources which had been surveyed for light hydro-power

plant, and arrangements for solar power plants in cooperation with domestic and overseas organizations.

Then Union Minister U Kyaw Win explained matters of finance, after which Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu explained the sharing of agricultural knowledge for farmers in the region to earn more income.

After that Daw Aung San Suu

Kyi gave her comments and advice based on what had been presented, emphasizing that the Region Cabinet needed to promptly implement the projects after drawing up plans for the development of the transport and electricity sectors which are in great need, in consultation with the Union Government and related ministries.—*Myanmar News Agency*



# LOCAL Business

## Fuel oil importers to request Ministry to review invitation of FDI



A worker fills a car with fuel at a petrol station in Yangon on 21 March 2017. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

FUEL oil importers and distributors are reported to have requested that the Ministry of Planning and Finance review the invitation of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to the local fuel oil market, according to Myanmar Fuel Oil Importers and Distributors Association.

The association and its members met at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) on 21st March in order to discuss the matter that foreign petrol stations are gearing up to enter domestic market, Union Minister U Kyaw Win said on 18th March at the

meeting with the chairman of the Myanmar Investment Commission and Foreign Business Communities.

Currently, Myanmar's fuel oil market is exclusively held by Myanmar citizens. The prices offered by local petrol stations remained on the rise despite the drop in international fuel oil market. The Planning and Finance Ministry will allow foreign investors to invest in the local fuel oil market in order to have better quality, service and prices for local consumers, said U Kyaw Win.

The steady increase of the fuel oil price in the domestic market was attributed to inadequate

capital, indirect import of fuel oil from abroad, the high tax rate and transportation charges, said those engaged in petrol stations.

"We need to see first whether the local petrol stations have the competency of market if the foreigners are allowed to invest in local fuel oil business, because the local sellers might meet the difficulties and challenges", said U Win Myint, the secretary of the Myanmar Fuel Oil Importers and Distributors Association.

The Ministry of Electricity and Energy has granted licenses for over 2,000 private petrol stations.—*Ko Htet*

## Nearly 1.5 million tonnes of rice exported as of mid March

THE volume of rice exports as of the middle of March was up against that of last year, with nearly 1.5 million tonnes of rice shipped to foreign partners.

Concerted efforts are being exerted by government and private sectors in a bid to boost the rice export volume up to 2 million tonnes in the next fiscal year, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation.

China is the main buyer of Myanmar's rice, and the rice exports mainly go through border trade rather than the normal trade. Myanmar is currently in discussions with China about

having a quota of 100,000 tonnes of rice through normal trade. With concerted efforts exerted by the government and private sectors, rice and broken rice included in agricultural products attained new international markets like Africa, shipping around 600,000 tonnes of rice to the foreign trade partners through normal trade.

The country's export sector is depending more on the agriculture and industrial products of small and medium sized enterprises, while lessening its reliance on natural resources such as natural gas, jade. The export

of natural gas and the crude oil was battered by the low price.

The export from 1st April to 10th March this FY fetched US\$10.65 billion, which is up by over US\$400million when compared to that in the similar period of last FY, with export values of US\$2.65 bil from agricultural products, US\$ 9.198mil from animal products, US\$525.986mil from marine products, US\$865.865mil from minerals, US\$220.457mil from forest products, US\$ 4.94 bil from industrial finished materials and US\$1.43 bil from other products.—*Mon Mon*

## Myanmar-Thailand border trade value up by over US\$ 200 million

THE trade value on the Myanmar-Thailand border from 1st April to 10th March this Fiscal Year 2016-2017 increased by US\$206.448million when compared to that in the similar period of last FY, according to the statistics of the Commerce Ministry.

Myanmar-Thailand border trade value as of 10th March this FY hit US\$ 1.24 billion, which was up from US\$ 1.03 billion last FY. The trade between Myanmar and Thailand is flowing in and out of seven border trade camps: Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Htee Khee, Maw Taung and Maese.

Out of the seven border trade camps, Kawthoung and Htee

Khee showed a slight decrease in trade value compared to the previous year. The remaining trade camps managed to boost border trade this year. The trade values as of 10th March this FY were US\$ 71.972 mil in Tachilek, US\$ 845.458 mil in Myawady, US\$ 117.675 mil in Kawthoung, US\$ 188.129 mil in Myeik, US\$ 11.367 mil in Htee Khee, US\$ 2.902 mil in Mawtaung and US\$ 0.330 mil in Maese.

Myanmar exported agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and industrial finished goods whereas capital goods, raw industrial materials and personal goods were imported into the country.—*Mon Mon*

## Rubber yield in Mon State dropped by 25 per cent this year

Despite the good price, rubber production in Mon State this year was found to have declined by 25 per cent compared to last year, said the chairman of the Mon State Rubber Planters and Producers Association.

Rubber farm owners were faced with a shortage of skilled labourers, forcing them to hire inexperienced workers from other regions. Additionally, old rubber trees, of which there are many, cannot produce much latex.

Also, rubber farmers battered by the low price over the past four years cut down many trees and sold the wood, resulting in a decreased number of rubber trees.

This year, rubber prices hit a high of Ks1,200 to Ks1,300 per pound. As a result of the appealing price, the rubber growers who were forced to suspend their business due to the low price resumed their businesses this year.

During this Fiscal Year, rubber trees were planted on 15,500 acres in Ye Township, 81,000 acres in Kyaikmaraw, 70,100 acres in Thanbyuzayat, 60,000 acres in Mudon, 35,000 acres in Kyaikto, 45,000 acres in Thaton, 21,200 acres in Bilin, 17,000 acres in Paung, 2,225 acres in Mawlamyine and 5,926 acres in Chaungzon in Mon State.—*Tin Hlaing (Meiktila)*

## Stock trading on YSX rose, fetched nearly Ks 9 billion

STOCK trading on Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) has risen, fetching nearly Ks9billion, according to the statistics of YSX.

With the debut of First Private Bank on YSX, stock trading in the first and second month of this year hit over Ks6billion. There are currently four listed companies trading on YSX; First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thalawa Special Holdings Limited (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB) and First Private Bank (FPB).

The shares of First Myanmar Investment were traded with fluctuating prices commencing from



end of Feb. The values of stock trading during March reached over Ks2.7billion.

A total of 33,349 shares valued at Ks 191,544,800 were traded on 23rd March 2017, with 2,342 shares from FMI, 29,790 shares from MTSH, 319 shares from MCB and 898 shares from FPB. The shares prices at the closing time were Ks 16,500 for FMI, Ks 4,100 for MTSH, Ks 9,100 for MCB and Ks 310,000 for FPB.—*Ko Htet*



# Performances in One-Year Period

## We Will Cooperate For Renewal Of Agricultural Sector

July Moe (Myanma Ahlin)

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has been making its effort for the development of the production of various foods which are health-risk-proof and nutritious, agricultural produce and livestock breeding products, by applying modernized and sustainable production techniques, package systems and marketing strategies, with a view to supplying demands from home and abroad, it is learnt.

### Taking Lesson

The agriculture is a reliable source of food for people. Taking lessons from advantages and disadvantages encountered by previous regimes, the incumbent government is emphatically carrying out projects and plans that will be beneficial in the long run, for people. It is believed that those will work well in future, though those projects and plans do not yet show good potential at present.

70% of the populace in the country are living in rural areas, eking out their living on farming. Farmers in the agro-based rural areas are suffering losses due to droughts and floods. 30% or so, of gross domestic product (GDP), has been received from the agricultural sector; it has been found out that benefits for them are very small and their socio-economic status is very low.

The Ministry has performed the task of drawing a new policy on the agricultural sector; one of those to be reformed during one-year-period, it is learnt.

### Efforts for enjoying benefits

There include in the new policy, such tasks as—making agriculture, livestock breeding

and production broaden, making incomes of small-scale farmers improve, producing foods that are health-risk proof and nutritious for people, exporting agricultural produce more than ever, by linking with international markets, developing socio-economic lives of rural populace and long-lasting survival of the development.

Its expectations are to make the emergence of agricultural production system that can compete with international countries and to lift up the socio-economic lives of rural people and to develop the country's economy, as much as possible.

It is learnt that tasks to be performed will be implemented in the tenure of the new government, by designating 9 goals, with 11 aims laid down not to lose sight of the goals and 10 policies to keep surveillance of the aims.

Drawing “the bill on amend-

ment of the land law,” 2012, drawing “the bill on the amendment of the management law on vacant and virgin land,” 2012, having sent “the bill on the amendment of the land law” to the Office of Union Attorney-General for the second time for scrutiny, having submitted “the bill on the amendment of the management law on vacant and virgin land” to the President’s Office, having issued form 7 to 53941 farmers, 109572 land owners and form 7 for 241758 acreage of land have already been carried out, that is, 91.95% of total target.

### Digital Map

Surveying land for accuracy of data on land, purchases of modernized land surveying equipments to give more accurate digital maps were carried out and a total of 7229 fields were managed to be surveyed in the fiscal year 2016-2017.

Trainings had been conducted for officials and staff taking responsibilities of surveying land to assess revenue

to be well convinced of laws, rules, regulations, orders and instructions.

