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New Bridge to promote socio-economy of Rakhine people



Panzin Creek Bridge that links Buthidaung and Yathedaung Townships was commissioned into service in Rakhine State yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

A 960-foot long bridge over the Panzin Creek linking Buthidaung and Yathedaung townships in Rakhine State was inaugurated yesterday, becoming one of the infrastructure development tasks implemented in Rakhine State by the new government during its first year in office.

The opening ceremony of the reinforced concrete bridge with its width 24 foot and a 3 foot pedestrian walkway on each side, 19 foot above water line, 60 ton

loading capacity was held at the site in Buthidaung.

Work on construction of the facility started in April 2014.

In his opening address, Union Minister for Construction U Win Khaing said that the Ministry had been focusing on the development of Rakhine State by working together with the Rakhine State government as the Rakhine State lagged behind in development because of its poor road transportation.

The Ministry of Construction has been working on the upgrading of all the roads providing access to Rakhine State. The major roads which are being upgraded are Thandwe-Gwa-Ngathaingyoung road from Ayeyawady Region and Yangon Region, Pyay-Padaung-Taung-gup-Maei-Kyaukpyu road from Bago Region, Minbu-An-Sittway road from Magway Region, Kyauktaw-Palatwa-Matupe-Hakha-Falam-Teddim-Tonzang-

Kyikha road from Chin State and Taungpyo-Maungta-Buthidaung-Yathedaung-Ponnagyun-Sittway border trade road.

Besides, the Yangon-Sittwe road used by the most passengers buses and trucks has been upgraded to concrete road.

The minister said the local residents need to maintain the roads and bridges including Panzin Creek Bridge for their long-term sustainability.

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"The Ministry had been focusing on the development of Rakhine State by working together with its government as it lagged behind in development."

We Honor "The 72nd Armed Forces Day."

The Best Quality Tyre

Children's Literature Festival kicks off in Mawlamyine

HUNDREDS of school children and others who adore children's literature are participating in the Children's Literature Festival in at the Mawlamyine University.

The event kicked off at the Mawlamyine University, with an opening address by Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint.

The festival was formally opened by Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint, Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin, Mon State Chief Minister Dr Aye Zan and school children.

In his address, Union Minister Dr Pe Myint stressed the need to promote reading habit in the country as part of efforts for development of literature which is directly proportional to the development of the country.

The three-day festival is aimed at development of children and literature.

"All are now aware of the fact that human resources is far more important than the natural resources for national development. A country however rich in above ground and underground resources cannot develop without the human resources development or in other words the prowess of the citizens," he said.

"Public reading habit must be nurtured and promoted to get in touch with literature and to harbour literature-friendly spirit. Child age is the best time to nurture and develop reading habit. Hence, the ministry held the lit-



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint poses for documentary photo with the attendees at Children's Literature Festival in Mawlamyine. PHOTO: MNA

erature festival," he added.

In his concluding remarks, the Union Minister expressed his belief that the children would have a great future ahead of their life when they love reading very much and love literature, adding that the children would bring the bright future of the country.

Following opening remarks by Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi and Mon State Chief Minister Dr Aye Zan, school children performed the traditional dances of Mon, Kayin and PaO.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint visits booth at Children's Literature Festival in Mawlamyine . Photo: MNA



A child takes part in impromptu contest. PHOTO: MNA



Kids participating in Children's Literature Festival in Mawlamyine.- PHOTO: MNA



Children's Literature Festival in Mawlamyine is crowded with the book lovers and enthusiasts. PHOTO: MNA

Vice-President U Myint Swe addresses Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2017

VICE-PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Myint Swe delivered an address at the opening ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2017 in Baao at 9 a.m. yesterday.

Global leaders, chairmen of the international organizations, the chairman and members of the forum board, officials and invited guests were also present. The Vice President was accompanied by Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thit Lin Ohn and senior officials.

In his speech, the Vice President said the forum has chosen a suitable theme -- Globalization and Free Trade: the Asian Perspective -- at a time when signs of reversing the move towards globalization and free trade are being seen. Any efforts to reactivate any kind of protectionism will not



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses opening ceremony of Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2017. PHOTO: MNA

be supportive to global economic growth. Myanmar believes that the promotion of economic co-operation is the effective path for economic growth and sustainable development.

The Myanmar Government began its ambitious reforms in 2011 for the sustainable progress of the political, economic and social sectors. Thanks to the reforms, Myanmar has become an

active and vibrant society with more transparency. Myanmar now is in a better strategic position for regional economic integration.

Myanmar has been striving

to integrate itself into the global economy. The country is now actively taking effective measures to promote trade by adopting the National Export Strategy, reducing trade tariffs, amending the maritime and land trade taxation laws and policies, and facilitating trade flow.

The incumbent government after taking office in 2016 has been giving priority to national reconciliation and peace and development. It also formulated the National Economic Policy to equally share the natural resources among the regions and states and to conserve them for their sustainability.

Myanmar is undertaking reforms to create an investor-friendly environment, and has enacted the new investment law on 18 October 2016. The law guarantees protection for investors and their investments. —Myanmar News Agency

Enacted law should be beneficial to the State and people: Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker

THE Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint recounted his parliamentary experiences to the Kachin State lawmakers at the state parliament building in Myitkyina on 24 March evening.

During the meeting with the legislators, the Lower House Speaker highlighted that the role of parliament is important in a democratic country, saying that the foundation of democracy is the parliament in every country where democracy is practiced. In a democracy, sovereignty derives from the people and the supreme power is vested in the people. The MPs elected by the people need to upgrade their capacity to be able to effectively carry out the interests of the State and its people, the Speaker added.

He continued that the parliamentarians should study parliamentary law, rules and constitution to be proficient lawmakers whereas their questions and motions should be in conformity with the regulations and restric-



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint cordially greets an internally displaced person in Myitkyina. PHOTO: MNA

tions. The lawmakers were urged to draw up the exact, accurate and fair bills and the enacted law should be beneficial to the State and people. Reviewing the existing laws and amending the laws which are not in conformity with the current situation are a must for the sake of the people's interests, he said.

The Lower House Speaker

pointed out that in exercising the check and balance system in the legislative, executive and judicial branches they should make sure that their efforts were in accord with the constitution, existing law and rules, saying the MPs should not intervene beyond the boundaries limited by law. The lawmakers are entitled to coordinate with respective organiza-

tions in line with the law for the development of their constituencies. The Hluttaw representatives are required to fulfill the necessities of the people, listening to their wishes and their voices as a people-centered approach was being practiced in a democratic country. He urged the MPs to keep their dignity, warning them against power abuse and bribery.

Our country is in the process of building a democratic federal union and only when democracy flourishes, will the nation develop and peace and stability prevail in the country. All stakeholders must collaborate with each other for the State and new generations through magnanimity, tolerance, forgiveness, mutual cooperation, understanding and trust in building a democratic nation. The parliamentarians should constantly try their utmost to follow parliamentary procedures as the symbol of democracy is the Parliament.

U Win Myint was briefed

about the regional development tasks and the parliament's undertakings by the MPs and the Lower House Speaker relied to their queries. The meeting was also attended by Kachin State Chief Minister Dr Khet Aung, Lower House representatives, Upper House representatives and Kachin State Hluttaw representatives.

The Lower House Speaker U Win Myint met internally displaced persons at Tatkon In Jan Don IDP Camp in Myitkyina yesterday morning and provided them with cash assistance. Kachin State Chief Minister Dr Khet Aung presented bags of rice, exercise books, school uniforms, warm clothing and purified drinking water to the families who had taken shelter at the IDP camps. At the end of the meeting, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker took the opportunity to meet and cordially greet the families from the IDP camps. —Myanmar News Agency

Earth Hour celebrated for first time in Myanmar

VOLUNTEERS participated in lighting 10,000 oil lamps at the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon yesterday celebrating the Earth Hour for the time in Myanmar.

The ceremony organized by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-Myanmar), in partnership with Myan-

mar Climate Change Alliance, took place from 8.30 pm to 9.30 pm.

Earth Hour is annual event in which people around the world focus attention on the environment and climate change by switching off lights and electrical appliances for one hour. —GNLM



Volunteers participate in lighting 10,000 oil lamps at the Shwedagon Pagoda to celebrate Earth Hour. PHOTO: MNA

LOCAL Business

Singapore lists as top investor in Thilawa SEZ with over \$110 million

SINGAPORE has been listed as the top investor in Thilawa Special Economic Zone, a huge industrial zone on the outskirts of Yangon, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

The investments from the island state amounted to over US\$110 million in seven projects, followed by Thailand with \$67.60 million in six investment projects, Japan with \$42.50 million in three projects, Korea with \$26.80 million in two projects.

Austria invested \$14 million in one project while Vietnam entered the SEZ with a \$0.83 million project.

A total of \$262.588 million investments have been granted in the Thilawa SEZ as of the first week of this month.

Since mid-2014, 78 companies from 16 countries invested in the Zone A of the



Thilawa Special Economic Zone attracts foreign investors mostly from Asia. PHOTO: KYAW KYAW

SEA to run their services and manufacturing businesses, 24 of them are now operating in the area. Myanmar owns a 51-per-cent

stake in the project while Japan has 49 per cent.

Singapore's investment from 229 permitted enterprises

in Myanmar as of February of this year reached \$16.649 billion, according to the DICA. —Kyaw Kyaw

1st Myanmar Smart Living Expo 2017 in Taunggyi on 31 March

MORE THAN 2,000 flats and condominiums apartments will be displayed for sale at the first Myanmar Smart Living Expo to be held in Taunggyi, the capital of Shan State and one of major populous cities, at the end of this month, according to the event organizers.

Organized by the online property website iMyanmar-House.com and Taunggyi Business Center, the new event will begin on 31 March and will last until 2 April. It is scheduled to take place at the TBC, planning to showcase consumer products, branded cars and apartments developed by 11 construction companies.

Those flats and condominium apartments with special prices will be sold through installments during the three-day exhibition, said U Nay Min Thu, managing director of the online real estate website.

Several entertainment programme including DJ, dancer shows, model shoes and demonstration of the Shan United Football Club will be included at the coming event.

Meteorologist Dr Tun Lwin and other experts will share their knowledge and experience through literary talks and seminars under the titles of leadership and management, entrepreneurship marketing and online marketing strategy. —Nyein Chan

More than 44,000 tonnes of diesel imported by sea

MYANMAR imported over 44,000 tonnes of diesel worth more than US\$22 million from its trade partners by sea between 26 February and 4 March, a decrease of 5,970 tonnes compared with the same period of previous week.