For various reasons, soil quality of farming land in some areas had been found to have deteriorated day after day. Experts note that loss of soil quality across the world including Myanmar is mainly attributed to floods and erosions. In some areas, there was water shortage for growing crops.

### Having Solved

A total of 4196 irrigation channels had been implemented for getting water in farming to solve the problems. So, it had been arranged to irrigate about 11, 00000 acres of farming land, about 12.34000 acres of monsoon paddy, nearly 9.50000 acres of summer paddy and 400000 or so acres of other crops as a result of above-said 4196 irrigation channels. Accomplishment of preparedness against natural disasters resulted in the protection of 26, 00000 acres of farming lands and dwelling places

from being flooded.

Mone-Chaung, Man-Chaung and Kyee-Ohn Kyee-Wa reservoirs in Magway Region were damaged by floods in 2015. But management to repair damaged parts of their sluice gates led to successful irrigation to farming lands.

### ODA Loan From Japan

Irrigating systems of North Nawin Dam, South Nawin Dam, We-Gyi Dam and Taung-Nyo Dam are being upgraded with the ODA loan from Japan, having managed to irrigate about 97160 acres.

Water-Pumping Projects—Ayartaw 2, Myit-Pauk in Sagaing Region and Tat-Ywa water pumping project were upgraded by changing from use of diesel oil to the use of electric power. And, Hti-taw-moe in Mandalay Region, Nome-Poh and Sinphyu-Okseik in Magwe Region and Dhamma-tha water pumping projects could be implemented.

SEE PAGE 6 >>



Officials from Livestock Breeding Department are observing the nature of turtles along the sea shore. PHOTO: MNA

Surveying land for accuracy of data on land, purchases of modernized land surveying equipments to give more accurate digital maps were carried out and a total of 7229 fields were managed to be surveyed in the fiscal year 2016-2017.



Implementation of the road development in Demawhso Township within 100-day plan of the government. PHOTO: MNA



## PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD



Technicians are testing and screening of the viruses under controlled environment at Antibiotics and Virus Diagnostic Lab Department. PHOTO: MNA



Villagers are volunteering for building a new pavement for their village. PHOTO: MNA



The official from Agriculture Department is explaining better methods for growing organic plants to local people at Nwe Ni village. PHOTO: MNA



Better GMO cultivation method is being used in local farms. PHOTO: MNA



Gently-modified fishes are being bred nation wide. PHOTO: MNA

### >> FROM PAGE 5

#### Pilot Project

In 11 Regions and States, 1069 artesian wells for growing water and 139 artesian wells for drinking water had been sunk. At the village of Anauk-Palin, Nyaung-U township in Mandalay Region, distribution of water for growing was carried out as a pilot project, by using Drip Irrigation System from 8-inch-tube artesian well.

Due to climate changes, Regions and States saw much ruin of crops. At those places, pedigree seeds are being sold to farmers by agricultural department for high-yields of crops. There were, according to statistic, 15.24 million acres of growing land, over 15 million acres of harvested land, 73.32 baskets yield per acre, and total produce of 1099 million baskets. And, out of 1.89 million acres for summer paddy, 26369 acres had been harvested. There amounted to 1.96 million baskets at 74.9 baskets per acre.

#### Discovery from Research

According to research, 2 new types of paddy (flood-proof 3 & 90 days), new type of wheat (Yesin wheat—11) and new type of mung bean (Yesin Mung bean7) were discovered. It is learnt that discoveries were reported to committee for seed qualification.

Seed-producer associations were formed, comprising of 308 farmers from 206 townships, launching to create 10561 acres of producing seeds. Agricultural Institute of Falam in Chin State was opened, teaching 176 students, it is learnt.

3 discussions were held for Geographical Indication of Shwebo-Pawzan), forming a committee for intellectual property rights. Research works are being carried out under the 19 projects in cooperation with international organizations. It managed to grow 334.22 acres of paddy, 79.81 acres of corn and maize, 236 acres of oil crops and 256.64 acres of variety of beans.

16 Ph.D degree holders, 30 M.Agr.Sc, 20 B.Agr.Sc, 14 PGD and 49 junior researchers were managed to have graduated from universities of home and abroad. They have been sent to foreign workshops, whereas 16 workshops had been held in the country. 427 comprising of staff, farmers and company personnel were given training on seed production.

#### Unhygienic foods

Most of the people are suffering from diseases due to consumption of unhygienic foods. Only if systematic management of the chains from growing level to selling level, will consumers be able to get crops that can guarantee.

For farmers, GAPs are being delivered through training and educative talks, leaflets are also being given out as a campaign of sharing knowledge.

In implementing GAP, growing 30 kinds of crops in accord with GAP, giving training to farm-

ers for spreading knowledge, arrangement for farmers themselves to come to study were carried out.

#### GAP Certificate

The department of agriculture has been arranging to issue GAP certificates, besides mangoes, 14 other kinds of crops.

100 villages from 9 regions and states were selected as pilot ideal villages. According to Rural Development of Korea, a project of new village movement, "Myanmar Saemaul-Undong" with the US \$ 22 million subsidy from KOICA for 5 years is being implemented. At the same time, for farmers across the nation to be answered about problems encountered in growing crops, Call Center was opened at Occice No. 43, agricultural department, as of 1/3/2017.

#### Right to purchase as desired

Strategies are being laid down to transform from manual farming to mechanized farming. To do so, modernized machinery

## Due to climate changes, Regions and States saw much ruin of crops. At those places, pedigree seeds are being sold to farmers by agricultural department for high-yields of crops.

used in agricultural works can purchase just paying 10% of the value with no need to invest a lot through a bank loan system. The buyer is to pay 16% of the value every 6 months, for six times, thus paying all for 7 times within 3 years. This can remove the problem of labour shortage, helping farmers to help agriculturally used machineries. 182 tractors were distributed to farmers in the financial year 2016-2017. Department of Mechanized Agriculture has been producing and installing Myanmar's environment-friendly groove mowers for farmers.

Groups of tractors had created embankment dykes for 10200 acres out of flooded fields in Kalay township and made ground level smooth and flat.

4042 acres of mud-covered growing land in 7 villages of Kalay township and 3855 acres in 2016 were also done. Early this year, 2817 acres of winter crops, sunflower, groundnut and other crops were successfully grown.

#### Rental system of machines

In the financial year 2016-2017, 885000 acres of ploughing, 42000 acres of harvesting, 7000 acres of planting—934000 acres in total were done through rent-

al system by the Department of Mechanized Agriculture.

Good Animal Husbandry Practices—GAHP were drawn depending upon international and ASEAN Practices. 4 townships from Kyaukse districts, 3 from Meiktila district and one from Myingyan district—8 in all were selected to collect head of animal as pilot areas.

Conserving natural resources in freshwater and salty water is being cooperated linking with SEAFDEC, FFI & FAO, and it was recorded that 69 Ayeyawady Dolphins were found. And, certificate for acknowledgement of conserving sea turtles (Site Network Certificate) was received.

A total of 2129 sources of water such as deep well, shallow well, hand-dug well, ground lake, irrigation from springs were implemented. 141465 houses for 2707 villages were targeted to be built. With interest gained from Emerald Village Project, works for development of villages at 2107 villages were made in the financial year 2016-2017, with 8756 villages across the nation. It covers 12.28% of the whole country. It is learnt that there were K 215340 million as the granted subsidy, K 33910 million as interest and 5821000 people it serves.

#### Public-orientated Scheme

With the World Bank's aids and loan amounting to US \$ 480 million, it initially targeted to develop 63 townships, with 27 in the past and 20 townships in the incumbent government's tenure—47 in all, development works under way. 335 New Co-operative Societies were set up. A total of 5345 acres of cooperative society members from 117 cooperative societies were implemented.

20 Service-providing cooperatives, 29 branches of service-providing cooperatives, 20 combine harvester, 107 tractors and other helpful services were created in one-year-period when the incumbent government took office.

1816 registration of small-sized industries and 1586 laboratory tests were carried out. Loans were disbursed out to farmers, at K 150000 per acre of paddy and at K 50000 per acre of other crops.

#### Hope for the benefit of People

Presently, there are 25 promulgated laws, with 16 for amendment underway. It usually takes time, as a law is drawn up, after careful scrutiny in every way, in the interest of the people.

It is necessary to make people know promulgated laws well, to abide by them and to have awareness. It is learnt that the Ministry will perform the tasks of sharing knowledge of existing laws.

For the abundance of food for the consumption of people from home and abroad, the ministry is making surveillances of farmers, providing supports of techniques, machineries, and monetary aids. As for farmers as well, if they work in harmony with these supports, the agricultural sector will be renewed in near future.



# Sunken South Korean ferry slowly emerges three years after disaster

SEOUL — A South Korean ferry that sank nearly three years ago, killing 304 people, most of them children on a school trip, slowly emerged from a grey sea on Thursday, a sombre reminder of a tragedy that traumatized the country.

The ferry, the Sewol, was structurally unsound, overloaded and travelling too fast on a turn when it capsized and sank during a routine voyage off the southwest coast on 16 April, 2014.

Bereaved families have been calling for the ship to be raised and for a more thorough investigation into the disaster. Officials also hope to find the last nine missing bodies.

“We can’t help but feel stunned seeing the ship being raised,” Lee Kum-hee, whose daughter Cho Eun-hwa was one of the nine, told reporters.

“My Eun-hwa has been in that dirty place. My poor Eun-hwa. It’s been heart-breaking, how cold she’s been there,” Lee said in tears.

Salvagers started to bring up the vessel, which has been lying on its side at a depth of 44 metres (144 feet), late on Wednesday, and worked through the night.

Television pictures taken from the air early on Thursday showed the white 140-metre (460-foot) long hull, coated in mud and sediment, breaking above the surface, flanked by winching

barges. “The work needs to be done very cautiously,” Lee Cheol-jo, an official at the Ministry of Ocean and Fisheries, which is in charge of the operation, told a briefing. A Chinese salvage company has fitted 33 beams beneath the hull with 66 hydraulic jacks inching the ship up.

Salvage workers in orange overalls and white hard-hats clammers over the

hull fixing cables. The name Sewol could just be made out through the grime.

Lee said the ferry would be raised as high as 13 metres (42 feet) above the sea and then moved onto a semi-submersible vessel. That operation was expected to take until Friday and it would then be taken to a nearby port, but that could take up to 12 or 13 days, he said.—Reuters



The sunken ferry Sewol is raised during its salvage operations on the sea off Jindo, South Korea, in this handout picture provided by West Regional Headquarters Korea Coast Guard and released by Yonhap on 23 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

# Daily cyberattacks more than double to all-time high in 2016: police

TOKYO — The daily average number of cyberattacks or suspected threats swelled to a record 1,692 in 2016, more than double the previous year’s rate, police said Thursday. The figure surged as home appliances and electronic devices became more connected through “Internet of Things” technology.

In 2015, the daily average number of cyberattacks or threats detected by sensors installed at Internet access points nationwide by the Na-

tional Police Agency totaled 729.3. The agency started compiling data in 2010. As malware has spread overseas attacking IoT devices owned by companies, the agency is increasing its monitoring of potential hacking or preparatory acts at its 59 relevant facilities.

Meanwhile, the number of targeted emails containing a computer virus totaled 4,046 — the highest since 2013 and up 5.7 per cent from 2015.—Kyodo News

Invitation of Expression of Interest (EoI)  
Cooperation with No.14 Heavy Industry (Thagaya)  
No.(1) Heavy Industries Enterprise,  
Ministry of Industry

No.14 Heavy Industry (Thagaya) under No.(1) Heavy Industries Enterprise, Ministry of Industry are intended to cooperate with local (and) foreign entrepreneurs as PPP (JV, Lease, etc.)

As a first step, companies who interested in that cooperation are required to submit their Expression of Interest (EoI) not later than 4:00 pm (Myanmar Standard Time), on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 to Planning Department, No.(1) Heavy Industries Enterprise, Ministry of Industry, Office No.30, Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Interested entitles can inquiry and take over the EoI Form and other indications at above office by presenting the document of company profile.

Document of Company profile

- Valid Certificate of Incorporation
- Record and Regulation of Company
- Name of Foreign’s Technical Cooperator

(For more information: Phone no: 067-405159, 067-405322)

## CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV. CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV. CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

## CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV. BANI BHUM VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV. BANI BHUM VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.3.2017 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES  
Phone No: 2301185

## CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV. EVER ALLY VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV. EVER ALLY VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

## CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV. HAN ZHANG VOY. NO (1712E)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV. HAN ZHANG VOY. NO (1712E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AIPT 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 HANSSY SHIPPING PTE LTD  
Phone No: 2301928

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U Kyi Win Associates  
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BY ITS ATTORNEY  
ACTIP IP LIMITED  
P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.  
Dated: 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2017



# 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.

## Peace in Rakhine State crucial to peace throughout the country

Tha Sein

**T**HE situation in Rakhine state is complex and challenging and this sensitive situation could be prevented from getting worse by the exercise of foresight and caution. It does not make sense to accuse the government of indifference to the plight of the people of Rakhine and it is time that we pause to take an objective look to separate truth from fiction.

With a view to collecting divergent views, the Maung-taw Investigation Commission the other day met with villagers in the Cox's Bazaar refugee camps in Bangladesh to fulfil their mission through a complete and

thorough investigation. Their aim is to submit suggestions, pragmatic solutions and assessments to the Union Government. This will be a historic milestone and an important step towards the search for a peaceful solution to the conflict in Rakhine State and spur efforts to achieve a just and lasting peace throughout the country.

As national reconciliation and peace in the Rakhine State is crucial to peace and stability throughout the country, the commission is working to revise its report submitted recently to make sure that the incident is not a racial or religious conflict

but simply an act detrimental to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Myanmar, worsened by propaganda and misinformation.

As a matter of fact, the number of violent attacks has dropped due to increased security measures, however, the level of attempted violence seems to be high, and fabricated news are more to blame for the unrest. People should realize that more attacks have been foiled at the planning stage, as the connection between domestic and foreign terrorist groups has grown deeper. Along with the show of force, authorities should

roll out tough measures, from daily patrols to hefty rewards for tips.

It may be observed that a series of mistakes have been made over the years, resulting in fear and distrust among the Rakhine communities, compounded by chronic underdevelopment. So, the Union Government is working closely with relevant organizations to address the issue of underdevelopment through the Central Committee for Implementation of Peace, Stability and Development of Rakhine State. Only then will the region be enjoying peace and prosperity all the more.

## Fintech Deals in South East Asia Hit Record Numbers in 2016

Jonathan Nieh

**T**HE total number of venture-backed deals to fintech companies in South East Asia (i.e. Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam) reached record highs in 2016 according to data released by CB Insights recently.

Deals Up, Dollars Down

2016 saw 71 total deals in the region as compared to 55 the previous year, a 29% increase.

However, the dollar amount raised fell from \$177M in 2015 to \$158M in 2016 suggesting the increase in the number of deals was spurred more by smaller early stage funding (e.g. seed and angel rounds). In fact, early stage funding as a percentage of the total number of deals increased from 55% in 2015 to 62% in 2016. This decline was somewhat representative of what was happening around the rest of the world but the increase in early stage funding was interesting as some other regions saw growth in more mature companies and not so much in early stage rounds.

Notably, the region saw its first Series D funding for fintech companies when 2C2P, a merchant payment platform based in Bangkok, Thailand, raised \$8M in a Series D near the end of the year.

The biggest deal of the year for Southeast Asia? Momo, a mo-



Elephant shaped handiworks on display utilizing a variety of materials and postures. PHOTO: MNA

**The dollar amount raised fell from \$177M in 2015 to \$158M in 2016 suggesting the increase in the number of deals was spurred more by smaller early stage funding (e.g. seed and angel rounds).**

bile payments platform, led the pack with a Series B funding round that came in at \$28 million. The Momo funding round saw the participation of big name investors Goldman Sachs and Standard Chartered. Payments have been a hot sector in the past 12 months.

Players like Alibaba have become more acquisitive as they look to expand their reach in other regions.

As for the most active country, Singapore topped the list – something that should come as no surprise. The country has been loudly proclaiming its interest in dominat-

ing Fintech in Southeast Asia – if not the entire world. Singapore hoovered up 52% of the Fintech deals in 2016. The island nation was followed by the Philippines, a country that captured just 14% of the Fintech investment activity.

VC firm East Ventures led the group of most active investors followed by 500 Startups and Golden Gate Ventures. Investing in Fintech is really a global activity with venture firms kicking the tires of companies around the world more intent on uncovering promising technology and regional potential.

More importantly, the numbers are promising for Fintech companies in South East Asia as there has been tremendous growth year over year since 2012 when only 9 deals were closed for a total of \$11M. [www.crowdfundinsider.com](http://www.crowdfundinsider.com)



## Nay Pyi Taw Zoological garden to celebrate 9th Anniversary

THE 9th anniversary of the founding of the Nay Pyi Taw zoological garden will be celebrated on 26 March, 2017, according to U Wai Lwin Oo, the administrator of Nay Pyi Taw zoological garden.

"The zoological garden is situated on 1,062 acres of land and was founded on 26 March, 2008.

A total of 39 species of mammals, 30 species of birds and 12 species of reptiles are put on display at 27 booths. Among them, the rare and endangered wildlife are being shown at the booths.

This zoological garden has been opened for 9 years. So, we will celebrate its 9th anniversary", U Wai Lwin Oo said.

The celebration will also feature an elephant dance from 9 am to 12 pm and from 2 pm to 5 pm.

There will also be a stage show, and T-shirts will be presented to visitors who come in a group of five or more.

The admission fees will remain the same — Ks 1,000 for adults and Ks 500 for children.—200





Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presenting awards to the participants of the 7<sup>th</sup> Japan Cup. PHOTO: MNA

## Commander-in-Chief attends Karatedo Contest

THE opening of 7th Japan Cup Karatedo Championship, jointly organized by Japanese Embassy in Myanmar and Myanmar Karatedo Federation, took place Thuwunna Stadium (1) in Yangon yesterday morning.