According to the Ministry of Commerce, over \$550,000 worth of diesel fuel weighing 1,052 tonnes entered the country

through Tachilek border trade camp.

The fuel market in Yangon, Mandalay, Mawlamyine and Taunggyi remained unchanged, sources said.

According to the private fuel stations in the commercial capital, the prices of diesel on 6 March were Ks715 per litre when a litre of higher grade diesel was

sold for Ks735.

In retail market in Yangon, buyers paid Ks3,100 per gallon of diesel, but retail sellers in Mandalay sold a gallon of diesel for Ks3,300.

In Mawlamyine and Taunggyi, the prices of diesel was Ks3,500 per gallon.

The diesel consumption in the country was 464.866 million gallons in 2010-11 FY.

It decreased to 416.395 million gallons in 2011-12 FY, 316.749 million gallons in 2012-13 FY and 372.493 million gallons in 2013-14 FY, according to the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.

The diesel consumption went up to over 600 million gallons in 2014-15 FY and 807.619 million gallons in 2015-16 FY. —Khine Khant

Local gold price declines on 24 March

THE drop in global gold price has pushed down domestic gold price in Myanmar on 24 March, according to local gold traders.

The price in global gold market was US\$ 1,251 per ounce on

22 March, US\$ 1,246 on 23 March and US\$ 1,241 on 24 March respectively. Although the global gold price declined slightly, it is still record high, compared with that of the last week. The local gold price which hit a record high

of Ks 900,000 per tical at the end of February has decreased slightly to Ks 880,100 per tical on 10 March. However, the local gold price increased to Ks 894,000 on 17 March, Ks 895,700 on 18 March, Ks 896,000 on 19 March, Ks 898,100 on 20 March and Ks 896,800 on 21 March.

However, the local gold price was Ks 898,000 per tical in 24 March, down from Ks 900,300 in 23 March. The local gold price market hit a record high of Ks 903,500 per tical on 4 October, 2016. Till now, the all time lowest price is Ks 840,000 per tical according to local gold traders. —Min Min



Trade with Middle Eastern countries hit nearly \$332 million over past 10 months

TRADE between Myanmar and Middle East countries reached over US\$332 million in the first ten months of this financial year, according to the Trade Department. The official statistics show that the country's total trade with the Middle East nations amounted to \$332.874 million between April of last year and January of this year.

Of the total, Myanmar's export to those countries hit \$100 million and its imports from the transcontinental region reached over \$231million.

Myanmar exports fishery products and agriculture prod-

ucts such as beans and pulses as well as rice to the market.

The total value of trade was \$381.351 million in 2015-2016 FY, \$373.353 million in 2014-2015 FY, \$267.306 million in 2013-2014 FY, \$267.297 million in 2012-2013 FY and \$300.679 million in 2011-2012 FY.

Since April, the trade between Myanmar and America countries was \$534.015 million, trade with European communities was \$1.077 billion and with ASEAN member countries reached \$7.666 billion. —Nyein Chan

Performances in One-Year Period

Ministry of Information to Perform the Tasks of Developing Literary World and Sharing News & Information

News: Thoon Wathan
Photo: May Oo Moe

SO as to be well convinced of the performances for reforms of the Ministry of Information during one-year period when the new government took office, an interview was made with Dr Pe Myint, Union Minister for Information.

Interviewer: Dear Sir, Please let me know about the major tasks of the Ministry of Information.

Dr Pe Myint: Concisely speaking, the ministry is the one that bridges between the government and the people. All governments are responsible for reporting what they are carrying out for the country, regularly. The Ministry of Information makes its broadcasting & printing media and public relation department perform the responsibilities. The Ministry of Information is reporting the performances of the government to the people, and simultaneously it is giving news and information to the government and the people.

Interviewer: I would like to know how the ministry spans between the people and the government.

Dr Pe Myint: In previous one-year-period, the Ministry of Information managed to present news on the events which are happening in the country and its related international events, for the public to know them all to the full. This is the major responsibility of the Ministry of Information.

So as to be more convinced of the duty, I would like to give an example. That is the programme presenting the performances of the incumbent government. The programme is being broadcast through TV. Dailies are also describing them on special programme pages. When finished, these collected



Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint. PHOTO: MNA

reports will be published as a big chronicle.

Under the programme, there include the organizations of the legislature panel—Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw, with the Government of the State at the Union level and the Ministries of the executive panel and the office of the Union Attorney General, the office of Union Auditor General, Union Civil Service Board, Cabinets of Regions and States; and Union Supreme Court of judiciary panel to report their respective performances to the public during the previous one-year-period.

Following the release of these reports, the Ministry of Information is to present collected accounts of reforms in the sectors of politics, economy and social welfare in the previous one-year-period, comprising of these policies.

When combined all presentations, the performances of the incumbent government during one-year-period will become a historical chronicle. Putting records of events is the one among the responsibilities of the Ministry of Information.

Interviewer: Please tell me about departments under the

When combined all presentations, the performances of the incumbent government during one-year-period will become a historical chronicle.

Ministry and their performances.

Dr Pe Myint: Under the Ministry of Information, there are departments and organizations. With the office of the ministry excluded, the ministry has MRTV and the Department of Information and Public Relation Department, which opens libraries and public relation offices across the nation. Another one is the publishing and publication department, where prescribed books and readers for schools, the State Gazette and necessary documents for the government are being printed. Under it, Sarpay Beikman is a branch of the department. The next one is the News and Periodicals Enter-

prise, which runs operating of dailies—Kyemon, Myanma Ahlin and the Global New Light of Myanmar (English Version).

Interviewer: Apart from bridging the gap between the people and the government, which sectors have the Ministry of Information taken responsibilities for?

Dr Pe Myint: The moment people hear the word, “Ministry of Information,” they see radios, TVs and newspapers. Besides giving news and information to the public, the Ministry is serving the interests of the people, which is an important sector of making people’s intellectual development and progressive emergence of literary development in the country. As regards the sector, the Ministry performed programmes for literary campaigns, for example, there were paper-reading events on politics, monsoon book-fair festival, paper-reading events on contemporary historical literature and winter season book fair festival held under the sponsorship of printing and publication department. Very soon, discussions on translation and paper-reading events are to be held. Book-fair festivals used to be co-held together with paper-reading events. Yet,

now Theinbyu Street, where the office of publishing and publication is situated and paper-reading events used to be held, was made “The Book Street” as an upgrade. This is one of the performances the Ministry carried out for the progress of books and literature.

On the other hand, information and public relation department is holding children literary festivals in many places of the country for the development of literature. Last year, the children literary festival was held in Nay Pyi Taw, with the one held in Mandalay and another one being held in Mawlamyaing presently.

The children literary festival in Nay Pyi Taw was sponsored by the Ministry of Information only, with in Mandalay co-sponsored by Ministry of Information and Mandalay Region Cabinet. Children Literary Festival being held in Mawlamyaing was co-sponsored by the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Education and Mon State Cabinet.

Interviewer: Is there other organizations which are co-operating with the Ministry of Information for the development of literature?

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Book lovers are seen at book stalls. PHOTO: MNA



MRTV's national race channel. PHOTO: MNA



Health talk programme on MRTV. PHOTO: MNA



A TV host on MRTV. PHOTO: MNA

PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

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Dr Pe Myint: In performing the tasks of literature development, the Ministry is co-operating with other ministries, region and state cabinets, private institutions and individual well-wishers. Like, in co-operation with Tun Foundation, Sarpay Beikman had arranged to publish the Myanmar Encyclopedia, a Treatise of great value and honour for Myanmar. In 1954, it commenced to have been compiled, so it lagged much behind, in keeping abreast with the time. Co-operation will be made to modernize the Encyclopedia by revising, adding and editing.

Here, I would like to say that the Ministry of Information is to perform the tasks of its responsibilities by itself. Simultaneously, it is to co-operate the tasks of literature development with enthusiastic individuals, organizations and scholars who are interested in literature development.

Reading Rooms for Children

With the aids of Daw Khin Kyi Foundation, the Information and Public Relation Department managed to change libraries into Community Centers, having reading rooms for children in 133 district and township offices and holding 51 lectures for children, 207 story-telling contests, 48 poem-recitation contests, 20 essay writing contests and 222 reading events during one year period.

Sharing Knowledge

Educative video titled, "We, three, once in the past," which educates narcotic drug abuse may lead the whole community to destruction, a video titled, "A fire that starts from garbage," for the public to take ethics—moral lessons from the world truths and the video titled, "Even Superman cannot help," intended for people to learn to value and protect the natural environment were filmed and shown.

With a view to developing libraries and convincing people of current affairs and democratic practices, the video titled, "The next door illuminated by lights," was filmed for showing the public, according to the information and public relation department.

IPRD published Myanmar Affairs (volume1) in 2016 and volume 2 in 2017, from the collected works of term-papers of paper-reading events on research, by categorizing facts on politics, economy and social affairs concerning the State Government in one-year-period.

Changes in accord with the Time

During one year period when the new government took office, the Ministry of Information carried out the tasks of making invited overseas media men conduct trainings for local media persons to abide by media ethics, sending local media men abroad to attend seminars and trainings, to upgrade the skills of personnel under the Ministry. Better presentation in filming, art creation, application of techniques, editing

and news coverage were made.

Staff under the IPRD as well, managed to develop techniques and progress of literature as well as to make the practices of keeping records and facts. Upgrading the status of newsroom, reporters and editors, distribution systems, human resources and infrastructure were made, whereas reforming to become unbiased people's media and people's relation centers were also implemented.

Book Street in Yangon

Printing and publication department is a department that is mainly performing the tasks of printing State Gazettes, readers for basic education schools, election ballots for the whole country, commissioned by Union Election Commission.

Theinbyu Street, the location of the office of printing and publication, where book fair festivals are co-held with paper-reading events was upgraded to Book Street. This is one of the achievements of the Ministry of Information in a year.

Dailies

Myanma Alin, Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar have been making its effort to educate, inform and entertain the people starting from the day when the new government took office, bringing about the emergence of attractive pages on politics, economy and social affairs daily. At the same time, Mandalay pages on news and articles from Mandalay, and ethnic pages written in Mon, Sakaw Kayin, Poh Kayin, Paoh languages are also being described weekly.

The State-run papers, being the most subscribed and trustworthy ones, there are influx of advertisement into press houses. It managed to bring a lot of profits, though dailies are sold at 50 kyats a piece, instead of its actual cost—150 kyats per piece. Besides, dailies could earn much finance for the country.

Every weekly, Kyemon dailies describes page for new generation, while the Sunday Cartoon Programme for children included weekly in Myanma Alin and Kyemon upgraded reading speed of children and concurrently lifted up art creation and spiritual and moral courages.