It was attended by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association Mr. Watanabe, the Senior Military officers from the Office of Com-

mmander-in-Chief, the Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar, Commander of the Yangon Command, officials from the region's government and department for health and sport, as well fans of the sport.

The Japanese Ambassador began the ceremony by delivering an opening speech followed by Chairman of the Myanmar KarateDo Federation Dr. Win Zaw expressing his gratitude.

Afterwards the Commander-in-Chief along with the Good-

will Ambassador, Japanese Ambassador and KarateDo Chairman greeted the participants of the Japan Cup.

The competition was opened with performances of the Japanese martial art followed by main event of the day.

The annual Japan Cup for KarateDo this year included 18 groups with a total of 195 contestants and the second day of the competition is to be held on March 24.—*Kakapy*

## Amyotha Hluttaw deputy speaker recounts parliamentary experience to Kyauktaw dwellers

DEPUTY speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw, U Aye Thar Aung paid a homage to Maha Muni Pagoda in Kyauktaw Township on 22 March.

During the visit; he offered

scented water and donated cash to the pagoda.

Then, U Aye Thar Aung met with Township administrator, village administrator, department officials and local people at Kis-

pa Nadhi Hall. During the meeting, U Aye Thar Aung explained about the experience of Hluttaw and replied to the questions raised by local people.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Pre-Thingyan sales by YGN Fashion Village

A PRE-THINGYAN fashion sales festival (YGN Fashion Village) will be held ahead of the water festival at People's Square in Yangon on 8 and 9 April. At the event, the trendy clothing, cosmetics and fashion accessories popular in Bangkok, China and South Korea will be on sale, according to the

YGN Fashion Village committee.

Over 100 shops will be represented at the event to sell the famous brands. Hair design shops will also be opened for people who wish to celebrate the water festival with a new hairstyle.

"The sales festival will be held for two days from 10 am to

10 pm. There will also be entertainment programmes at the event from 6 pm to 10 pm," said an official from the YGN Fashion Village committee.

The shops will be built with thatched roofs to create the water festival mood.—200

## 150th anniversary of Minbya to be celebrated for three days

THE 150th anniversary of the founding of the town of Minbya in western Rakhine State will be celebrated from March 24 to 26, according to U Hla Maung Than, secretary of the anniversary celebration committee.

The committee plans to hold

traditional sports competitions, literature competitions, educational talks and traditional stage shows.

"A pagoda will be consecrated in Minbya town in commemoration of the 150th anniversary founding of Minbya town. I believe that the local residents will

enjoy the anniversary festival," said U Hla Maung Than.

Initially, Minbya town was founded with only four wards. Now, there are eight wards in Minbya. Local people from Ann and Sittwe towns enjoyed the last year anniversary founding.—200

## Education festival to be held in Yangon

AN education festival (Inspire Me Festival) will be held at Melia Hotel, Yangon from 27 to 31 March in two parts. The festival was organised by the British Embassy for entrepreneurs.

At the event, British traditional culture, food, education and entertainment programmes will be shown on 27 and 28 March, the first part of the festival.

During the second part of the festival from 29 to 31 March, the best British education and

communications networks will be highlighted with an aim to promote cooperation between British and Myanmar educational institutions.

Such festivals are being sponsored by the British embassies across the world with an aim to enable the entrepreneurs to have contact with the British.

At the festival, Andrew Patrick, British ambassador to Myanmar, will give the opening speech at the Inspire Me Festival at 9am on 27 March.—200

## Only Ph.D & B.Ed holders can be registered teacher this year

Those who have applied for teaching certificates will be interviewed on 24 April at a regional education office, according to an official from education department.

The ministry of education grants teaching licenses and school licenses annually to private teachers and private school founders every June.

This year, the ministry of education will interview those who have applied for teaching certificates. The applicants had to submit the application forms not later than 28 February. The ministry yearly issues the teaching certificates before the beginning of the school year.

This year the ministry introduced a new system under which only those applicants who hold a doctoral degree or a bachelor's degree in education or a bachelor's degree and a teaching certificate awarded by the ministry or a bachelor's degree with five years of teaching experience at either the basic education department or the higher education department.

Private school founders must appoint teachers who hold the teaching certificates issued by the education department. Those who do not obey this rule will have action taken against them according to the law.—200

## Uncut and raw jades sold in Kyats



Raw and uncut jades showing at Mani Yadana Jade Hall. PHOTO: MNA

UNCUT and raw jade were sold for the fifth day straight using Myanmar currency at Mani Yadana Jade Hall, Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

The raw jade stones are being sold via an open tender bid system. At the event, merchants are allowed to inspect the gems from 8am to 5pm. Then, the merchants submitted price proposal tender by putting a tender form into the prescribed boxes.

Today, officials from the tender central committee an-

nounced the list of those who won the tender for 1,500 jade lots. The members of the central committee observe when the gems traders put the tender forms into the tender boxes for jade lot numbers 3,001 to 4,454.

The central committee will issue a tender winners list for jade lot numbers 3,001 to 4,454 today.

About 200 students from the jade training school attended the tender bidding ceremony.—MNA



# British police arrest seven in probe into attack on parliament

LONDON — Police arrested seven people in the investigation into a lone-wolf attacker who killed three people and injured 40 before being shot dead by police near parliament in London, Britain's most senior counter-terrorism officer said on Thursday.

Mark Rowley said there were four dead including the attacker and 29 people still being treated in hospital, seven of whom were in a critical condition.

Police had said on Wednesday that the death toll was five in the worst such attack in Britain since 2005. The attacker sped across Westminster Bridge in a car, mowing down pedestrians along the way, then ran through the gates of the nearby parliament building and stabbed a policeman before being shot dead.

Authorities have said they are working on the assumption that the attack was Islamist-related. Britons have been shocked by the fact that the attacker was able to cause such mayhem in the heart of the capital equipped with nothing more sophisticated than a hired car



A woman assists an injured person after an incident on Westminster Bridge in London, on 22 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

and a knife.

"The police and agencies that we rely on for our security have forestalled a large number of these attacks in recent years, over a dozen last year," said defence minister Michael Fallon.

"This kind of attack, this lone-wolf attack, using things from daily life, a vehicle, a knife, are much more difficult to forestall," he told the BBC.

Police believe they know the identity of the at-

tacker but have not named him.

"We're dealing with an enemy, a terrorist enemy, that is not making demands or taking people hostage, but simply wants to kill as many people as possible. This is a new element to international terrorism," Fallon said.

Rowley said police had searched six addresses in London, Birmingham and other parts of the country in their investigation.

"It is still our belief ... that this attacker acted alone

and was inspired by international terrorism. At this stage we have no specific information about further threats to the public," Rowley said. He said there was a mix of nationalities among the dead but gave no details. The victims were the policeman, Keith Palmer, who was stabbed and two members of the public, a woman in her mid-40s and a man in his mid-50s. The fourth dead was the assailant.

Three French high-school students aged 15 or

16, who were on a school trip to London with fellow students from Brittany, were among the injured.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault was expected to arrive in London to visit them at hospital, French media reported.

There were also five South Koreans among the injured, South Korea's foreign ministry said in Seoul.

A minute of silence to honour the victims will be held at 0933 GMT in parliament, outside police headquarters at New Scotland Yard, and in the Scottish parliament in Edinburgh.

Prime Minister Theresa May was due to make a statement to parliament on the attack at 1030 GMT.

A vigil was planned in London's Trafalgar Square at 1800 GMT. Fallon said security arrangements at parliament would be reviewed. Westminster Bridge remained cordoned off with a strong police presence. The nearby Westminster underground rail station, normally a busy hub in the morning rush hour, was not accessible from the street as it was within the cordon.

May said on Wednesday the location of the attack was not an accident. She said any assault on British values of liberty, democracy and freedom of speech was doomed to failure and Britons would not be divided by such acts. But anti-immigration groups were quick to make links between immigration and the attack.

Leave.EU, a group that has campaigned for immigration to be severely restrained as part of Britain's exit from the European Union, accused mainstream politicians of facilitating acts of terror by failing to secure borders.

"We are sick, tired but perhaps even more so we are angry that recent governments across Europe have enabled these attacks through grossly negligible policies that have left us vulnerable," the group said in a statement. In France, far-right presidential candidate Marine Le Pen also drew a link, saying that events in London highlighted the importance of protecting national borders and stepping up security measures. —Reuters

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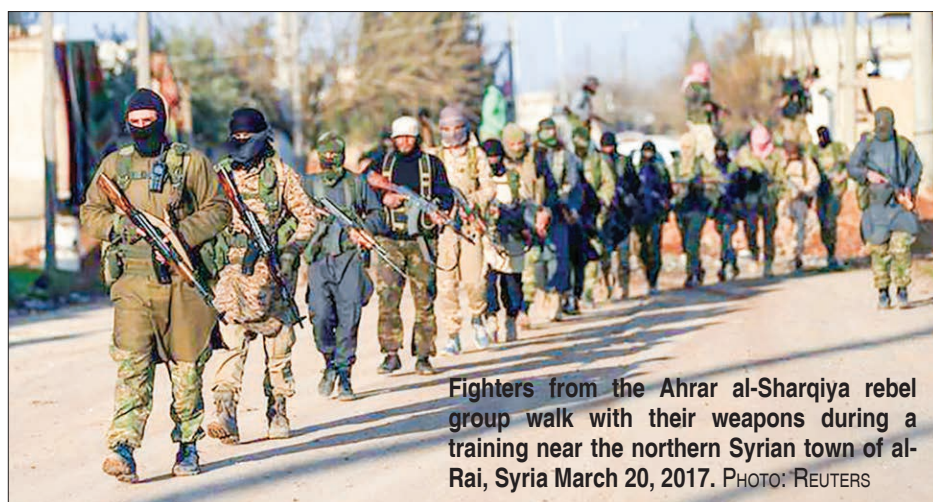
Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

## Fierce clashes persist in Syria ahead of renewed peace talks

BEIRUT — The Syrian army and rebels, including jihadist groups, fought in the capital Damascus and north of Hama on Thursday after the insurgents' biggest offensive for months, underscoring the bleak prospects for peace talks which resume later in the day.

The offensive seems unlikely to reverse 18 months of steady military gains by the government, culminating in December's capture of the rebel enclave in Aleppo, but it has shown the army's difficulty in defending many fronts simultaneously.

Increased fighting in recent weeks despite a ceasefire brokered in December by Russia and Turkey casts further doubt on peacemaking efforts in Geneva, where talks resume on Thursday after making little progress in recent rounds. "We hope to see some serious partner on the other side of the table," Salem al-Muslet, spokesman for the opposition's High Negotiating Committee (HNC), said in Geneva. Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's government, which is backed by Russia, Iran and Shi'ite militias, is also attending the Geneva talks.



Fighters from the Ahrar al-Sharqiya rebel group walk with their weapons during a training near the northern Syrian town of al-Rai, Syria March 20, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Both sides accuse each other of violating the ceasefire. In Damascus, the intensity of clashes around the industrial zone in Jobar, on the edge of the central districts of the capital, increased after midnight, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based war monitor, reported on Thursday.

A military media unit run by the government's ally Hezbollah reported clashes early on Thursday in Jobar and a heavy bombardment aimed at rebel positions and movement in the area. State TV showed a reporter speaking in the capital's Abassiyin district at morning rush hour, but the road appeared

quiet with only one or two cars and a few pedestrians, and with the repeated sound of blasts in the background.

Near Hama, rebels spearheaded by the jihadist Tahrir al-Sham alliance, but also including groups fighting under the banner of the Free Syrian Army, made new advances overnight and fighting continued on Thursday, the Observatory said.

Rebels had gained control over 11 towns and villages in the first 24 hours of their offensive after it began late on Tuesday and advanced to within a few kilometres of the city of Hama, it said. On Wednesday, a Syrian military source

said reinforcements were headed to the Hama front. Tahrir al-Sham's strongest faction is the former Nusra Front group, which was al Qaeda's official affiliate in Syria until they broke formal ties last year. Samer Alaiwi, an official from the Jaish al-Nasr FSA group, which is fighting near Hama, said on a rebel social media feed that the offensive was aimed at relieving pressure on rebels elsewhere and at stopping warplanes from using a nearby airbase.

"After the failure of political conferences and solutions, the military operation is an urgent necessity," he said. —Reuters



## PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

## One year performance of Bago Region Government



President U Htin Kyaw looking around the systematic planting of annual crops in the field of Shwedaung Township. PHOTO: MNA



Chief Minister of Bago Region, U Win Thein encouraging officials and members of Fire Service Department. PHOTO: MNA

## July Moe

**H**ANTHAWADDY International Airport, now under construction is a state project that will come up with the benefits not only for the Bago Region but also for the country.

Bulldozing work for the road skirting the airfield is now 80% finished. The construction works will begin after the final agreement contract is signed in December, 2017.

## Job Opportunity

“Regional Government can carry out the works for both local and foreign investors to be able to start their operation at the industrial zones of Bago and Pyay District with a view to increase the job opportunities. The Hantawaddy International Airport Project is under the concerted management of the Union Government and the Bago Region Government. The project when finished, will produce more job opportunities” said U Win Thein, Chief Minister of Bago Region.

In order to attain all-round development in all socio-economic sectors in accordance with economic policy set by the state, the Region Government is undertaking the works concerning with the balanced development among the agricultural, fishery and industrial sectors, the rapid development of infrastructures, to support and encourage the small and medium scale enterprises, the development of health and education sectors, and conservation of natural environment.

The Region Government is now striving to put the budget spending system up to the international norms and to bring about the collective effort of government and community for the development of health and education sectors in cooperation with World Bank, UNDP and UKAID.

## Surplus Money 33,139 million kyats

With the assistance of international organizations, management program, for the small-

scale farmers to get access to the advanced farming systems and the firm market and finance are now implemented. Systematic control on expenditures of the agriculture and animal husbandry sectors resulted in the surplus of 33139 million kyats and other 90 works could be carried out with that surplus money.

“28 People-centered study departments were opened at the 28 townships to switch the agricultural sector to a new chapter after a long spell under the conventional methods. The region agricultural department could address the insufficiency of the seeds for the farmers by creating the new seed-producing farming plots. Department of Mechanized farming can also find 350 acres of high quality farm plot for the farmers in time. 38 Electric pumping projects are revoked as it deemed not effective” Explained U Win thein, Chief Minister of Region Government.

Capacity building courses were initiated to the ward/village administrators in all townships aiming at changing the system of administration at grass root level

Capacity building courses were initiated to the ward/village administrators in all townships aiming at changing the system of administration at grass root level and the mind set of the administrators.

and the mind set of the administrators. The talks pertaining to the democratic practices could be given at the departmental meetings and during the trip for region development.

In the respect of rule of law, the Regional Government could have solved the religious conflict occurred at Thaye Thamein village of Waw Township on 23 June 2016. 173 people were arrested and sent to trial for the criminal offence of possessing hashish, amphetamine tablets and raw poppy in Bago Region in 2016.

Concerning the law making, Region Government could manage to pass the Bill of Region Development Law of Bago Region as Hluttaw Law No.4. and now drawing the By-Law is under way and will be issued in due course of time. Draft of the Bill for Home Industry of Bago Region is also under scrutiny and assessment at Region Hluttaw.

## Housing that meets the set standard

Housing Projects for government service personnel are being built and housing for ordinary people are under planning to be built in the region.

SEE PAGE 12 >>



New school building is formally opened by MPs. PHOTO: MNA



Tourists visit Elephant Camp in Bago. PHOTO: MNA



U WinThein, Bago Region Chief Minister, delivering a speech during the cabinet meeting. PHOTO: MNA



## PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

# Cooperate with international organizations for the development of Bago River and Sittaung River Basins



National level political dialogue in Bago Region . PHOTO: MNA



Paing Kyone sluice gate that regulate sewage in the river. PHOTO: MNA

## &gt;&gt; FROM PAGE 11

"The law of supervision on construction works is now being drafted in coordination with the international professionals with a view to be able to control and supervise the construction works in the region to make them meet the designated specifications," continued U Win thein, Chief Minister of Region Government.

In 2016-17 financial year, the Region Government carried out the upgrading of roads from gravel road to tarred road, widening of tarred roads from 12 feet to 18 feet, repaving the 12 feet-wide tarred roads, building the 49 reinforced concrete bridges and 54 culvert bridges. 240 apartments were also implemented for the government service staffs.

Two embankments that were breached by heavy rains and flood in the previous monsoon season were maintained back to the safe condition spending about 545 million kyats. 1016 million kyats and reserved paddy seeds 16,000 baskets were provided to the farmers for their losses of paddy plantations due to the inundation in consequence of the extraordinarily heavy rain in 2016-17.

Out of 1207 cases complain-

ing to the Scrutinizing Committee for Confiscated Farm Lands and Other Lands 881 cases were devolved to District/Township Scrutinizing Committee for Confiscated Farm Lands and Other lands for further investigation and scrutinizing. 71 cases has been investigated and decided with 46 cases remained to undergo further investigation.

**Switch in Action**

Works are under way to draw a By-law for switching from Conventional Agriculture to Commercial Agriculture that will facilitate the procedures of investment in agricultural sector.

**The regional government is also working together with international organizations for the development of Bago and Sittaung basins.**

Educating the farmers with technical aid materials on how to use refined seeds in their private-owned farm lands with intention for them to be able to make profits from their farms. Besides those works, illegally imported insecticides and chemical fertilizers were deterred and arrested.

The Region Electricity Supply Enterprises, in procuring the required materials and equipments such as transformers, cables and related materials, employed the tender system resulting in securing the quality products and saving a sumptuous amount of money which can be used in other required works

in future.

In the power supply section, the Bago Region Chief Minister has injected K2.9 billion, which are in surplus in the first fiscal year of the government due to new business model with tender system, into the upgrading the cables and installation of new cables under the electrification plan for the villages.

Meanwhile, Bago Region Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation seized more than 6,000 tons of timber in the 2016-2017 fiscal year and the ministry arranged for using the seized woods in building schools, hospitals, bridges and departmental and

public buildings.