Having an access to criticize

Platform for people's opinions, transparent things to be amended and letters to the editor are being described in Kyemon and Myanma Alin. Thus people can disclose their feelings, sufferings, problems, difficulties, anxieties and desires to the government in the constructive way, gaining direct effects almost every day.

11 National Ethnic Languages

MRTV broadcast traditional cultures and customs from national ethnic channel by using different techniques and presentations during one-year period when the new government took office, managing to revive ethnic



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint cuts the ribbon to open winter book festival. PHOTO: MNA

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Children enjoy cartoon at the Children's Literature Festival in Mandalay. PHOTO: MNA



Book lovers are seen at a book stall in downtown Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

language usages, cultures and traditions on the verge of extinction. In this period, by combining news sent by 11 local branches of 11 national ethnic languages with news from news branches from Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, the system of sending news was modernized, according to MRTV, the Ministry of Information.

Digital type to be transformed

With changing into the democratic nation, MRTV is being fixed with installing transmit-

ters and extending radio waves transmitting machines needed for Analogue Switch off Process, expected to commence digital TV and Radio broadcasts, in near future.

With the advancing information technologies, arrangements are being made for the people to get news and information online as digital papers to keep abreast with the time.

Interviewer: Let me know as to policies and further plans to be implemented by the Ministry of

Information.

Dr Pe Myint: The Ministry of Information is the one that is spanning between the people and the government. To do so, we mainly perform the task of presenting news and information to reach our people. Here I would like to inform that, on the other hand, we are making our concerted efforts to develop the literary world and to feed knowledge to our people.

Thank you, Mr Union Minister!

Major nations responsible for keeping world peace — China vice premier

BOAO — The world's major nations are responsible for maintaining global peace, and all countries should remain committed to a road of stable and peaceful development, China's Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli said on Saturday.

His comments followed media reports this week that North Korea was in the final stages of preparing for another nuclear test. Earlier this month, Pyongyang launched four ballistic missiles in response to joint US-South Korea military exercises, which it regards as preparation to war.

"Large countries have the responsibility to maintain global peace, should increase strategic dialogue, increase mutual trust, and respect each other's core interests and major concerns," Zhang said at the opening of the Boao Forum for Asia in southern China's Hainan province.

He did not identify the large countries.

North Korea has conducted two nuclear tests



China's Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli . PHOTO: REUTERS

and a series of missile launches since the beginning of 2016.

Washington has been pressing Beijing to do more to stop North Korea's nuclear and missile programmes. China has called for a dual-track approach, urging North Korea to suspend its tests and the United States and South Korea to halt military drills, so that both sides can return to talks.

Beijing has also been angered by the US deployment of the THAAD, or

Terminal High Altitude Area Defence, missile defence system in South Korea, which it says will both harm China's own security and do nothing to ease tensions.

"All parties should stick to dialogue to settle disputes and problems in a peaceful manner," Zhang said, without specifying what disputes and problems.

Zhang's comments also came ahead of a milestone meeting between Chinese President Xi Jin-

ping and US President Donald Trump in the United States next month.

During a recent visit to Beijing by US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, Xi said China and the United States must strengthen co-ordination of hot regional issues, respect each other's core interests and major concerns, and protect the broad stability of ties.

Trump has previously threatened a 45 per cent tariff on China's exports and frequently said on the campaign trail that he would label China a currency manipulator. Trump has not followed through on either move yet.

US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross has also complained about China's excess industrial capacity, unfair subsidies for state-owned enterprises and a lack of access for foreign firms to major sectors of the Chinese economy.

"China remains committed to the strategy of opening up," Zhang said. "China's door to the world is open, and it will only be opened wider." —Reuters

Philippines' communist rebels vow to revive ceasefire no later than 31 March

MANILA — The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) said on Saturday that its armed units will declare a unilateral ceasefire no later than 31 March, ahead of the resumption of peace talks with the government of President Rodrigo Duterte next month.

The CPP, who's armed wing, the New People's Army, has fought a nearly five-decade-long insurgency, expects that the Philippine government will declare a similar unilateral ceasefire as part of an agreement reached during backchannel talks from 10-11 March, the group said in a statement.

Negotiators from both sides agreed on 12 March to resume formal peace negotiations in The Netherlands from 2 to 6 April, a month after an angry Duterte cancelled talks after the rebels ambushed soldiers after unilaterally ending a previous ceasefire. Duterte, in an interview on Saturday with re-

porters in Bukidnon province in the southern Philippines, said he would consult with the country's political and security leaders "whether or not it would be good at this time" to resume the government's unilateral ceasefire. "I have to consult the (House) Speaker, I have to consult the Senate President, I have to convene the National Security Council, and I have to ask the generals of the army and the police," he said. In the statement, the CPP urged Duterte to order the military to "slow down its ongoing all-out offensive military operations and aerial bombing and shelling campaigns against rural (communities), to help create a favourable atmosphere for the mutual ceasefire."

To give the peace talks a boost, the CPP said it also expects the government to release 19 elderly and sick political prisoners, as well as five detained consultants of its political arm, the National Democratic Front.—Reuters

Russian design bureau ready to integrate BrahMos missiles into frigates for Indian Navy

LANGKAWI ISLAND (Malaysia) — The St Petersburg-based Severnoye Design Bureau is ready to integrate the BrahMos strike missile system into the armament set of Project 11356M frigates for the Indian Navy after they are ordered by India, Severnoye Deputy CEO and Chief Designer

for Special Hardware Vyacheslav Senchurov told TASS on Wednesday.

"No problems will emerge with the integration of the BrahMos strike missile complex into the frigate. We have already integrated this system earlier into the other three Project 11356 frigates acquired by the

Indian Navy," Senchurov said at the LIMA-2017 international maritime and aerospace show in Malaysia.

The Severnoye Design Bureau is the developer of Project 11356 warships for the Russian and Indian Navies while Project 11356M frigates are the follow-up of this

series.

The first three out of six Project 11356 frigates operational in the Indian Navy are armed with the Russian-made Club-N strike system (the export version of the Kalibr cruise missile complex) while the other three vessels are outfitted with the Russian-Indian BrahMos multipurpose missile system that is capable of hitting both surface and ground-based targets.

Director for International Cooperation and Regional Policy at Russia's state hi-tech corporation Rostec Viktor Klavov said earlier that the planned contract for the delivery of Project 11356 frigates for the Indian Navy would be implemented under the "two plus two" formula: two frigates were planned to be built in Russia and delivered to India and the other two would be constructed by the Indian ship-building industry at one of the national shipyards.—TASS



An official says no problems will emerge with the integration of the BrahMos strike missile complex into the frigate. PHOTO: TASS

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV. XETHA BHUM VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV. XETHA BHUM VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.3.2017 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV. IRRAWADDY STAR VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV. IRRAWADDY STAR VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.3.2017 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
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Opinion

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

The Important Role of Ba Ka Schools

Dr Nu Nu Win

The Monastic Education Schools (what we call Ba Ka Schools, which means the schools taught by monks (ဘုန်းတော်ကြီးသင် ပညာရေး ကျောင်းများ)) had been playing , is still playing and will go on playing an important role in the Myanmar Education sector. Like in most of the countries all over the world, Myanmar Education started mostly at the monasteries in the villages all over the country.

During the time of the Bagan Dynasty , there were Pwe Kyaungs where not only monks , but also Princes and laymen were taught all 18 different subjects which we call " Ahtaratha Saeshityat" (which the classical Indian scholars call "the Artha Shastra"). Starting from then on, Myanmar Education was taken care of by monks in the early periods.

According to our Myanmar tradition and culture, we have at least one monastery in every village what we call "Ywar Oo

Kyaung" which means the monastery at the entrance of the village. All children from the villages both boys and girls have to attend these schools when they reach school-going age. At the monasteries, they were taught not only Myanmar literature and language , but also some Buddhist teachings together with Suttas (such as Mingala Sutta, Yadana Sutta and so on). The strict discipline maintained at these monasteries was well-known.(No Child Psychology had come into the picture in those days).

But , according to our Myanmar Culture , all girls had to leave school when they come of age and had to stay at home to learn how household work to assist their mothers (such as cooking , looking after young children, how to do house work and so on.). At the same time, the boys have to take the role of novices and go on with their studies. After some months or years, they can decide to choose

the life of a monk or become laymen to help their fathers with farm work or some other professions.

Times change , and when there were English Mission Schools during the British Colonial period, and as some boys go to attend these schools, the monasteries had to hire young men teachers , who can teach Science (what they called Lawkadat Pyinnyar) and Mathematics . Still there were students who attended these Monastic Education Schools.

During the modern period, they are still going strong, as these schools are the places where children of poor people have been taken into refuge for their Education as parents could not afford to send their children to private or public schools. Also there were no schools for the village children in the remote areas.

Nowadays, we can find some orphans and children from remote and border areas

where there is no peace and stability in dire need of education. Some parents have to send their children to the monasteries in towns. This is to prevent their children from being forced to become child soldiers or to work as porters.

But, today Monastic Education Schools have become more modernized with hired and volunteer teachers and are teaching the Courses prescribed by the Ministry of Education. So, even some of them have had great success in their Education and had become engineers, doctors, dentists and all other educated person with decent professions. All the Sayadawgyis(the Abbot monks) take care of them and give them very good guidance.

So, starting from the period before modern Western Education came into Myanmar Society and up till the present, the Monastic Education (Ba Ka) Schools are still playing an important role in our country.

The State Sanghamahanayaka Committee of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

ALL the Buddhist people throughout the Republic of the Union of Myanmar know that the First concrete unity of the Sangha of All Orders in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar could be established within one-hundred years after the First Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders had been successfully held in 1980. It was clearly found in the history of Buddhism that it was impossible to carry out the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana without the unity of the Sangha.

It was found that multifarious sects and ganas of the Sangha appeared and separately existed in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar before the First Congregation of the Sangha of All orders. According to the confuse and contended situation of different sects and ganas of the Sangha of All Orders, many unlawful views (Adhammavadas) which lead to endanger and destroy the true teachings of the Buddha appeared in Republic of the Union of Myanmar in those days. A need was felt that the Buddhist people throughout the country worried about this situation. Some farsighted learned monks and devotees of those days tried to establish the unity of different sects and ganas of the Sangha Orders, and but they were not suc-

cessful because of being not encouraged and supported by the British Colonial Government at that time.

The farsighted learned monks and authorities concerned tried to hold the very First Congregation of the Sangha of all Order in order to establish the unity of the of the Sangha which ever leads to the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana in 1965. However, it was not successful because of unstable political and social situation at that time.