**Elephant Camps**

Myanma Timber Enterprise suspended the timber extraction in the Bago Yoma and established elephants camps for public recreation namely Wingabaw Elephant Camp in Payagyi, Phokyar Elephant Camp in Toungoo, and Hmawsayargyi Elephant Camp and Myainghaywun Elephant Camp near the Mile Post 105 on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway.

Besides, Bago Region Government also took actions two gangs of poachers in the region in the one-year period as part of efforts for protection of wildlife.

Besides, in the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year, the Bago Region Government granted 1,804 land lease permissions in 28 villages.

The Bago Region Government is working to turn the Moeyungyi Wetland wildlife sanctuary, which is located about 70 miles north of Yangon by the Yangon-Mandalay highway in Waw Township, Bago Region, into a eco-tourism site.

The regional government is also working together with international organizations for the development of Bago and Sittaung basins.

In the education sector, the regional government has opened more than 170 schools for basic and middle level in villages in the one-year period.

**National-level political dialogues in Bago**

Success of the regional-level national political dialogue with the participation of representatives of the ethnic peoples residing in Bago Region can be seen as the another achievement of the Bago Region Government.

The outcomes of the dialogue will be submitted to the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong.

Bago Region Government has relaxed some rules and regulations in order to provide the people with the rule of law and better socio-economy.



Electricity of the region is well provided by generators. PHOTO: MNA



Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein visits the educative farm in Shwedaung. PHOTO: MNA



# UN aviation agency urges balance of security risk, safety in electronics ban

MONTREAL — The United Nations aviation agency on Wednesday urged regulators to weigh security and safety, after the United States and Britain imposed restrictions on several carry-on electronic devices on planes coming from certain airports in Muslim majority countries.

A news statement published by the International Civil Aviation Organization stressed a balance between security “risk” and safety concerns, because “incidents involving devices containing lithium batteries may be more easily mitigated in the cabin than in checked baggage.”

On Tuesday, the US Department of Homeland Security said passengers travelling from 10 airports in the Middle East and North Africa could no longer bring devices larger than a mobile phone such as a laptop into the main cabin, following reports that militant groups want to smuggle explosive devices inside electronic gadgets.

A spokesman for British Prime Minister Theresa May later said there would also be curbs requiring electronic items to be transported as checked baggage on flights from six countries in the Middle East.

The carry-on ban, while

addressing security concerns, has some authorities worried about technical safety risks, such as lithium-powered goods catching fire in the hold.

“Finding an effective balance between safety and security approaches is always a priority in global aviation,” the ICAO statement said.

While Montreal-based ICAO cannot impose rules, it sets safety and security standards for international aviation that are usually followed by the organization’s 191 member countries.

In 2016, ICAO announced a prohibition on shipments of lithium-ion

batteries as cargo on passenger planes. Industry experts are now working to develop new and improved packaging standards that could be used to safely transport these batteries on planes.

While lithium-powered consumer items like laptops are permitted in checked baggage, some ICAO staff have shared safety concerns with countries that are implementing or considering the electronics carry-on ban, said a source close to the aviation agency.

ICAO has not decided whether to propose turning the carry-on electronics ban into a global standard, a second source said.



A Transportation Safety Administration agent looks over a passenger at San Francisco International Airport in San Francisco, California in 2015.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Both sources spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to talk to the media.

“ICAO and its member

states will continue to review the evolving aviation security environment in the coming weeks,” the statement said.—Reuters



A woman walks past electronic board showing stock prices and Japanese Yen's exchange rate outside a brokerage at a business district in Tokyo, Japan, on 23 January 2017.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Asia stocks rise, but gains for dollar, oil capped by jitters

SINGAPORE — Asian stocks edged up on Thursday, while the dollar's gains were limited as US President Donald Trump's struggle to push through a healthcare reform bill raised doubts over whether he can win support for pro-growth economic policy measures.

European markets are poised for a stronger start, with financial spreadbetter CMC Markets expecting Britain's FTSE 100 .FTSE to open 0.1 per cent higher, Germany's DAX .GDAXI to be up 0.4 per cent and France's CAC 40 .FCHI to begin the day 0.2 per cent higher. Having weakened as much as 0.4 per cent a day earlier, sterling GBP=D3 was steady at \$1.2489, showing little reaction to the attack close to Britain's Parliament that left five people dead, including the attacker and a police officer, and 40 injured. Police said they believed the attacker

was inspired by Islamist-related terrorism. MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan .MIAPJ0000PUS advanced 0.2 per cent.

Japan's Nikkei .N225 closed 0.2 per cent higher, as a weaker yen offset a political scandal over the relationship of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his wife with a Japanese nationalist education group that bought state-owned land at a fraction of its appraised price to build an elementary school.

China's CSI 300 .CSI300 had made early gains on hopes that index compiler MSCI may include A-shares in its indices, but those gains were lost as money began flowing out of the mainland market through link to the Hong Kong exchange.

The Shanghai Composite .SSEC dropped 0.3 per cent, while the H-share index .HSCE added 0.2 per

cent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng .HSI retreated 0.1 per cent.

Overnight, the Nasdaq .IXIC jumped 0.5 per cent and the S&P 500 .SPX closed 0.2 per cent higher, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average .DJI was flat, after all three touched their lowest levels in about five weeks earlier in the session.

The dollar advanced 0.2 per cent to 111.37 yen JPY=D4, after dropping to 110.75, its lowest since 22 November overnight.

The dollar index .DXY, which tracks the greenback against a basket of six trade-weighted peers, added 0.1 per cent to 99.76, after touching a seven-week low overnight.

Trump has been trying to rally support for his plan to repeal the 2010 Affordable Care Act, Democratic former President Barack Obama's signature health-care legislation.—Reuters

## Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 27th March (Monday) 2017 “ARMED FORCES DAY” under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR  
Ministry of Electricity and Energy  
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE)  
Nay Pyi Taw

### Request for Proposal for Joint Venture in Onshore Seismic Acquisition Services with Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise

Date: March 24, 2017

MOGE is a state-owned enterprise which is responsible for the upstream oil and gas sector under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy (“MOEE”) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. MOGE intends to establish a joint venture with an internationally proven service company in onshore seismic acquisition services. The main goals are to strengthen MOGE's technological know-how, upgrade its workforce, gain access to financing, adopt international best practices and widen market access.

MOGE had initially launched a public invitation for interested parties to submit a Letter of Expression of Interest (“LEOI”) for a Joint Venture in Onshore Seismic Acquisition Services with MOGE in June 2014. MOGE is now launching this Request for Proposal (“RfP”) in the form of an open tender to interested parties, including but not limited to LEOI respondents from the LEOI exercise conducted in June 2014, to submit a response to this Request for Proposal (the “Application”). In this context, MOGE intends to select a suitable internationally proven seismic acquisition services company as the “Joint Venture Partner” through a step-by-step process: Phase 1: Request for Proposal; Phase 2: Evaluation Process; and Phase 3: Negotiations and Signing.

Interested parties are required to submit an Application **no later than 3 PM, local time (Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar), on April 24, 2017** to the following address: **MOGE Tender Committee for Joint Venture Establishment in Petroleum Services (Seismic)**, Complex 44, MOGE Office, Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The RfP, which includes guidelines for submission, can be purchased by any interested party starting March 24, 2017 (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays) at Complex 44, MOGE Office, Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar for a non-refundable cash payment of five hundred United States Dollars (USD 500). The purchaser will be provided with a payment acknowledgement when payment is made. Only Applications from Applicants that had purchased the RfP document officially from MOGE will be evaluated.

Interested parties who have purchased the RfP are welcome to submit questions regarding the RfP and comments on the draft Joint Venture Agreement attached in its annex, **no later than 12 PM, local time (Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar), on April 4, 2017**, to which MOGE will duly respond to all questions submitted and issue a revised draft Joint Venture Agreement.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise  
Ministry of Electricity and Energy



## Idina Menzel happy to 'Let It Go' for world tour

LOS ANGELES — Broadway star Idina Menzel says she has not yet grown tired of singing her big hit "Let It Go," even as she embarks on a 50-city world tour.

Menzel, the star of musicals "Wicked" and "Rent," said she gets to see new nuances in the Oscar-winning theme song from Disney's 2013 animated film "Frozen."

"I do that with 'Let It Go,' and I also use it as a time to connect with the young people in my audience and have them sing along," Menzel told Reuters Television.

"I have a 7-year-old boy, so as a mom it's such a great message of empowerment and teaching our kids to really be themselves so I'm just really proud of it."

Menzel, 45, said she prefers singing to acting on

stage, film or television.

"I'm the most myself, the most free when I'm singing, when I'm performing. I don't hide behind anything. I guess I just use music to tell my story," she said. Menzel, whose "A Broader Way" foundation runs arts-based projects for children in urban areas, spoke out against US President Donald Trump's proposed cuts in arts funding in his administration's first budget.

"It's sad when other people don't recognize how important it is for us as a people. We just have to do the most we can to keep it around and give money when we can," she said.

Menzel's tour starts in Japan on 29 March and will take her to Europe and North America through 3 September.—Reuters

## Barber-turned-rapper crowned 'Afghan Star' in talent show

KABUL — A barber-turned-rapper has been crowned the winner of an Afghan talent show that offered its audience some relief from daily stories of insurgents and suicide bombs.

Sayed Jamal Mubarez, from Afghanistan's long-marginalised Hazara ethnic minority, won viewers over with lyrics capturing both the hope and despair of young people living through a war against Taliban militants now in its sixteenth year.

"Afghan Star", modelled on singing contests popular across the world, is in its 12th season on Afghanistan's biggest private television network Tolo.

This year's edition stood out after a female - 18-year old singer Zulala Hashimi from the deeply conservative east of the country - reached the final

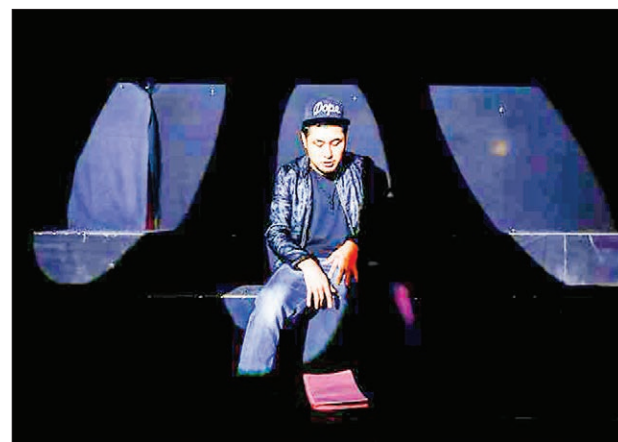
for the first time, defying widespread attitudes against women performers.

But Mubarez emerged the winner later on Tuesday, looking every bit the budding rapper with his tilted red baseball cap and razor-trimmed beard.

"I am so happy...I would have been happy if Zulala had won it because in Afghanistan women are living in a restricted situation," the 23-year old said after accepting his award at a television studio housed behind wire-topped blast walls in Kabul's diplomatic enclave.

The sole breadwinner at his home in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif, Mubarez said he discovered rap in Iran and spits lyrics while cutting hair.

The contest has been held inside a fortified compound for the last two



Sayed Jamal Mubarez 23, a singer finalist of the music contest 'Afghan Star', practices during a rehearsal for the show in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 19 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

series after the Taliban last year killed seven Tolo employees in a suicide attack on a staff minibus.

Newer musicians can struggle to make it big in Afghanistan, where the Taliban once banned music and many disapprove of Western-style popular

culture, and artists often seek the safety and freedom of a life abroad.

Mubarez told Reuters he intends to turn professional if he can find financial support, and would otherwise return to his barber shop while rapping on the side.—Reuters

## US, Canada lift global box office as international sales flat

LOS ANGELES — World-wide movie ticket sales increased by 1 per cent to a record \$38.6 billion in 2016 as theaters in the United States and Canada rung up higher sales and overseas returns were flat, according to industry statistics released on Wednesday.

Movie theaters have been competing with an explosion of digital entertainment options such as Netflix Inc's streaming service,

Alphabet Inc's YouTube, and mobile apps and video games.

In 2016, films including Walt Disney Co's "Finding Dory" and "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story" helped lift box office revenue at US and Canadian theaters by 2 per cent to \$11.4 billion, the Motion Picture Association of America said.

In international markets, ticket sales finished

the year nearly unchanged from 2015 at \$27.2 billion. After years of booming growth in China, box office revenue in that country dropped 1 percent in US dollars.

China is the world's second-largest film market behind the United States and Canada. In the United States, the average movie ticket price increased by 3 per cent in 2016 to \$8.65.—Reuters

## Nothing's finalised on performance with Bieber, says Sonakshi

MUMBAI — Actress Sonakshi Sinha says she might perform at Justin Bieber's Purpose World Tour here in May but nothing has been finalised so far.

The Grammy Award winning global pop sensation is slated to perform here in his maiden concert on 10 May.

There were reports that Sonakshi may join him too.

On the speculations, the actress says, "Filaal toh bas baat chidi hai (right now there has only been some talk).

Nothing has been finalised yet.

"But if something like this happens, then I'll be very happy because it will be a great platform and I really like his music. But when it gets finalised, I will let you all know," she says.

The actress was talking to reporters at the launch of "Gulabi 2.0" song from her upcoming film "Noor".

The track, composed by Amaal Malik, is a recreated version of the iconic yesteryear song - "Gulabi aankhein...".

Sonakshi feels there is nothing wrong in remixing the popular retro songs as they appeal to a generation

who may not have heard the original.

"The older generation would definitely have a very special connection to the old songs but people from our generation, younger than us, kids of this generation have not heard the songs," she says.

"All we are doing is repackaging them and giving it to them in a way they understand and like. I think it's a great idea. I have thoroughly enjoyed all the remixes of classic songs that we have had in the last 1-2 years," she says.—PTI

REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR  
Ministry of Electricity and Energy  
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE)  
Nay Pyi Taw

### Request for Proposal for Joint Venture in Onshore Drilling Services with Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise

Date: March 24, 2017

MOGE is a state-owned enterprise which is responsible for the upstream oil and gas sector under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy ("MOEE") of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. MOGE intends to establish a joint venture with an internationally proven service company in onshore drilling services. The main goals are to strengthen MOGE's technological know-how, upgrade its workforce, gain access to financing, adopt international best practices and widen market access.

MOGE had initially launched a public invitation for interested parties to submit a Letter of Expression of Interest ("LEOI") for a Joint Venture in Onshore Drilling Services with MOGE in June 2014. MOGE is now launching this Request for Proposal ("RfP") in the form of an open tender to interested parties, including but not limited to LEOI respondents from the LEOI exercise conducted in June 2014, to submit a response to this Request for Proposal (the "Application"). In this context, MOGE intends to select a suitable internationally proven drilling services company as the "Joint Venture Partner" through a step-by-step process: Phase 1: Request for Proposal; Phase 2: Evaluation Process; and Phase 3: Negotiations and Signing.

Interested parties are required to submit an Application **no later than 3 PM, local time (Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar), on April 24, 2017** to the following address: **MOGE Tender Committee for Joint Venture Establishment in Petroleum Services (Drilling)**, Complex 44, MOGE Office, Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The RfP, which includes guidelines for submission, can be purchased by any interested party starting March 24, 2017 (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays) at Complex 44, MOGE Office, Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar for a non-refundable cash payment of five hundred United States Dollars (USD 500). The purchaser will be provided with a payment acknowledgement when payment is made. Only Applications from Applicants that had purchased the RfP document officially from MOGE will be evaluated.

Interested parties who have purchased the RfP are welcome to submit questions regarding the RfP and comments on the draft Joint Venture Agreement attached in its annex, **no later than 12 PM, local time (Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar), on April 4, 2017**, to which MOGE will duly respond to all questions submitted and issue a revised draft Joint Venture Agreement.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise  
Ministry of Electricity and Energy



# Egypt camel racers hope desert sport will spread to fresh pastures

CAIRO — On a desert track in eastern Egypt camels race across the sand, urged on by their young jockeys and a convoy of cars speeding alongside them.

The race is part of an annual camel festival outside the city of Ismailia which has attracted participants from 13 Arab countries this year, as well as enthusiasts from France, Germany, Italy and Austria.

While the prize money is modest — 100,000 Egyptian pounds (\$5,500) split between the winners of several races — competition among bedouin tribes is strong.

Organisers hope inter-

national interest is growing, pointing to the presence this year of Europeans who came to see how the festival was organised, though they did not take part in the races.

“It’s the first time they have come,” said Sheikh Suleiman Abu Shukri, whose tribe extends from Egypt’s Sinai peninsula into neighbouring Saudi Arabia.

Around 150 camels competed in races ranging from the relatively short 3 km (2 mile) course to a 15 km race, or three laps of the 5 km circuit.

The jockeys were mostly small children aged 11 or under.

—Reuters



Jockeys, most of whom are children, compete on their mounts at the starting line during the opening of the International Camel Racing festival at the Sarabium desert in Ismailia, Egypt, on 21 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Japanese doll ‘Licca-chan’ reflects trends at 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary show

TOKYO — Fifty years on, Japan’s beloved dress-up doll “Licca-chan” continues to captivate fans, with a new exhibit in Tokyo a reminder of how the doll has grown from being a mere toy to reflecting changes in contemporary fashion.

Commemorating the birth of Licca-chan, often touted as Japan’s equivalent of Barbie dolls, an exhibit opened in the Ginza district of the capital on Wednesday and will run through 3 April. Similar exhibits will subsequently be held across the country.

The Tokyo exhibit at the Matsuya Ginza store showcases 580 dolls from the original to current versions of Licca-chan, her family members and friends. Items such as notes showing how the doll was created and dollhouses exemplifying the times are also on display.

Licca-chan was introduced in 1967 by a toymaker now known as Tomy Co. as a petite doll to fit into the modest homes in Japan, in contrast to the mainstream, large foreign-made dolls of the time.