According to the strong wishes of the most of the members of the Sangha, the Buddhist people and the Government of the Union of Myanmar to established the Unity of the Sangha of All Orders for Unanimously carrying out the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana (The true teaching of the Buddha), the thorough and systematic necessary arrangements to hold the First Congregation of the Sangha of All Order for purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana were made in advance by the farsighted and learned chief monks and the Government of the Union of Myanmar of that time. And so, the First Congregation of the Sangha of All Order for purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana was successfully held in 1980. The congregation was attended by the

Sangha. Samuti representatives who represented the whole member of the Sangha of All Order throughout the country. According to the resolutions of the successful First Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders, the very first unity of the Sangha of All Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar could be formed and established within one-hundred years in the history of Buddhism of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

In accordance with the resolutions of the Congregation, the different levels of the Sangha Organizations which take office and settle various matters relating to the member of the Sangha could be formed. They are as follows: -

1. The State Sanghamahanayaka Committee.
2. The State / Regional Sanghamahanayaka Committees.
3. The Township Sanghamahanayaka Committees and
4. The Ward / Village-tract Sanghamahanayaka Committees.

Of the four different levels of Sangha Organizations, the State Sanghamahanayaka Committee comprising 47 Chief members of Sangha Orders, is the highest level of the Sangha Committees of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Function and duties of the State Sanghamahanayaka Committee.

1. Taking responsibilities of the Unity of the Sangha and carry-

ing out the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana

2. Instructing the supervising the Theravada Buddhist monks to behave and dwell in accordance with the Vinaya Rules
3. Carrying out its functions and duties in accordance with adopted and prescribed rules and regulations of different levels of Sangha Committee, procedures, settlements of Vinayadhammakamma Adhikrana Disputes Act, other decisions and instructions
4. According to the above-mentioned sub-para (1) (2) and (3), the State Sanghamahanayaka Committee shall have to supervise and instruct the Sangha Committee at different levels.
5. Instructing and supervising the matters relating to the administration of the respective Sangha Committees at different levels.
6. Occasionally notify the Dhammavinaya gazette concerning the whole member of the Sangha
7. Being able to make suggestions, prescribed canonical texts and its curriculums relating the Government Pariyatti examinations and supervise and amend the systems of the Pariyatti examinations,
8. Being able to make scrutinization, decision, permission and prohibition regarding different

views and opinions on Buddhism

9. Being able to make scrutinization, decision and prohibition of talks, writings, teachings and displays which are contradictory to and incompatible with the Pitika Canonical Texts
10. Being able to make scrutinization, decision, and prohibition on practices of Patipatti which are contradictory to and incompatible with the Pitika Canonical Texts,
11. If the functions and activities carried out by respective Sangha Committees at different levels were not in agreement with the basic principles of the Sangha Committees, the plenary meeting of the State Sanghamahanayaka Committee shall cancel these functions and activities by approval of at least 75 per-centage of members of the State Sangha Mahanayaka Committee who attend the meeting.

According to the functions and duties of the State Sanghamahanayaka Committee, it is found that various matters relating to the members of the Sangha or Sangha Committees can only be decided and settled by members of the Sangha themselves. Any matters relating to the members of the Sangha cannot be decided and settled by any civil courts or authorities concerned.



Vice President U Myint Swe visits tropical botanical garden in Boao in China. PHOTO: MNA

Vice President U Myint Swe visits tropical botanical garden in Boao

VICE President U Myint Swe yesterday afternoon visited the tropical botanical garden in Boao, Hainan province in the People's Republic of China.

Officials conducted the Vice President and party round the garden which grows tea, coffees, coco and banana species for re-

search, categorizes plants species and produces value-added goods.

The garden serves as a research centre for tropical plants, public recreation and knowledge dissemination for value-added goods.

In the evening the Vice President and party met the governor of the province at Boao Interna-

tional Conference Center, and shared experiences in agricultural, cultural, sports and tourism sectors and discussed setting up a direct flight between Myanmar and the province.

A dinner was hosted in honour of the participants to the Boao Forum at the center. —Myanmar News Agency

Man missing in Buthidaung Township

A MAN named Shiveli or Naw-be Huusaung living at Myoma ward in Buthidaung Township went missing on his way to Mikyaung Kaung Swe Village on Tuesday.

He informed his wife that he would visit the house of his moth-

er-in-law, Marmauk Phweyoud in Mikyaung Kaung Swe Village at about 9.30 am on 21 March and he was not got back and still lost.

Mabar kurthuu, a wife of Shiveli opened a file of lawsuit over the case at the police station of Buthidaung Township.

Security forces and officials from the village searched him around Mikyaung Kaung Swe Village and its neighboring villages but significant information was obtained and further investigation is ongoing. —Myanmar News Agency

New Bridge to promote socio-economy of Rakhine people

>> FROM PAGE 1

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu said words of thanks for the development of roads and bridges on behalf of Rakhine residents. Then, U Aung Kyaw Zan, Rakhine State Minister for Electricity, Industry and Transportation, U Aung Thaung Shwe and U Maung Kyaw Zan, Members of Parliament, U Thein Naing, Deputy Director of Department of Bridge and local resident U Maing Myi Tha cut the ribbon and Union Minister U Win Khaing and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu switched on the memorial tablet before passing through the bridge together with local residents.

A local resident Daw Win

Kyi from Ward 5 in Buthidaung said "I am very pleased to have better transportation due to the bridge. Before the bridge, it takes a long time in travelling by water way. It was also inconvenient for the daily travellers who have to pay for boat charges. Thanks to all the responsible persons."

A local resident, U Mya Tha said "it is wonderful to have the bridge constructed. Now we can go both by water way and by road. But I would like to advise that it would not be complete for having it.

It is required to construct other bridges for the development as the Rakhine State geographically has plenty of

mountains and rivers."

U Thein Naing, Deputy Director of Department of Bridge said "we constructed the bridge in priority to help local resident who depends on waterways. We continue to construct 600-foot long Saidin Bridge, 500-foot long Thaungdaya Bridge and other bridges across the creeks."

He continued, "If the road reaches from Yathaedaung-Punnagyun to Sittway, it can access to the whole country. We will finish the road in 2018-2019.

The bridge can be said Border Bridge and regional development will be expected through the use of that bridge." —Myanmar News Agency

72nd Armed Forces Day to broadcast live

THE Armed Forces Day-2017 celebration in Nay Pyi Taw will broadcast live on 27th March, 2017.

The live broadcast of the

72nd anniversary celebration on the Myanmar Radio and Television-MRTV will start at 5.30 am.—Myanmar News Agency

Indian government donated two ambulances for YCH

IN order to upgrade Myanmar's public health service, the government of India donated two modern ambulances equipped with medical instruments worth 154,600 USD to Yangon Children Hospital yesterday.

Indian ambassador to Myanmar, Mr. Vikram Misri told that, these ambulances fixed with modern medical equipments donated to be able to save the lives of patients giving necessary treatment to patients in the vehicle, in such a situation of high traffic jam.

It is known that, as there is no specialists in Child Heart Disease in Yangon General Hospital and Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Diseases (EENT) in Yangon Children Hospital, patients suffering from those diseases have to use those ambulances to go to Yankin Hospital EENT Hospital.

Dr. Su Su Dwe, Medical Superintendent of the hospital said that, "there are only 4 ambulances at the hospital. However we are facing inconveniences in transferring the patients to

Yankin Hospital so we need more ambulances for the hospital."

YCH has provided medical services to 100 to 150 patients daily in Orthopedic treatment ward, medical ward, surgery ward, neo-natal ward, Pediatric Oncology ward, Renal treatment ward, Neurology ward and Pediatric Nutrition ward respectively.

Indian government also recently donated "3 Telsa MRI" machine for the screening of bones and muscle joints and lumps of flesh and "CT Scanner and Oxygen Concentrator Plant for the diagnosing of pulmonary and Oncology diseases accordingly to YCH and also donated 64-slice CT Scanner, Oxygen Plant, Ultrasound Scan Machine and other essential medical devices to Sittway hospital.

About 7 million USD will be used in supplying medical equipments and devices for YCH and Sittway hospital and 2 million USD for Monywa Children and Women hospital, according to the Embassy of India in Myanmar.—Nanda Win(MNA)



Indian ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Vikram Misri sprinkles scented water on one of the ambulances. PHOTO: TAYA

Stimulant Tablets Seized in Maungtaw

YESTERDAY evening in Maungtaw Tsp, Rakhine State, 80475 tablets were seized from a boat while the naval security troop is patrolling.

When naval security troop is patrolling on the west of Mingalargyi creek in Maungtaw on 24 March at 10 pm, they chase a suspicious boat, about 4 people escaped by diving into the creek

but they were able to seize floating bundles.

When plastic bundles were opened, they found 80475 (WY/R) pink color, stimulant tablets worth an estimated Ks 16.1 millions. Seized boat and stimulant tablets were handed over to anti-drug squad. Police try to file law suit against them.—Myanmar News Agency

EU seeks post-Brexit unity by going back to roots at Rome

ROME — Sixty years ago, Britain shunned a meeting in Rome where six war-scarred neighbours founded what became the EU; on Saturday, it is again absent, this time from a sombre birthday party as it quits a bloc which now embraces most of Europe.

It might have been a modestly hopeful summit to mark the 28-nation European Union's 60th anniversary in the palazzo where old foes France and Germany, with Italy and the Benelux countries, signed the Treaty of Rome on 25 March, 1957.

Instead, it will be overshadowed by the unprecedented departure of a member state, which Prime Minister Theresa May will initiate next Wednesday.

All the bloc's economies are growing after a slump that has blighted the past decade and recent border chaos has largely abated as refugees are, for now, being held in check.

But Brexit, which should take effect in March 2019 if a two-year timetable holds, has undermined the self-confidence of a Union that might see its 60 years of strengthening peace and growing prosperity as a success, and has encouraged



EU leaders stand inside Orazi and Curiazi hall during their meeting on the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, in Rome, Italy on 25 March, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

euro-sceptic nationalists challenging governments from Stockholm to Sicily.

It has also amplified the petty frictions among the more than two dozen national governments and obliged leaders' aides to water down a grand birthday declaration of unity.

Britain originally snubbed the Treaty of Rome, but changed its mind about the Common Market three years later. It was made to wait however by

the suspicious French until 1973 before joining and it voted to leave the Union last June in a divisive referendum whose consequences remain unclear.

After days of carping from Poland and Greece, seeking to show home voters they were getting Brussels to give assurances about equal treatment and social welfare, the Rome Declaration the 27 will sign in the late morning offers ringing phrases about peace

and unity.