The iconic doll is in the form of an 11-year-old, fifth-grade schoolgirl named Licca Kayama, fondly called “Licca-chan,” a suffix in Japanese denoting endear-



Licca-chan dolls by toymaker Tomy Co. are displayed at Tokyo’s Matsuya Ginza department store on 22 March 2017, in a new exhibit commemorating the 50th anniversary of the launch of the first Licca girl doll. The exhibition will run through 3 April. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

ment usually to a baby or young girl. Her world came with dollhouses and accessories that helped create a fantasy lifestyle for many girls at the time.

The first version of Licca-chan mirrored Japan, when it was enjoying an economic boom and mired in a work-centered culture. It was packaged as having a Japanese mother, a fashion designer, while her father was unaccounted for.

With an appearance and fashionable clothes often seen in young girls’ comic books, Licca-chan immediately won the hearts of girls and has continued to do so through the decades.

She is now in her fourth version that was

created in 1987. Two years later, the producers finally introduced Licca-chan’s father, a French musician, to reflect the change in times with heightened interest in Japanese society.

The number of Licca-chan’s siblings grew and the father was portrayed as taking on a more active role in parenting such as by taking a paternal leave.

Rika Izumi, a 30-year-old woman who visited the exhibit with her mother, was one such fan. “We had the same name, and as I always received one as a gift from my mother when I was little, it has endeared itself to me,” said Izumi, who lives in Tokyo.

—Kyodo News

REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR

Ministry of Electricity and Energy

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE)

Nay Pyi Taw

### Request for Proposal for Joint Venture in Onshore Pipeline Construction and Maintenance Services with Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise

Date: March 24, 2017

MOGE is a state-owned enterprise which is responsible for the upstream oil and gas sector under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy (“MOEE”) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. MOGE intends to establish a joint venture with an internationally proven service company in onshore pipeline construction and maintenance services. The main goals are to strengthen MOGE’s technological know-how, upgrade its workforce, gain access to financing, adopt international best practices and widen market access.

MOGE had initially launched a public invitation for interested parties to submit a Letter of Expression of Interest (“LEOI”) for a Joint Venture in Onshore Pipeline Construction and Maintenance Services with MOGE in June 2014. MOGE is now launching this Request for Proposal (“RfP”) in the form of an open tender to interested parties, including but not limited to LEOI respondents from the LEOI exercise conducted in June 2014, to submit a response to this Request for Proposal (the “Application”). In this context, MOGE intends to select a suitable internationally proven pipeline construction and maintenance services company as the “Joint Venture Partner” through a step-by-step process: Phase 1: Request for Proposal; Phase 2: Evaluation Process; and Phase 3: Negotiations and Signing.

Interested parties are required to submit an Application **no later than 3 PM, local time (Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar), on April 24, 2017** to the following address: **MOGE Tender Committee for Joint Venture Establishment in Petroleum Services (Pipeline)**, Complex 44, MOGE Office, Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The RfP, which includes guidelines for submission, can be purchased by any interested party starting March 24, 2017 (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays) at Complex 44, MOGE Office, Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar for a non-refundable cash payment of five hundred United States Dollars (USD 500). The purchaser will be provided with a payment acknowledgement when payment is made. Only Applications from Applicants that had purchased the RfP document officially from MOGE will be evaluated.

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Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise  
Ministry of Electricity and Energy

## mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(24-3-2017 07:00am ~ 25-3-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03 Am News  
07:25 Am Enchanting Rakhine Land  
07:43 Am A bike Ride in pursuit of Mural Art (Ep-2)  
08:03 Am News

08:25 Am The Longest Living Siblings (Part-1)  
08:47 Am Myanmar Masterclass “Artist Chan Aye”  
09:03 Am News  
09:26 Am Discovering Tribes” Lisu: Their Life and Customs (Part-II)  
09:48 Am Talking Shwe Thway (Children Journal)  
10:03 Am News  
10:26 Am The Green Corner (Epi-18) Jack O’ Lantern  
10:35 Am Ko Phoe Shan & His Craft  
10:51 Am A Precious gift from waste

(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 New  
07:26 Pm Travelogue: A Tour in Korea ( Ep-3 )  
07:37 Pm A Photographer’s Life at Shwedagon Pagoda  
07:42 Pm Jade Pagoda: Weirawsana  
08:03 Pm New  
08:27 Pm Architect: U Thaw  
08:52 Pm Culture Shows: Composer Ma Mya Lay

(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](http://www.myanmaritv.com/schedule))



# Brook to take on Spence in Sheffield title tilt

LONDON — Britain's Kell Brook will defend his IBF welterweight world title against mandatory American challenger Errol Spence Jr. at Sheffield United's Bramall Lane ground on 27 May.

"It's long been a dream of mine to fight outdoors at Bramall Lane and I'm pleased to do that in the biggest fight in the welterweight division," the 30-year-old told reporters on Wednesday.

Brook has returned to the welterweight division after the previously unbeaten fighter was bludgeoned by Kazakhstan's Gennady Golovkin in a one-sid-

ed WBC and IBF middleweight title bout in London last September. Texas-based Spence, 27, has won all his 21 fights, 18 by knockout.

"I saw many people talk about how I would avoid Errol Spence," said Brook, who has won 36 of his 37 fights and will be making his fourth defence of a title won in 2014. "They don't know me, they don't know what I'm about."

"I'm going to show the world that I'm the best welterweight on the planet and I'm going to do it right before my people's eyes."—Reuters



Kell Brook and Errol Spence pose after the press conference at Bramall Lane, Sheffield, on 22 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Southgate impressed by adaptable England despite Germany loss

DORTMUND — England manager Gareth Southgate has praised his side for adapting well to his new system despite losing 1-0 to Germany in a friendly at Dortmund on Wednesday.

England, who host Lithuania at Wembley in Sunday's World Cup qualifier, played with a 3-4-3 formation at Dortmund in Southgate's first game in charge since being appointed full-time manager in November.

Southgate believes the squad at his disposal is comfortable switching formations to counter the opposition's style.

"We have to reflect on a very good performance," the former Middlesbrough manager told BBC Radio 5 live.

"It was a good way to impose ourselves on them, to have attacking positions which could cause them problems and that's how it

panned out.

"We have exciting wide players if we want to play with wingers, and it's very much horses for courses. We can see the strengths and weaknesses of the opposition."

Liverpool midfielder Adam Lallana said the new system brought more balance to the team, saying it allowed the players to "express themselves."

"Ultimately, Sunday is the most important game and we will have a good game-plan to attack that game," Lallana added.

"There is a lot for me to improve on, I enjoyed the system. It allowed individuals to express themselves in areas of the pitch where they felt comfortable."

With three wins out of four games in the World Cup 2018 qualifying campaign, England are two points clear at the top of the group F standings.—Reuters



England manager Gareth Southgate. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Asian Cup berth in 2019 essential for India — coach

NEW DELHI — Qualifying for the 2019 Asian Cup finals is essential for India if football in the country is to continue to develop in the wake of the success of the Indian Super League, coach Stephen Constantine told Reuters.

India, currently ranked 132nd in the FIFA world rankings, have never played in the World Cup finals and kick off the latest phase of their attempt to qualify for the Asian Cup on Tuesday when they take on Myanmar in Yangon. They last qualified for the Asian Cup in 2011 but, with the country due to host the under-17 World Cup later this year, Constantine believes booking a spot in the United Arab Emirates in two year's time would give the game a significant boost.

"I think it would be huge given the fact that it would come two years after we have hosted the U-17 World Cup," the



Indian coach Stephen Constantine. PHOTO: REUTERS

Englishman said in an interview.

"We've also got the Asian Games in 2018 (in Jakarta) and have got the chance to build there."

"I think it would be another sign of continued progress and consistency, which is what we've lacked in the past. We really need to qualify to keep the momentum in Indian foot-

ball going. Every country needs to see success."

Interest in the game among India's 1.3 billion population has been boosted by the 2014 launch of the eight-team Indian Super League, which has seen players such as Nicolas Anelka and Diego Forlan come out of retirement to play.

But while the game has been showing signs of growth, the national team has achieved little.

India's qualification for the 2011 Asian Cup in Qatar came after the country won the AFC Challenge Cup, a tournament for the lowest ranked nations in the continent.

That was their first appearance since 1984 and while they are still the dominant force in South Asia, Indian football remains a long way behind the likes of Japan, Australia, South Korea, Iran and Saudi Arabia.—Reuters

## Laos to send five tennis players to compete at 29<sup>th</sup> SEA Games

VIENTIANE — The Lao Tennis Federation is selecting a squad to compete in the 29th Southeast Asian (SEA) Games to be held in Malaysia in August.

Laos expects to send five players to the event, including four men and a woman. The list of players should be sent

to the host country next week, according to the federation on Tuesday.

At present, the country is holding a tournament to select the qualifying players for the SEA Games. Each province has selected players and is sending them to compete in the final round of the tournament, which

is scheduled to end next week.

Training will start as soon as possible after the completion of selection, with participation of a foreign coach, Lao Tennis Federation President Daovone Phachanthavong was quoted by local daily *Vientiane Times* on Wednesday as saying.—Xinhua