But it may disappoint those who think more ambition and coordination is the answer to malaise.

At the Vatican on Friday, Pope Francis told the assembled leaders, Roman Catholics and non-Catholics alike, that their Union had achieved much in 60 years but that Europe faced a "vacuum of values". He condemned anti-immigrant populism and extremism that he said posed a mortal

threat to the bloc.

"When a body loses its sense of direction and is no longer able to look ahead, it experiences a regression and, in the long run, risks dying," said the Argentinian pontiff.

Their response, he said, should be to promote Europe's ideals and values with more vigour and passion.

He urged states to show more "solidarity", a vexed word today, where Ger-

mans, say, complain Poles are not taking in refugees or Greeks bemoan a lack of debt relief from Germany.

And the first non-European pope in over 1,000 years reminded them of the diminishing share of the world's wealth and people in Europe. They were a "peninsula of Asia", Francis told them, urging them to remain open to the rest of the world.

Security will be tight around the muted celebrations in the Campidoglio palace in central Rome, with protesters planning to gather through the day and police on high alert after the latest attack in Europe, on Wednesday in London.

Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack, although it was unclear what links — if any — the attacker Khalid Masood, who killed four people, had with the militant group.

The attack on the first anniversary of suicide bombings in the EU capital Brussels underlined the common threats Europeans face and drew renewed expressions of concern and reassurance on continued security cooperation between Britain and the Union. —Reuters

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Lights go out around the world for 10th Earth Hour

SYDNEY — The lights are being switched off around the world at 8:30 pm on Saturday evening, to mark the 10th annual Earth Hour, and to draw attention to climate change.

The initiative began in Australia in 2007 as a grass roots gesture by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Australia against man-made carbon dioxide emissions linked to a warming planet.

In 2017, it will involve the switching off of electric lights for an hour in 7,000 cities across 172 countries, at 8:30 pm local time, with the aim of highlighting the need to act on climate change, and saving a few megawatts of power in the process.

Among the famous buildings and structures taking part in Australia are Sydney's Opera House, the Harbour Bridge, Luna Park, Town Hall, and Sydney



The Sydney Opera House seen before the tenth anniversary of Earth Hour in Sydney, Australia on 25 March, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Tower Eye. Internationally the list includes some of the world's best known sky-scrapers and historic buildings including the world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, London's Big Ben and Houses of Parliament, the Colosseum in Rome, Istanbul's Blue

Mosque, the Eiffel Tower, Moscow's Kremlin and Red Square and the Pyramids of Egypt. While the organisers of Earth Hour said they do not audit results of the energy saving initiative, the group has commissioned research indicating up to one in four Australians gets

involved. WWF says Earth Hour can take credit for various environmental initiatives, like the 2013 declaration of a 3.4 million hectare marine park in the waters off Argentina, the planting of a forest in Uganda and a ban on soft plastics in the Galapagos Island. —Reuters

Vucic: Serbia will never go backward again

BELGRADE — I pledge to every Serbian citizen — every man, woman and child — that I will never take my duty lightly, that

I will never be bigger than the country or ever take anything away from it, and that I will be ready to give everything to it, presiden-

tial candidate Aleksandar Vucic said at an electoral rally in Belgrade.

I want to be the president of all, with no desire

to divide people or intent to judge, and with full awareness of my own submissiveness, he told a packed Kombank Arena. —Tanjug

PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

One-year journey of Ministry of Transport and Communications

Nandar Win (MNA)

THE transport sector needs to be upgraded to be on a par with the characteristics of urban life as all the people for various reasons are relying on land, water or air routes in their daily life.

Once, Jarneikyaw Ma Ma Lay wrote about a scene of a journey from Yangon to Delta depicting a scene on a paddle steamer of the Irrawaddy Flotilla of Pyitawtha times saying, "As soon as a ship moors alongside the quay, the new passengers rush to the ship and take seats on dust and rubbish left by passengers of the previous journey. It seems convenience to them although there is a pile of leftovers around them. They seem immune to such environment."

Reforms

The Ministry of Transport and Communications today puts all its energy into transforming

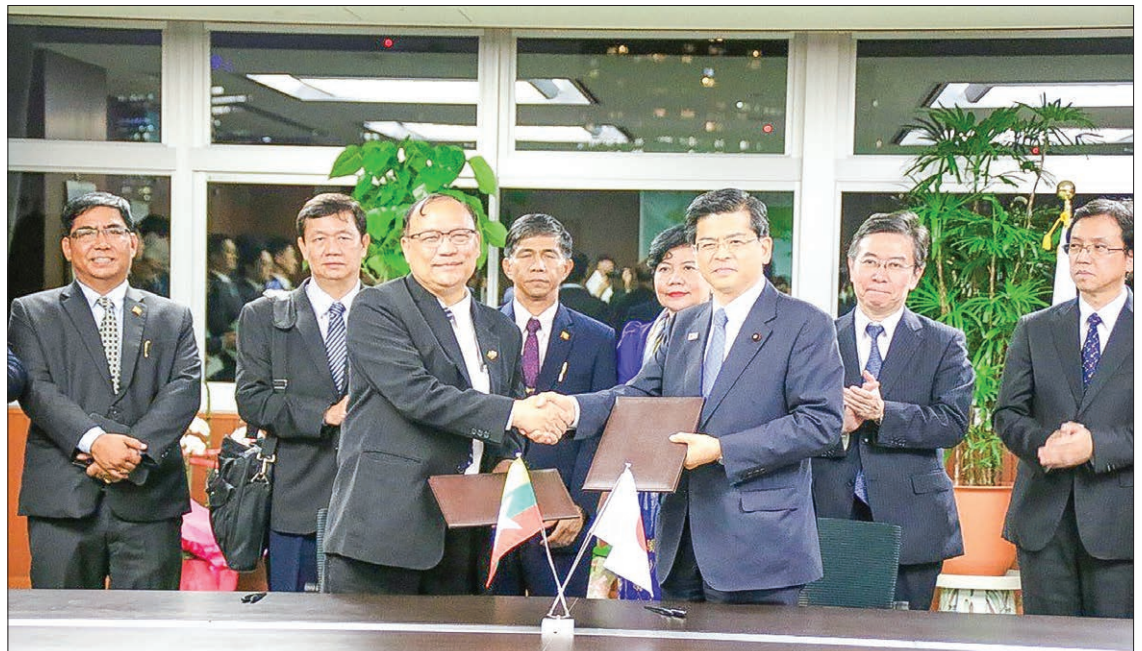
the transport sector to shift passengers and goods through convenient mode of transportation.

Existing as the separate ministries in the past were merged as the Ministry of Transport and Communications under which 18 departments were organized to contribute to social development, to bring about sustainable development, to be in line with international norms and to create job opportunities.

ADB's assistance

To adopt a transport policy which is essential to make a change in the existing transport sector of low standard, ADB's experts gave advice and the policy was adopted in May. Its main objective is to create efficient and cost-effective system, said Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Zin Maung.

In accord with the policy, five-year plans each for air, water and railway sectors were made under the National Transport Master



Memorandum signing ceremony of cooperation of Myanmar-Japan transportation sector. PHOTO: MNA

Plan 2016-2040 designed by the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

For the current year, the previous government's projects that will not benefit to the people will be stopped and within the budget frame, money will be spent on projects benefiting the people will be implemented with fast pace to be lasting for a long time.

Spread wings

Altogether 48 agreements for international flight have been made so far. Moreover, framework agreements among ASEAN and CLMV countries – Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam have also been made. During one-year period, flight agreements between Myanmar and Bhutan and between Myanmar and Netherlands and Draft agreement between Myanmar and Indonesia were made.

Currently, Myanmar's airports accommodate 32 international flights and ten domestic flights. In the time of new govern-

ment, four international flights namely Hong Kong Express Airlines, Thai Lion Air, Emirates Airline and Air KBZ operate business.

Myanmar National Airlines, the flag carrier of Myanmar, was transformed into corporation and it conducts international and domestic flights, chartered flights and fixed base operations to earn more money.

Flights are scheduled to and from 28 airports in the country and international flights are also expanded. In August last year Yangon-Singapore-Yangon flight, in September Yangon-Mandalay-Bangkok-Yangon flight, in October Bodgaya flight and in November Changmai flight were added.

In the last Fiscal Year there was only over 500000 air passengers but up to January this year the number increased to nearly 900000. The Union minister said that online sale of air ticket has been used to double the amount of

passengers.

Myanmar engineers conducted heavy maintenance of an ART plane together with foreigner engineers in April last year.

Acknowledgement

In coming May, Europe Air Safety Board will come to town to check the safety measure and issue air safety certificate. So, planes will no need to go abroad to be repaired and as a result spending of foreign exchange can be reduced.

Water transport

Transporting goods and passengers by waterway is cost-effective. Such navigable rivers in the country as Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Sittoung, Thanlwin and Kaladan and many others are flowing in the country. But, deforestation and indiscriminate mining have caused silting, floods and bank erosions and resulted in changing of water course.

The minister expressed that lack of waterway channel management and river training is the reason for floods in the rainy season and silting up in the hot season and therefore measures are being taken to mitigate disasters. He also said that his team cannot cure the major disease but is struggling with minor illness. He exposed that Regions' fund were spent on 133 bank erosion prevention tasks this year.

Maritime safety

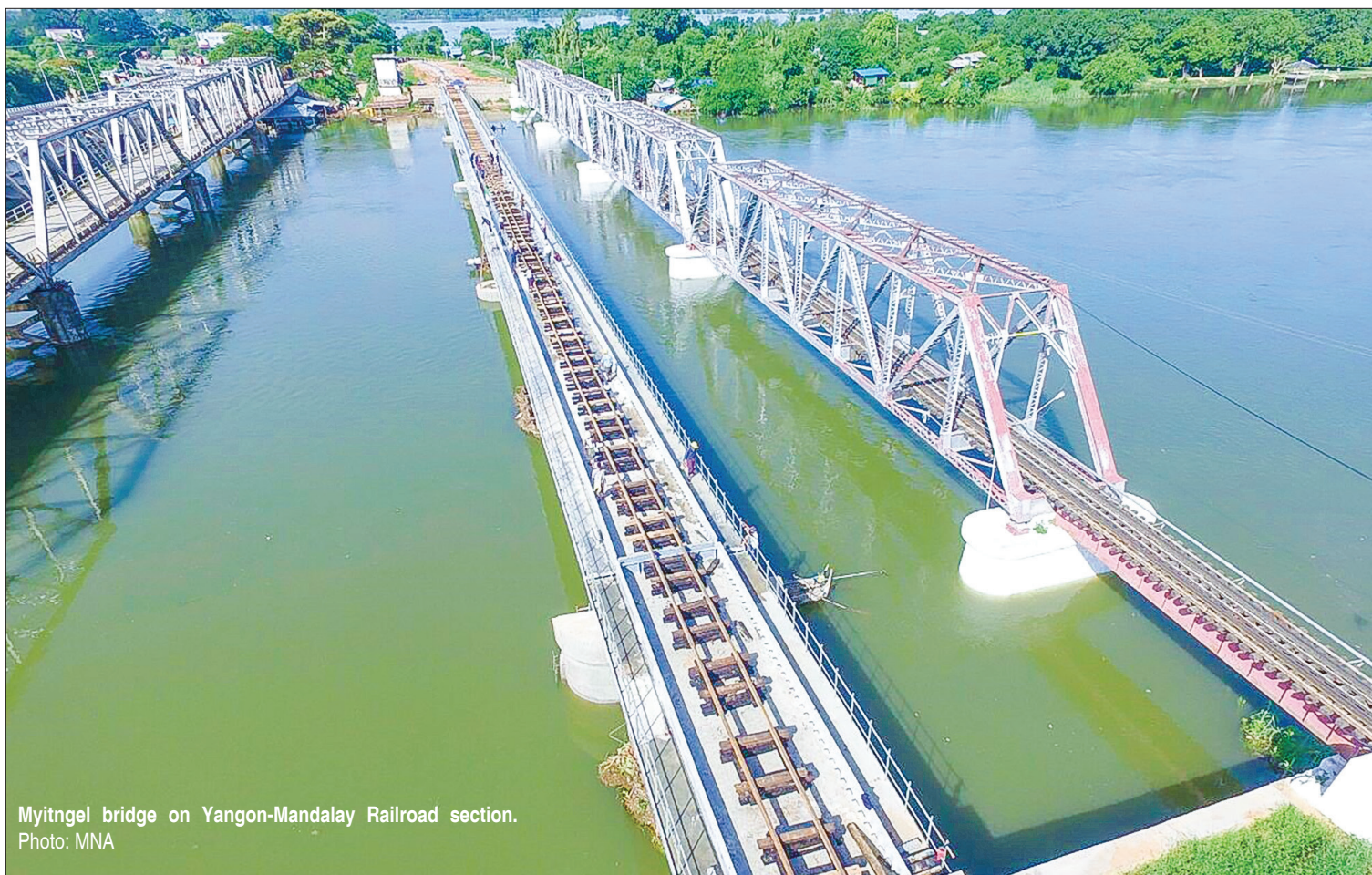
To ensure safety in the maritime sector and to preserve environment, Myanmar is abiding by the rules and regulations of International Maritime Organization.

According to the Union minister, measures are being taken to improve waterway system, seven projects are implemented using Union's fund and 13 with emergency fund in Sagaing, Magway, Bago and Ayeyawady Regions and Shan State.

With the assistance of World Bank, a plan to improve river watercourse along Ayeyawady river from Mandalay to Nyaung U has been made. Another attempt to prevent bank erosion is test cultivation of Vartivar grass in states and regions. If good result comes out the project will be continued.

SEE PAGE 12 >>

To reduce fatality due to accidents on roads, a national level council for prevention against road accident was formed and it supervises road safety measures.



Myitngel bridge on Yangon-Mandalay Railroad section.
Photo: MNA

PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD

>> FROM PAGE 11 Inland Water Transport

First, there was a plan for Inland Water Transport to transform into corporation. But this plan can cause hardships for government staff and thus not to cause harm to them it reenter into Union budget.

The Union minister explained that in the future, Chindwin Water Transport Corporation, Ayeyawady Water Transport Corporation, Rakhine Water Transport Corporation will emerge under public companies or joint ventures. He also said that systematic measures are taken to create corporate to improve waterborne transportation.

In accord with the National Transport Master Plan, container wharfs that can handle loading and unloading will be built – four at the bank of Bhamo, Mandalay, Pakokku and Magway along Ayeyawady river and two at Monywa and Kalaywa along Chindwin river.

Loans from Belgium

Mandalay has been chosen to build the first wharf and the test run was conducted between Yangon and Hsimekon for plying container ships. It is targeted to build the wharf by 2020 to transport goods between Yangon and Mandalay by waterway. To get loans for improving waterway, coordination is being made with Belgium through the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

As Yangon port handles over 90 percent of goods, jetties and related services, computerized systems, and Port-EDI project to contribute to National Single Window are under implementation with the assistance of Japan. The services will be available in October.

Railway

As regards, the railway sector, electric trains plying on the Strand Road were immediately stopped as there were just ten passengers a day. Arrangements are being made to channel near-

ly 3 million USD and 200 million MMK which were slated for this project into other projects that will benefit to people. With the assistance of Japan ODA loans, Yangon circular train system will be upgraded.

The ministry is trying to change Myanmar Railway to become an organization on which people can rely. To meet this end, plans are being made with the help of ADB experts to upgrade railroads across the country.

Road transport

In the road transport sector car registrations for various kinds of cars have been made for road safety.

To reduce fatality due to accidents on roads, a national level council for prevention against road accident was formed and it supervises road safety measures.

Encouraging motorcyclists to wear helmets, car drivers to fasten their seatbelts and to fol-

In the communication sector, expanding communication networks, providing better services, cooperation with international community, improving cyber security and introducing e-Government process are at the top of priority list.

low traffic rules can reduce traffic accidents.

To ease traffic jams and to expose traffic offences, radio frequency identification system is to be installed and in that re-



Yangon-Mandalay Railroad is being upgraded with the use of heavy machinery. PHOTO: MNA

gard, consultants are hired to implement the program.

National Cyber Security

In the communication sector, expanding communication networks, providing better services, cooperation with international community, improving cyber security and introducing e-Government process are at the top of priority list.

Myanmar Communications needs to be transformed into corporation so do Myanmar Port Authority and Inland Water Transport.

Corporations are State-owned and a slight change in the administrative sector is done for them to be able to do business independently. It will be the State-owned or the public owned. The government will supervise them according to policies and laws, said the Union minister.

Satellite channel

A five-year agreement was made in May between Myanmar Communications and Intelsat Global Sale and Marketing Ltd. According to the agreement Myanmar Sat 1 was established. Arrangements are being made to hire satellite channels to minis-

tries and private companies with reasonable price.

Myanmar telephone density jumped to 104.62 percent in January this year from 86.20 percent in 2015-2016 Fiscal Year. It means the number of mobile phones increased from over 44 million to over 54 million.

The Internet usage has also increased from 70.60 percent to 88.95 percent meaning it jumped from the population of 36 million to 46 million.

Mobile network to cover the whole country it needs to erect 16965 towers. Of them, 14872 have been completed up to January this year. The length of fiber cables touches 35362.27 kilometers and more cables of 10730.02 kilometers are being connected.

Post office

Japan is rendering assistance to development of Myanmar post office. Entrepreneurs within and without the country are allowed to run express mail services. Other businesses such as money order, online shopping and mobile money transfer will be expanded.

Meteorology and Hydrology

With the assistance of Ja-

pan, Meteorology Centre Center in MraukU and Hydrology Center in Myawady were opened this year. Seven hydrology survey stations were upgraded to forecast stations.

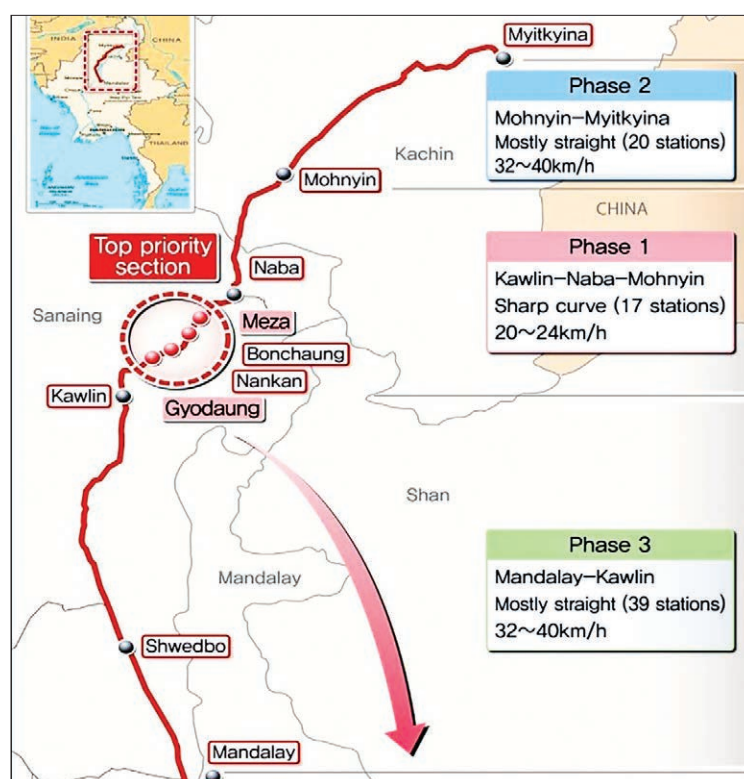
One of the aims of Ministry of Transport and Communications is to create an independent transport sector free from interference of government to contribute to national development and to fulfill the needs of people.

In the communication sector also, the ministry is trying to expand its communication coverage reaching far flung areas such as Kachin State, Naga mountain, Chin State, Rakhine State and Shan State, etc.

Change

As per today's request, the transport sector sees a lot of changes. And mobile phones are just for the elites in the past, but now the device can be seen in the hands of almost everyone.

These are the efforts of the Ministry of Transport and Communications which helps build the nation to become prosperous.



Mandalay-Myitkyina Railroad Section is being upgraded for convenience of commodity flow. PHOTO: MNA

Russia develops 'grenade launcher-propelled' reconnaissance drone

PATRIOT PARK (Moscow Region) — A reconnaissance drone propelled from a container based on the principle of a hand-held grenade launcher was unveiled at a military and scientific conference outside Moscow on Thursday.

The conference entitled: "Robotization of the Russian Armed Forces" is being held at the Patriot theme park in the Moscow Region.

The system is designed to transmit real-time video information to the operator's monitor. The drone provides for concealed and continuous air reconnaissance of the terrain and objectives within the area of responsibility of a combined arms force.

According to the developers, the drone is prepared for launch within a period of 5 seconds to 3 minutes, depending on the time of preparing a flight program in cases when



The drone will be able to carry a wide range of payloads, including observation and target acquisition systems. PHOTO: TASS

other similar drones require much more time for accomplishing the mission.

The drone will be able

to stay in the air for up to two hours at an altitude of up to 4 km, after which it will return to the home base.

The drone will carry a very wide range of payloads, including observation and target acquisition systems.—TASS

Chinese-made large passenger jet passes assessment for maiden flight

SHANGHAI — China's first large domestically designed and built passenger jetliner has passed a major technical assessment, bringing it a closer to its maiden flight, sources with the developer said on Saturday.

An evaluation committee consisting of 63 aviation specialists from across China has agreed the C919 is technically ready for its maiden flight, said the Shanghai-based aircraft maker, Commercial Aircraft Corp of China (COMAC) in a press release.

The experts have worked in seven teams to assess the jet's design, structure and performances, which they have tested in labs, on board and during low-speed taxiing, it said.

The committee has proven the C919 is technically airworthy but the jet is still subject to

electromagnetic compatibility and taxiing tests before it takes to the air.

The jet was built in 2015 and COMAC completed the onboard systems installation as well as major static and system integration tests before the technical assessment.

The C919, with over 150 seats and a standard range of 4,075 kilometers, is expected to compete with the updated Airbus 320 and Boeing's new-generation 737, which currently dominate the market.

By the end of 2016, 21 customers had placed orders for more than 500 C919 aircraft, and COMAC expects to sell at least 2,000.

China's first regional commercial aircraft, the ARJ21, began commercial operation in June 2016.—Xinhua

Syrian army pushing back insurgent offensive, military source says

BEIRUT — Syria's army and its allies retook a village near Hama on Saturday, a Syrian military source said, as the government tries to turn back a major insurgent offensive, but bitter fighting continued, a war monitor said.

President Bashar al-Assad and his allies, Russia, Iran and Shi'ite militias from nearby countries, are seeking to staunch the biggest rebel assault in months which began this week in the capital Damascus and the Hama

countryside.

Insurgents have made big advances towards Hama, taking about a dozen towns and villages and moving to within a few kilometres of the city and its military airbase, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based war monitor, said.

"Units of our armed forces and allied forces restored the town of Kawkab and continue their military operations in more than one direction of the northern Hama countryside," the

military source said.

The Observatory said rebels had been forced to withdraw under rocket fire from some of the positions they had occupied, but mutual shelling in parts of the Hama battlefield continued.

In Damascus, the army said on Friday it had managed to recapture all the positions it lost early in the week to rebels in the Jobar area, which is on the north-eastern fringe of the central district of the capital.—Reuters

Air strike kills 16 in Syrian prison: Observatory

BEIRUT — At least 16 people died after a Friday night air strike on a prison in Syria's rebel-held Idlib province including both prisoners and staff, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based war monitor, said on Saturday.

Idlib is one of the most important strongholds of rebels, including jihadist factions, who seek to overthrow President Bashar al-Assad, whose air force, along with that of his ally Russia, has been heavily bombarding

insurgents there.

The Observatory said it had received information that some of those who died were shot dead while attempting to flee the prison after the air strike hit one side of it. Two jailers were among the 16 people killed.

The population of Idlib, located in northwest Syria, has been swelled by refugees including many of those who have left rebel-held enclaves elsewhere in the country after the army and its allies forced them to surrender.

While parts of Idlib are controlled by Turkey-backed rebels, including factions who fight under the banner of the Free Syrian Army, other areas are dominated by the hard-line Islamist Ahrar al-Sham and others by the Tahrir al-Sham jihadist alliance.

Tahrir al-Sham's strongest component is the former Nusra Front group which was al Qaeda's official branch in Syria until last year when it broke formal ties with the global movement.—Reuters

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

Rebooted Power Rangers return to big screen

LOS ANGELES — The latest reboot of the 1990s “Power Rangers” children’s television series held its world premiere in Los Angeles on Wednesday night.

Directed by Dean Israelite, the film tells the backstories of the five teenage characters — a misfit, a loner, a school bully, an intellectual and a drop-out — and their transformation into action heroes.

“It’s like an instruction manual of how to become a Power Ranger because you go through the kids’ journey...these inadequate insecure little kids, and how they become superheroes,” said actor Ludi Lin, who plays the Black Ranger.

As in the television series, the Rangers’ mission is to stop arch villain Rita Repulsa, played in the rebooted film version by American actor Elizabeth Banks.

“It’s hard work. I will

say that but it was really fun to yell at everyone,” Banks said. “It’s fun to feel like I was invincible.”

Earlier in the day, Power Rangers creator and producer Haim Saban received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame for his achievements in television.

The TV series that debuted as “Mighty Morphin Power Rangers” in 1993 is now in its 24th season, making it one of the longest running children’s action series in television history.

It also spawned three theatrical films, with the latest, “Saban’s Power Rangers”, set to open in US theaters on Friday.

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Becky G. PHOTO: REUTERS

Kanye West settles with Hungarian singer over alleged song theft

NEW YORK — Kanye West has settled a lawsuit by a Hungarian rock singer who accused the hip-hop star of sampling one of his best-known works without permission for the 2013 song “New Slaves.”

The accord resolves claims that 85 seconds, or one-third, of “New Slaves,” which appeared on the No 1 album “Yeezus,” was a copy of the plaintiff Gabor Presser’s 1969 song “Gyongyhaju Lany,” which translates roughly as “Pearls in Her Hair.”

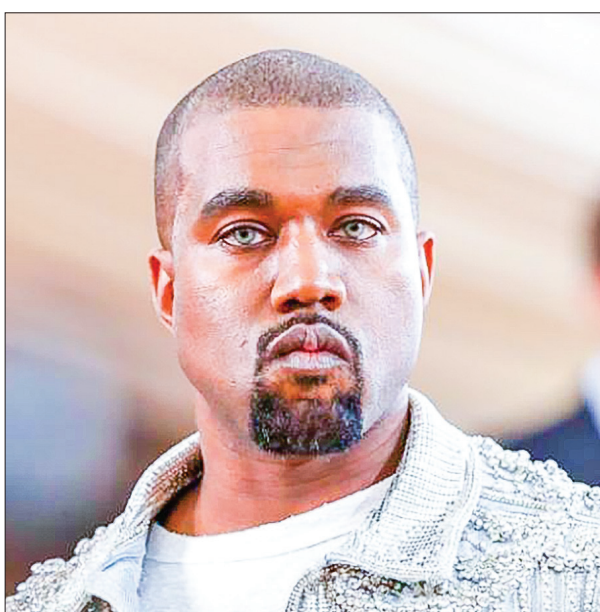
“I am very glad it is over,” Presser was quoted as saying by Hungarian news agency MTI on Friday.

Terms of the settlement were not disclosed.

Lawyers for West and co-defendant Sony Corp’s Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The parties settled on Monday, two days before West was scheduled for a deposition. A notice that they agreed to dismiss the case was made public on Thursday in Manhattan federal court.

“The matter has been



Entertainer Kanye West arrives at the Metropolitan Museum of Art Costume Institute Gala in New York, May 2, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

resolved amicably,” Peter Cane, a lawyer for Presser, said on Friday.

Presser had sought at least \$2.5 million of damages for copyright infringement, calling his song “one of the most beloved pop songs ever in Hungary and across Eastern Europe.”

He said he did not know the song was used until West’s lawyers gave him 24 hours to “work out a deal” and then sent him a \$10,000 check, which he

never cashed.

A lyricist, Anna Adamis, was also a plaintiff.

Recording stars are often sued in the United States for song theft, as in a case filed last month against U2 in the Manhattan court. Few such cases go to trial, and many are resolved out of court.

The case is Presser et al v West et al, US District Court, Southern District of New York, No 16-03798.—Reuters

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

Treehouses and mansions — Life in the shadow of the US-Mexico fence

TIJUANA — The rust-red US fence along the Mexican border has inspired various quirky architectural structures, from a frontier-themed mansion to a humble treehouse with uninterrupted views across the Californian scrubland.

Carlos Torres, an architect in the northern Mexican city of Tijuana, has lived in a house in the shadow of the US border for three decades, and the fence that US President Donald Trump has vowed to expand begins at the end of his garden.

Yet far from seeing the metal wall as an eyesore, he chose to make it a central piece of the design aesthetic of his lavish home, which he has named “The First House in Northwest Mexico.”

A specially erected viewpoint provides a panoramic vista into the United States, while his garden is littered with border paraphernalia, such as a signpost indicating the start of US territory.

Although Torres has embraced his little section of wall, he doubted the larger fence that Trump envisages will work.

“Walls won’t halt immigration,” he said from his viewing balcony, which also looks out onto the Pacific Ocean. Trump, he said, “doesn’t know what he’s talking about. Here at this fence, people keep crossing every week.”

The wall also dominates Pedro and Carmen Hernandez’s garden, but unlike Torres, they don’t have the means to turn it into a design feature. Instead, they use the corrugated metal that looms over their modest home to hang their clothes to dry.

“Sometimes, we’ve had people in our gardens who are trying to cross over,” Carmen said. “This area has been dangerous for years. We’ve had murders and kidnappings.

But one learns to live with it.”

A few kilometres east of Torres’ mansion, Guatemalan chef Joaquin set up a much simpler home in the branches of a tree, just meters from the border.

Deported from the United States a few years ago and with little money to spend, Joaquin — who did not want his last name used so he would not be identified — hoisted a scruffy mattress into the heart of the tree and spends his nights staring up through the leaves into the heavens.

During the day, he often spots dozens of migrants trying to sneak into the United States. “I’ve tried to cross so many times that the (US) border guards even got to know me, but I never made it back,” said Joaquin, who makes a living by collecting trash in Tijuana that he tries to sell to a local recycling plant.—Reuters



A girl climbs stairs near a section of the fence separating Mexico and the United States, in Tijuana, Mexico. PHOTO: REUTERS

Madrid turns down offer to build \$2.3 bln entertainment project

MADRID — The city of Madrid on Friday turned down an offer from US real estate developer Cordish Companies to build a 2.2 billion euro (\$2.3 billion) entertainment complex in the Spanish capital.

The 134-hectare piazza dubbed ‘Live! Resorts Madrid’ and comprising dining, shopping and hotel facilities would have been the largest of its kind in Europe, with the creation of over 50,000 jobs.

The regional government, however, ruled that it would have cost 340 million euros of public money to build the needed infrastructure around the complex, while the economic viability of the project was not certain.

It is the second time a project of this kind has failed to come to fruition in the Spanish capital.

In 2013, US casino operator Las Vegas Sands abandoned plans for a \$3 billion gambling resort ‘Eurovegas’ after the government refused to give ground on certain demands, such as lifting a nationwide smoking ban inside the complex.—Reuters

Last double-decker Shinkansen bullet trains to retire in few years

TOKYO — Japan’s last double-decker bullet trains operated on the Joetsu Shinkansen Line connecting Tokyo and Niigata will retire in a few years, a railway operator source said on Saturday.

East Japan Railway Co plans to replace the E4 series, the last remaining two-deck Shinkansen bullet trains, with the single-deck E7 series from fiscal 2018 as part of its effort to improve speed and comfort, according to the source.

The history of double-decker Shinkansen bullet trains started with the 100 series on the Tokaido and Sanyo Shinkansen lines in 1985, and railroad enthusiasts and fans of the trains may be disappointed to see their retirement.

The all-double-deck E4 series, which debuted in 1997, had a seating capacity of 1,634, the largest in the world among high-speed trains, and contributed to the transportation of increasing numbers of commuters in the country.

The E4 series trains were initially operated on the Tohoku Shinkansen line connecting Tokyo and Aomori, northern Japan, but ended services on that section in 2012. The E7 series, jointly developed by East Japan Railway Co and West Japan Railway Co, will be introduced on the Joetsu Shinkansen Line from fiscal 2018 and the E4 series trains will gradually be replaced with by E7 series, according to the source. Currently on the Joetsu Shinkansen Line, the E2 series is in service as well, but will be replaced by the E7 after the E4 series, the source said. The E7 series, with luxury “GranClass” cars, has already been introduced on the Hokuriku Shinkansen Line linking Tokyo with the Hokuriku region on the Sea of Japan coast.—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.

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Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ministry of Electricity and Energy



Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(26-3-2017 07:00am ~ 27-3-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Paper Products... Plain but Pretty
07:46	Am	Ywar Thit's Monhinkhar
08:03	Am	News

08:25	Am	The Man and The Elephant
08:56	Am	Moe La Win's Piano Melody 7 (Thingyan Moe by Myoma Nyein)
09:03	Am	News
09:27	Am	Snow Flakes...Scenic Confluence... To Kachin State
09:49	Am	Gold from Garbage
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Reflected Glory
10:49	Am	Capable Though Disabled
(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm)- Saturday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Travelogue: A Tour in Korea (Ep-5)
07:43	Pm	Kyeikhteyoe: Welcome All
07:49	Pm	Today Myanmar: Pristine Nature - Gaw Yan Gyi Island
08:03	Pm	News
08:25	Pm	The Stories of The Great Souls (Mar Mar Aye)(Ep-2)
08:55	Pm	Dances of Myanmar "Lisu Traditional Dance"
(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am)- Saturday 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)		

Vesnina stunned by world number 594 at Miami Open

MIAMI — Elena Vesnina, fresh off her victory at Indian Wells, crashed out of the Miami Open on Friday after a stunning 3-6, 6-4, 7-5 loss to world number 594 Ajla Tomljanovic.

The Croatian wild card, who led Russia's 13th-seeded Vesnina 5-3 in the third set on Thursday when a thunderstorm halted play, returned on Friday and cashed in on her third match point to secure a spot in the third round.

French Open champion Garbine Muguruza, whose opening match on Thursday was also interrupted, fared better than Vesnina after her night's sleep.

The sixth-seeded Spaniard, who trailed 46th-ranked American Christina McHale 6-0, 3-2 when play was suspended Thursday, escaped a match point in the tie-

break and emerged with an 0-6, 7-6(6) 6-4 victory.

Vesnina twice double-faulted to present the 23-year-old Croatian with match points after returning on Friday, but Tomljanovic failed to cash in.

Yet another double fault by Vesnina made it 30-40 in the 12th game to put the Russian on the brink of defeat again before a rain shower caused another delay.

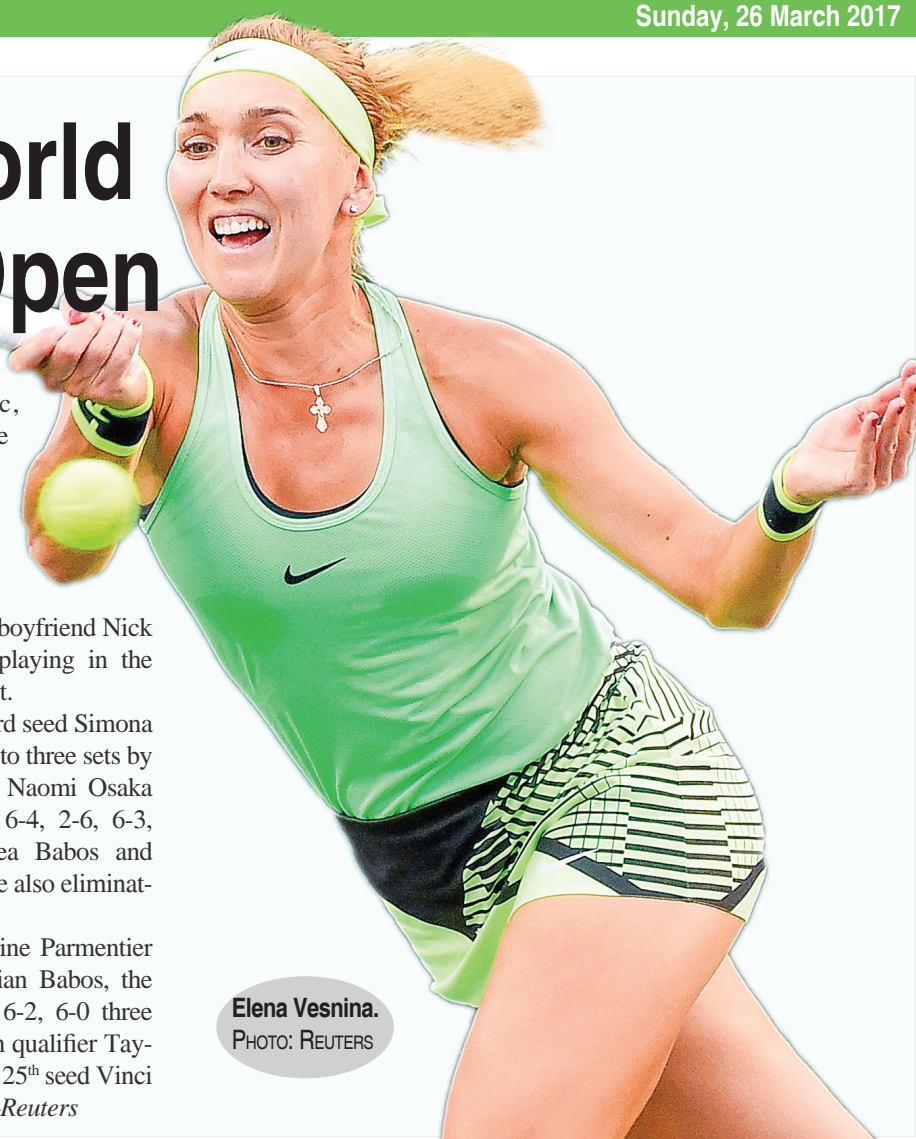
This time the wait was worth the while for Tomljanovic. When play resumed the Russian netted a forehand to end it and send the wild card to the third round against Czech Lucie Safarova.

Vesnina, five days removed from the biggest victory of her career at the BNP Paribas Open, committed a dozen double faults in the two hour 12 minute match.

Tomljanovic, after enduring the tension of such an on-again, off-again huge upset, figures to make time to celebrate with her boyfriend Nick Kyrgios, who is playing in the Miami men's event.

Romanian third seed Simona Halep was pushed to three sets by Japanese teenager Naomi Osaka before advancing 6-4, 2-6, 6-3, while seeds Timea Babos and Roberta Vinci were also eliminated.

France's Pauline Parmentier overcame Hungarian Babos, the 24th seed, 6-7(1), 6-2, 6-0 three sets, and American qualifier Taylor Townsend beat 25th seed Vinci of Italy 6-3, 6-2.—Reuters



Elena Vesnina.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Young England must grow up fast, says Dier

Eric Dier.
PHOTO: REUTERS



LONDON — Eric Dier said England's young players "cannot play the age card forever" as they seek to grow into a World Cup campaign and end the country's familiar under-achievement at big tournaments.

Speaking ahead of Sunday's Group F qualifier at home to Lithuania, the England midfielder was asked if a largely young and untested group of players might peak in the finals in Russia in 2018.

"We might be quite young but I don't think we can play the age card forever," he told reporters on Friday.

"I'm 23 now and I don't think that's very young. We've all played a lot of games and age isn't everything," he added.

"In all internationals now there's no easy game and every team sets up to try and stop us, especially here at Wembley. We want

to play quick, exciting football and hopefully they won't be able to handle that. We have to be aggressive with the ball and move it quickly."

Dier was part of the England team who flopped so badly at Euro 2016, where they were humiliatingly beaten 2-1 by Iceland in the round of 16, an exit that led to the resignation of manager Roy Hodgson followed by a familiar inquest at home. "Whenever you're in an England squad now we will think of that Iceland defeat. It's a painful reminder but it's a good lesson for the future," Dier said.

Hodgson's replacement Sam Allardyce lasted 67 days in the job before leaving it following a newspaper sting. Former Under-21 boss Gareth Southgate was put in charge, overseeing a creditable 1-0 defeat by Germany in a friendly in Dortmund last Wednesday.

Southgate has indicated that the England captaincy could be rotated in future, and Dier said he would like to be on the roster.

"It's an ambition of mine, I would love to do that one day. I think I can do that job but it's up to the manager to decide."

"Gareth has been around the England set-up for a while. I don't think he's eager to change everything, it's just little things here and there," Dier added.

"We are a very young team and we want to be part of something with him that's something special."—Reuters

AC Milan deal closing pushed to 14 April after further payment

MILAN — Former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, owner of Italian storied soccer club AC Milan, has agreed to postpone the closing of the deal by an extra six weeks after being granted a further 100 million euros (87 million pounds) in cash and securities, a source told Reuters.

The accord — originally inked in August and expected to be signed off first in December and then in March — is now due to be finalised on 14 April, two sources said.

The Chinese consortium which has committed to buying AC Milan has, in exchange for the delay, paid 50 million euros in cash to Berlusconi's family

investment vehicle Fininvest this week, the first source said. A further 50 million euros have been guaranteed through securities, the source added.

The investors have already paid 200 million euros and are now due to pay a final 220 million euro instalment. They have also committed to inject a further 100 million euros into the team.

The full composition of the Chinese group is still unknown and is due to be revealed at the closing.

The agreement values the club at 740 million euros (\$780 million) including 220 million euros of debt.—Reuters



Italy's former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi attends television talk show "Porta a Porta" (Door to Door) in Rome, Italy, on 30 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS