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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, reviews honour guards upon arrival at Ninoy Aquino International airport yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrives in Manila for ASEAN Summit

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrived in the Philippines yesterday to attend the 30th ASEAN Summit and related meetings, which will see leaders of Southeast Asian member states discussing regional and international issues.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi held talks with Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Xuan Phuc at the Manila Diamond Hotel, where she is staying, over promoting bilateral relations at the regional and international level, thereby boosting bilateral trade. Following the

meeting, she met with Myanmar diplomats and their families in the Philippines at the hotel.

Upon arrival at Nino Aquino International Airport, the State Counsellor was welcomed by Secretary of Health of the Philippines Dr. Paulyn Jean B. Russel-Ubial

and Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Kyaw Win, who arrived in Manila ahead of her to attend the summit, Ambassador from Myanmar to the Philippines U Win Naing, Military Attaché Col Win Myat and officials.

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## Reforms for stable economy to be accelerated with World Bank

THE World Bank today approved a US\$200 million credit for a First Macroeconomic Stability and Fiscal Resilience Development Policy Operation, to assist the Government of Myanmar in promoting macroeconomic stability and fiscal resilience.

The new assistance aims to help Myanmar maintain a stable economy needed for growth and poverty reduction, and increase budget resources for greater access to quality public services.

The World Bank-supported programme includes reforms that are critical to modernising economic management and building an effective State. These reforms aim to address challenges such as rising inflation, public debt sustainability, efficiency of government spending, and tax collections. The DPO also provides long-term, concessional financing for critical public investments.

“The policy actions that we proposed could help sustain confidence in economic policies as well as reduce poverty and help increase access to public services for Myanmar people including electricity, education and health,” said U Kyaw Win, Union Minister for Planning and Finance. “For example, low and stable inflation could help Myanmar to attract high quality investments to create jobs and grow in an inclusive manner.”

The DPO has two pillars. The macroeconomic stability pillar includes reforms to promote prudent public debt management; an end to Central Bank financing of the fiscal deficit;

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# First coordination meeting of Steering Committee to Set up Myanmar Owned Satellite System held



Vice President U Myint Swe gives a speech at the first coordination meeting for setting up a satellite system yesterday at the Ministry of Transport and Communications in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

THE first coordination meeting of the Steering Committee to Set-up a Myanmar Owned Satellite System was held in the meeting hall of the Ministry of Transport and Communications yesterday morning with Vice President U Myint Swe, Chairman of the committee in attendance.

Vice President U Myint Swe said Intelsat V satellite on geostationary orbit at Indian Ocean Region (IOR) 60 degree east was used for international telephone communication and TV receiving since 12 February 1979. On January 1990, Asia-Sat-1 on geostationary orbit was used in satellite communications system for border area development, local telephone communication and TV relaying systems.

On June 1998, the local satellite communications system was moved to ThaiCom3 on geostationary orbit and satellite usage for transponder was increasing by day. In addition to using satellite for communications, usage by the broadcasting sector was also increasing by the day. Similarly, banking, oil and gas, mining and education sectors were also using it by renting satellites separately and thus increasing the cost. Sat-

ellite communications is a system that can be used inland, on water, on island groups, any time within a short period. With our country's geographical situation, it can be used to provide communications service to islands and villages in a short time frame. In addition to geostationary orbit satellites, other satellites in orbit were also used depending upon requirement of the satellite communications system.

The duties of the Steering Committee is to set up policies, ways and means of a satellite system to set up a Myanmar owned satellite system, setting up guidelines to sign agreements on setting up a satellite system, coordinating with International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and other international organizations, providing guidance on implementing the agreements, guiding and setting up financial matters relating to the setup of a satellite system, setting up guidelines on using satellite communications for socio-economic development of the country and establishing satellite communications utilizing systems, acquiring modern space technologies and guiding the human resource development processes to acquire

it, and to guide on the setting up of a Myanmar Space Agency if required.

Afterwards, Steering Committee member Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung explained about current satellite usage in Myanmar, cost of setting up a satellite system, satellite ownership system and current situation of satellite rental.

Next, Steering Committee members Lieutenant General Sein Win, Dr. Aung Thu, Deputy Ministers, members of work committee to set up national satellite system, Permanent Secretaries and officials discussed on benefits and usage by Ministries if a national satellite system is established.

Leading Committee Chairman, the Vice President said a budget will be set in 2018-2019 fiscal year to calculate profitability and to do the necessary. Myanmar Owned Satellite System will be setup in accordance with the acts and rules and is believed that it would be very beneficial and successful if it is linked to a satellite that has a good technology and security.

Much effort will be made to implement it quickly. —Myanmar News Agency

# Literary awards to be selected in accord with rules and regulations in transparent manner: Union Information Minister

THE award scrutinizing committees are urged to select the award winners in accord with rules and regulations in a transparent manner and the ministry will provide necessary assistance, said Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint at the meeting with the members of the National Literary Award Scrutinizing Committee and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Scrutinizing Committee at the hall of the Central Press under the Printing and Publishing Department on Theinbyu Road in Yangon yesterday afternoon.

On behalf of the chairman of the National Literary Award Scrutinizing Committee, Vice-Chairman Dr. Khin Aye (Maung Khin Min-Danabyu), Committee Secretary U Than Ohn (Maung Zeyar), Deputy Director-General U Ko Ko Naing, Chairman of Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Scrutinizing Committee U Kyaw Win (Anthropology Kyaw Win) and Secretary Daw Mya Mya Than (Ma Hnin Phway) made clarifications about selection of literary awards and follow-up

programmes.

In the evening, the Union Minister attended 7th coordination meeting on producing films and television series for Myanmar's Democracy Film Week at the hall of the MRTV on Pyay Road. Myanmar's Democracy Film Week is scheduled to be held from 15 to 21 September for two weeks along with music concert, drama and dance show.

He also attended 4th coordination meeting on Peace Music Festival at the same venue and heard report on working plan presented by MRTV Director-General U Myint Htwe. The Peace Music Festival will be held with the aim of ensuring national reconciliation and unity and internal peace and building a federal union and deserved prize will be given to the award winners.

The vocal test of the Peace Music Festival is planned in Myitkyina, Lashio, Taunggyi, Mawlamyine, Patheingyi, Kalay, Sittway, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon commencing third week of May.—Myanmar News Agency



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint addresses the meeting with various committees for selection of literary awards. PHOTO: MNA

# SG Min Aung Hlaing visits Military Museum in Berlin

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defense Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party visited Bundeswehr Military Historical Museum in Berlin on 27 April afternoon.

The helicopters, surveillance aircrafts, military planes which were used in successive eras and historical backgrounds of the German armed forces are showcased inside the museum. They also visited tourist attraction sites such as the Berlin Wall, Check-



point Charlie and Brandenburger Tor in Berlin.

The Senior General and party arrived at Friedrich Ebert Stiftung – FES where they were hosted breakfast and were briefed about the processes being undertaken by the FES by Executive Director Dr. Roland Schmidt. Both sides also discussed matters on democratic transition and civ-

il-military relations.

General Volker Wierer, the Chief of Staff of the German Armed Forces hosted a dinner in honour of the Senior General and entourage on MS Arcona, a luxury ocean liner. After the dinner, they viewed the scenic beauties of the Berlin City along the Spree River by the vessel.—Myanmar News Agency

# Reforms for stable economy to be accelerated with World Bank

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fiscal discipline of State Economic Enterprises; and policy-based budgeting. The reforms under the fiscal resilience pillar aim to increase revenue mobilization; prudent gas revenue management; the financial viability of the power sector; and effective public finance management.

"Poor households are the ones most severely affected when prices of food and other basic needs increase," said Ulrich Zachau, the World Bank Country Director for Southeast

Asia. "This program is designed to benefit poor and vulnerable people through reduction in price pressures. The World Bank is pleased to support Myanmar's efforts to strengthen their policies and institutions for stable growth over the long-term."

The credit will come from the International Development Association (IDA), the Bank's fund for the low income country. The terms for the IDA credit include a maturity of 38 years, with a grace period of six years and a zero interest rate.—The World Bank



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc at the Manila Diamond Hotel. PHOTO: MNA



The State Counsellor observes traditional Hablon weaving made with banana and pineapple fibre among other materials at the Philippines International Convention Center in Manila. PHOTO: MNA

## Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrives in Manila for ASEAN Summit

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Together with other ASEAN Heads of State/Government, the State Counsellor will attend the Opening Ceremony of the 30th ASEAN Summit and related meetings to be held today.

The State Counsellor will attend the ASEAN Leaders' Interface with Representatives of the

ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) and ASEAN Leaders' Interface with Representatives of ASEAN Youth, which will be held on the sidelines of the 30th ASEAN Summit.

Among the issues discussed yesterday were the tensions in the Korean Peninsula, the progress in the forming of a Code of Conduct

in the South China Sea, and a call for leaders to not forget their poor.

In a rare, stand-alone statement, ASEAN urged North Korea and all parties concerned "to exercise self-restraint in order to de-escalate the tension and refrain from actions that may aggravate the situation."

This is the first of two meet-

ings among ASEAN leaders that the Philippines will be hosting as ASEAN Chair in 2017.

According to the ASEAN Secretariat, leaders are expected to sign a document that will affirm the role of the civil service as a means of achieving the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.

The summit comes as ASE-

AN celebrates its 50th anniversary. The association was established in Thailand in 1967, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration by founding members Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand. It now includes Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.—*GNLM and MNA*

## Myanmar, Thailand to cooperate in education sector

UNION Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi received a delegation led by Dr. Teerakiat Jareonsettasin, the Minister of Education of Thailand, at the hall of the Ministry of Education in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The National Education Strategic Plans being implemented in Myanmar and Thailand, education reform processes and primary education for all school-age children for educational cooperation in the future, promotion of syllabus and distribution of textbook through hire system and learning with

the use of ICT were discussed during the meeting. Both sides also discussed matters on achievements of all inclusive education system, capacity enhancement for the teachers and use of the teacher-accredited license system and conducting of vocational training programs.

Then, Director-General of the Indigenous Language Department under the Ministry of Education Dr. Zaw Myint and officials saw off the Thailand delegation at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, left, talks with Dr. Teerakiat Jareonsettasin, the Minister of Education of Thailand. PHOTO: MNA

## Murder suspect should be extradited

Mark Angeles &  
Aye Min Soe

A prominent Myanmar attorney and human rights advocate said yesterday that he believes that the UK, which has indicated it would be reluctant to extradite the man suspected of a 2016 murder in Yangon because Myanmar has the death penalty, should help bring the man to justice, pointing out that no one has been executed in Myanmar since 1987.

His remarks came on the heels of news reports that the Foreign Office of the UK would be hesitant to extradite Harris Binotti, 26, of Scotland, who is on Interpol's most wanted list for his alleged involvement in the murder of Gary Ferguson of Northern Ireland, a fellow teacher, in November.

Binotti was spotted in Scotland living with his girlfriend and has since gone into hiding. Scotland Police said they could not arrest Binotti because no ar-

rest or extradition order had been received from Myanmar. Yangon Police said an arrest warrant was sent to Interpol.

"If the UK respects the sovereignty of Myanmar, they should extradite Binotti because the criminal case happened in the territory of Myanmar", said attorney Robert San Aung, a 2015 nominee for the Martin Ennals Award, in recognition of his work as one of the country's leading human rights defenders.

Robert San Aung said the suspect in a murder that occurred in Yangon should stand trial in Myanmar.

"Binotti should appear in court in Myanmar. The Myanmar judiciary will decide whether he is guilty or not", Robert San Aung said.

An article in yesterday's edition of The Times in the UK quoted a British government source who said human rights concerns should be taken into account.

"In terms of specific en-

agement in this case, there are wider issues. One potential conclusion would be Mr. Binotti facing extradition to a country that has the death penalty", the source told The Times. "We are being very careful that anything we do fully respects our human rights obligations".

Binotti fled his home in Yangon after Mr. Ferguson, 46, was found dead in Binotti's flat after a night of drinking.

Mr. Ferguson's older brother said he believes extradition back to Myanmar should be allowed.

"I totally agree", said Martin Ferguson. "He (allegedly) committed the crime in Myanmar, so he should stand before a Myanmar judge."

Martin Ferguson said previously that his family has been in anguish over the inaction and are in shock that a murder suspect has been allowed to remain free, despite being tracked down.

The UK has no extradition treaty with Myanmar.

## ICRC delegation visits Buthidaung correctional facility

A 10-member delegation led by Mr. Jacques Ducros De Lafarga De Romefort from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) visited Buthidaung

Correctional Facility in Rakhine State yesterday morning for the second time.

The ICRC delegation members visited inmates' hostels and

met them separately.

They also interviewed some female prisoners and observed work taking place in the kitchen.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Traditional woven baskets earns local people good income

TRADITIONAL woven baskets are earning the local people a good income at Manphar village, Indaw township, Katha district in Sagaing Region.

“The villagers are skilled in basket weaving, which has been passed down from our forefathers. We have to collect two species of bamboo from the Kywe Kyaw, Wet Tha Inn and Hto Kya mountains, which are situated near our village to weave the baskets”, said Ma Zin Mar Aung, a local basket weaver from Manphar village. “Then, we will split the bamboo into thin strips. When coal bamboo is scarce, we have to collect the bamboo from other regions which are far away from our village. The body of the basket is woven with the bamboo thin strips and handles are woven with cane only.

The bottom of the baskets are also woven with cane to make them strong. We can finish weaving eight baskets per day if we start in the morning.”

Ma Zin Mar Aung said there are around 1,000 family members from 203 houses in her village. Some villagers weave baskets



Villagers weaving the bamboo thin strip baskets in Indaw Township, Sagaing Region. PHOTO: MAUNG CHIT LIN

the whole year, but many work on farms during the rainy season. A basket is usually sold for Ks 2,600, but the price goes up slightly to Ks3,000 in the rainy season because only a few local

villagers make the baskets during that time, she said.

The baskets are mainly sent to Moe Hnyin, Hopbin, Moekauung townships and Inndawgyi region by train.

“Our village earns the main family income from basket weaving”, said Ma Zin Mar Khine, a local basket weaver from Man phar village.—Maung Chit Lin (Inndaw)

## Myanmar targets 3.5 million tourists in 2017

MINISTRY of Hotels and Tourism has set a target for 3.5 million tourists this year. Meanwhile the Myanmar Tourism Federation has forecasted a booming tourism sector in 2017 with increased tourist arrival to the country.

The federation predicts that Myanmar can see an increase in foreign visitors this year as just three million tourists visited the country last year though more than 5 million was expected.

“In fact, the number of foreign visitors who entered Myanmar through airport is higher than the statistics, said an official of the MTF, adding that “promoting tourism sector can draw more tourists this year.”

Most of the tourists in Myanmar are from Thailand, China and the United States.—200



Myanmar's prominent rocker Zaw Win Htut (Right) is present at the opening of Hard Rock Cafe where his leather jacket is displayed. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

## Hard Rock Cafe Opens First Location in Myanmar

Hard Rock Café, opened its first café in Myanmar yesterday at the Myanmar Plaza in Yangon, continuing its expansion worldwide.

The 853 square-meter, state-of-the-art café highlights Hard Rock's new design style and latest technology.

“Hard Rock Cafe has been looking forward to opening its first cafe in Myanmar and we could not have asked for a better destination to showcase the Hard Rock Cafe Yangon experience” said Steve Yang, Area Vice President Asia Pacific Hard Rock International. “We look forward to becoming a must-see venue for locals and visitors alike. We would like to congratulate our local franchise partners at MGS Resort and Entertainment Ltd, on this historic occasion”.

Hard Rock Cafe is located

on the fourth floor roof-top of the Myanmar Plaza, this mall location is adjacent to the iconic Inya lake and positioned between two of the city's newest hotels: Sedona & Melia Hotel. The cafe will seat indoor 192 guests, featuring a large feature bar, a VIP dining room and a custom built karaoke room.

Hard Rock Cafe also boasts a live indoor entertainment stage that will feature the best live music and Dj's in Myanmar.

The Beatles, Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley and Malcolm Young, alongside contemporary artists such as Lady Gaga & Eminem. Additionally, Hard Rock Cafe Yangon will feature and display local Myanmar artist memorabilia from well known, respected musicians such as Htoo Eain Thin and Zaw Win Htut.—GNLM

## Authorities grant licences to open 43 game centres in Yangon Region

YANGON Region Government has granted licences to only 43 game centres in Yangon region, according to U Maung Maung Soe, Yangon Mayor.

Yangon Region Government stopped issuing licenses to game centres in December, 2014. Since then, Yangon Region Government has just been renewing license to the existing 43 game centres.

The administrator of the district development affairs department, the township administrator, the commander of the township police force, and the ward administrator inspect the game centres to find out whether they obey the rules and regulations before they extend the licenses.

Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) will

take legal action against those who violate the rules and regulations. Also, YCDC will shut down of the game centres.

“We have to conduct the field inspection of the game centres to check if they are illegally opening the game centres. We also will issue the legal game centres list very soon,” said U Maung Maung Soe.—200

## Shwe property expo to be held in Ygn

A major real estate exhibition (Hottest Property Deals in Myanmar) will be held in Tatmadaw Hall, Yangon region from 30 June to 2 July, said U Kaung Thu Win, the director of Shwe Property.com at a real estate media conference held yesterday at the Sule Shangri-La in Yangon.

The exhibition will be jointly held by Myanmar Property

Award and Property Guru, an international partner of Shwe Property.

There will be over 100 showrooms at the exhibition. Taunggyi and Mandalay real estate agencies will also join the exhibition. Available will be well-furnished flats, apartments which will be completed in 2020. The gardens that are included

with these apartment will also be exhibited.

People can purchase the apartments with a five-year, 10-year or 15-year installment plan. Over 30 companies including Yoma Strategic, Naing Group and Aya Chan, The Executive Condominiums have agreed to exhibit their apartments at the expo.—200

## Job hunting now mostly done by surfing the net

NOWADAYS, people are much more dependent upon the internet when seeking jobs because of the rapid growth of online recruitment by employment agencies, according to JobNet.com.mm.

The number of internet users has increased rapidly in Myanmar, and many of those people are using the internet to seek

jobs, said Mr. Matt De Luca, the managing director of JobNet.com.mm.

Most of the jobs the people search for on the internet are accounting and financial management positions. But companies also need engineers, technicians and skilled labourers, according to JobNet.com.mm.

Searching for jobs on the internet can save time and money. These days, both developed and developing countries mainly use the internet for job searching.

According to the ministry of transport and communications, there are about 46 million internet users in Myanmar in 2017.—200

# LOCAL Business

## Watermelon and muskmelon growers reap handsome profits

THE price of watermelon and muskmelon jumped by 50 per cent because of higher demand in the market, said U Soe Lwin, the chair of the Sagaing Region Watermelon and Muskmelon Growers and Exporters Association.

The growing season of watermelon and muskmelon started in January and will end this month. At the present time, the supply is still low but the demand is high, resulting in the increase in price.

The price was cool in early March and unexpectedly, it turned upward at the end of March, allowing the growers to make a healthy profit during the end of the season.

The muskmelon price rose from 3 to 5 Yuan while the watermelon price was up from 1.5 Yuan to 3.5 Yuan. The watermelon and muskmelon market has boomed this year, un-



A farmer works in a watermelon farm in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

like last year, said U Soe Lwin.

Over 700 six-wheeled or twelve-wheeled trucks loaded with watermelons and about 400 other trucks carrying muskmelons flowed into the China-My-

anmar border market from ChaungU Township during the pre-Thingyan period.

At the end of the watermelon season, about 300 truckloads of watermelons and 60 to 70

truckloads of muskmelons were sent on 24th April. A twelve-wheeled truck has a capacity of 17 tonnes, while a six-wheeled truck can carry 10 tonnes. The transportation charges remained unchanged during

the pre and post Thingyan periods, costing Ks80,000 a tonne.

With the watermelon and muskmelon market flourishing, about 65 per cent of the growers attain profit and twenty per cent of them managed to get their capital back. Only 15 per cent of the growers made a loss since they harvested early in March, resulting in fruit of poor quality.

Over 600,000 tonnes of watermelon and over 130,000 tonnes of muskmelons produced in the Sagaing Region were exported to foreign countries from April 2016 to March 2017, which helps the State earn revenue and the growers prosper financially. The locals from ChaungU Townships said they have seen more charity events this year compared to the previous year.—Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

## Mung bean and pigeon pea export price on the decline

THE export price of mung bean and pigeon peas are falling after the Thingyan holiday, according to Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

The mung bean price was around Ks1,025,000 per tonne during the pre-Thingyan period. The price then slumped to Ks1,080,000 per tonne post-Thingyan. Similarly, the pigeon price decreased from Ks730,000 to around Ks680,000 per tonne.

Seventy per cent of various peas exports go to India. Therefore, the price is positively related to its demand. Green grams are exported to China, Viet Nam and European Union countries.

The peas are mostly cultivated in Sagaing and Magwe regions. A total of 1.43million tonnes of various peas were exported in the Fiscal Year 2016-2017, according to the Commerce Ministry.—Ko Htet

## Rental property demand high in Mandalay

DEMAND for rental housing is on the rise in five townships in Mandalay Region after the period of Thingyan long holidays, according to the Mandalay Real Estate Agent Association.

The market has seen high demand for rental property particularly in Aungmyethazan, Chanayethazan, Mahaangmye, Chanmyathazi and Pyigyitakhun townships,

local property agents say.

Rental values are totally based on location. The current rental fees are between Ks4,000 and Ks150,000 on the outskirts of Chanmyathazi and Pyigyitakhun townships while the downtown rental fees for flats are above Ks100,000. The demand for apartments is higher than that of detached houses in downtown areas, especially in Zegyo and Ya-

danabon markets.

The fees for a detached house in 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th and 66th streets in Chanmyathazi Township range between Ks2 million and Ks3 million. Those houses are rented under 6-month of one-year lease agreement. Local real estate agents estimate that property rental demand is likely to rise in Mandalay before the monsoon season.—Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

## Rubber price continues to decline in domestic market

RUBBER producers say that the price of rubber has continued to fall in the domestic market, mirroring the decline of the world rubber price.

The fall of the price of rubber in the world market has been sudden and dramatic, and has directly affected Myanmar's rubber industry. Rubber prices fell by over Ks100 per pound within a month in the local market, according to the Myanmar Rubber Planters

and Producers Association.

The price of rubber was over Ks1,000 per pound before the Thingyan New Year Water Festival, but decreased to around Ks900 after the water festival.

The drop has made it difficult for local producers to meet their target profits.

"It is not cost-effective to sell rubber at a price less than Ks800", one producer said.

Since October of last

year, the price of rubber has been on an upward trend in the local market. The price rose to Ks1,300 a pound from the opening price of Ks900. At the present time, a pound of rubber has been sold for Ks880-Ks900.

According to the rubber exporters, 90 per cent of the country's rubber goes to China, the largest neighbouring country. Only about 10 per cent is meant for domestic consumption.—Swe Nyein

## THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

- Market Place by City Mart (6.5 Mile)
- Market Place by City Mart (Damasidi Road)
- City Mart (Aung San Stadium)
- City Mart (47th street)
- City Mart (Yankin)
- City Mart (China Town)
- City Mart (Myay Ni Gone)
- City Mart (FMI)
- City Mart (Junction Square)
- City Mart (Junction Maw Tin)
- City Mart (Sule Square)
- City Mart (Star City - Thanlyin)
- City Mart (Waizayandar)
- City Mart (Hledan)
- City Mart (Myanmar Plaza)
- Ocean North Point (9 mile)
- Ocean Shwegonedine



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# Five more ministries hold press conference on one year performance

FIVE more ministries jointly held a press conference in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday on their performance in the first one-year period.

Director General U Zaw Htay, Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor, acting Permanent Secretary U Htun Ohn, Ministry of Religious Affairs & Culture, Permanent Secretary Professor Dr. Thet Khaing Win, Ministry of Health & Sports, Director General U Tint Thwin, Ministry of Hotels & Tourism, Deputy Permanent Secretary U Min Aye Ko, Ministry of Ethnic Affairs, departmental officials, responsible persons and media personnel from local and foreign media attended the press conference.

Director General U Zaw Htay, Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor discussed and explained about the ministry's aim, peace process, one year term of NCA and future aim and work done on peace, stability and development in Rakhine State.

Acting Permanent Secretary U Htun Ohn, Ministry of Religious Affairs & Culture discussed and explained about general work done on major pagodas in Myanmar, drafting of anti-hate speech law, formation of inter-faith peace and unity group, international cooperation on repairing earthquake damages to historical monuments in the Bagan cultural region, enacting of Artifact Protection Act and Rule, submission of Bagan and MraukU cultural regions, Mya Zedi (Raza Kumar) Stone Inscription, Bell Letter of Bayinnaung as World Heritage Sites, maintaining Bogyoke Aung San Museum (Yangon), re-discovering and developing of Myanmar traditional performing arts, performances of National University of Arts and Culture, preparation of Myanmar historical research paper and conducting of Library Management Diploma courses.

Afterward Permanent Secretary Professor Dr. Thet Khaing Win, Ministry of Health & Sports discussed and explained about the one-year performances of the Department of Public Health, Department of Medical Services, Department

of Human Resources for Health, Department of Medical Research, Department of Traditional Medicine, Department of Food and Drug Administration and Department of Sports and Physical Education.

Director General U Tint Thwin, Ministry of Hotels & Tourism then discussed and explained about setting up policy on tourism, coverage of existing law, international cooperation on tourism, increasing public-private cooperation, aims for responsible tourism, future of tourism, matters relating to human resources development, poverty elimination, uplifting of living condition and finding market.

Deputy Permanent Secretary U Min Aye Ko, Ministry of Ethnic Affairs explained about the establishing of Ministry of Ethnic Affairs, policy and aim of the ministry, protection and preservation of ethnic literature, fine arts, culture, tradition, work done together with state and region Ethnic Affairs Ministries, and opening of state and region departmental offices.

Afterward, local and foreign media questioned Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor on Rakhine State stability, national verification, anti-corruption, internal peace and rule of law; Ministry of Religious Affairs & Culture on matter of gold plate donation to Shwedagon Pagoda, proper maintaining of donated monies, salary and wages of employees, Sayadaw U Wirathu conducting taped speeches, recording a proper Myanmar history, matter of drone flying above religious buildings and sending of religious pilgrimages; Ministry of Health & Sports on latest situation of Zika virus, tender treatment of patients in public hospitals, outside purchasing of medicines and prevention and treatment of non-communicable diseases like hypertension and diabetes; Ministry of Hotels & Tourism on home stay, work done on Bagan-Bangkok tour, community based tourism and status of issuing tour license; Ministry of Ethnic Affairs on war affected regions and involvement in the peace process to which answers and explanations



Director General U Zaw Htay, Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor. PHOTO: MNA



Permanent Secretary Prof. Dr. Thet Khaing Win from the Ministry of Health and Sports. PHOTO: MNA



U Htun Ohn, Acting Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Religious Affairs & Culture. PHOTO: MNA

tions were provided by the relevant responsible persons.

## Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor

Director General U Zaw Htay, Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor responded to media questions at the press conference on one year performance and said the ministry was formed with the main aim to establish a democratic system, market economic system, setting up a democratic federal union and gaining union peace and development.

National reconciliation, peace

they participate will be decided in the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) meeting on 12 May. Political discussions will be conducted in the second Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong. In the first Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong, this was not done. Only papers were submitted. A true political dialogue with political gives and takes will be done this time.

Rakhine State is an important issue for our country's democracy transformation and reconciliation and we are putting much emphasis on it. Decision of the Human

who reveal the true situation on the ground were murdered. This is threatening a society with fear. Investigations are conducted on these murders and actions were taken on some of those who committed it. We are working together with Tatmadaw in order to effectively handle these matters. There were attempts to commit more terrorist acts and we were able to prevent it.

On the matter of eradicating bribery and corruption, the new government had setup departments to which the people can complain. Most complaints were on land matters. Second was on judiciary while the third was on departmental matters. The fastest country in eradicating bribery and corruption took 10 years and we need time to resolve this challenge.

## Ministry of Health and Sports

The Permanent Secretary from the Ministry of Health and Sports, Prof. Dr. Thet Khaing Win said in a press conference yesterday that the central government has approval to spend Ks1 trillion on the health sector in the 2017-2018 fiscal year. The government spent Ks881 billion in the last FY.

He said they have been working on prevention of infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, HIV, malaria and non-infectious diseases such as, diabetes, hypertension, heart attacks, cancer and so on. They are also working on mental health support, treatment of accidental injuries and lifelong support for patients in collaboration with the World Health Organisation, UN Children's Fund, local and international organisations, and philanthropic associations.

There are 1,778 health departments nationwide and 70 per cent of them are able to run community health clinics. Currently there is a nutritional development effort in Rakhine and Chin States and a survey will be made to raise awareness of the importance of nutritional development around the country. Biosafety III laboratories have been built in Yangon, Mandalay and Taunggyi to systematically discover tuberculosis in patients.

In 2016, 120,000 HIV/AIDS patients were successfully treated and 790,000 cases of prevention of HIV/AIDS from mother-to-child were carried out. The number of ART health facilities was also increased by 60, bringing the total number of ART facilities to 300 around the country.

“ In 2016, 120,000 HIV/AIDS patients were successfully treated and 790,000 cases of prevention of HIV/AIDS from mother-to-child were carried out.

and stability in Rakhine State were the main conduct of the ministry in the one-year period. Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong was based on the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) and when conducting political discussion, important political discussion frame will be changed but NCA cannot be changed.

Review meetings of the political discussion frame were held by inviting NCA non-signatory groups like Union Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC), DPN, Wa and Mainglar groups. Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong was held in Nay Pyi Taw and both NCA signatory and non-signatory groups attended and submitted papers.

Join Implementation and Co-ordination Meeting (JICM) was held in Nay Pyi Taw with 8 leaders of NCA signatory groups on 24 April and the second conference of Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong was set to be held on 24 May. On 28 April, a delegation led by Peace Commission Chairman Dr. Tin Myo Win is holding discussion with UNFC and based on the discussion, possibility of UNFC attending Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong on 24 May will come about. It is not true that only NCA signatory groups are allowed to attend the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong and non-signatory groups are not allowed. All are accepted. How and in what way

Rights Council to send an international fact finding mission to Maungtau is not acceptable and agreeable for Myanmar.

While the government was conducting multi-faceted development in Rakhine State, terrorist acts were made intentionally. Actions will be taken against anyone violating human rights if evidence or proof is provided. Despite Myanmar issuing timely news, international media was seen having unproductive views. Depending upon the stability of the region, more media visits will be arranged.

On the matter of a Chinese diplomat's statement of China ready to mediate between Myanmar and Bangladesh on Rakhine affair, Myanmar and Bangladesh are making bilateral discussion to resolve the issue and like the international community, China can help by providing productive assistance. On the matter of National Verification Card (NVC) and developing better governance in Rakhine State, education process is underway on NVC and the main aim is to provide a full national right. After NVC is made, national verification process will start according to 1982 Myanmar National Act and other prevailing acts. The government could not do anything beyond the Acts.

In Rakhine State, those who answered the media, cooperated on local governance matter, cooperated with the government and those

# Five more ministries hold press conference on one year performance

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Health workers were able to travel to hard-to-reach regions 9,569 times to perform medical services and were funded by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance with a cash amount of Ks2,190 million for 3,600 pregnant patients, 21,900 newborns and mothers and other general patients. In order to provide better healthcare to the public 87 health departments and 428 sub health departments were built nationwide.

During the one-year performance of the government many new milestones were made in the medical field including 6 successful heart transplants, 19 successful coronary artery bypass grafting, successful kidney transplant in children, and 9 successful bone marrow transplants, all performed by Myanmar medical staff with collaboration from international experts.

The catheterization laboratories, or cardiac cath labs, in the general hospitals of Mandalay and North Okkalapa were able to successfully diagnose and treat 1,358 patients suffering from cardiovascular diseases in a six month period.

The sub-department of the National Blood Center was able to provide assistance to 97.5 per cent of patients while only 2.5 per cent required a search for donors in the 2016-2017 FY.

To provide increased health-care to the public 1,707 new doctors, 281 dental practitioners, and 13,376 government officials were appointed.

Importance was placed on issuing licenses to practitioners of traditional medicine and its production to continue providing high quality traditional medicine to the public.

The Department of Medical Research was able to perform researches on amount of time patients have to wait and patient satisfaction on services in Central Hospitals, as well as research on Urban Health Department performances in Yangon and Mandalay Regions.

The Ministry of Health and Sports was also able to sue 75 pharmacies and businesses for misconduct, uncover dangerous, illegal drugs and expired drugs in the market, resulting in the destruction of over Ks82 million drugs and medicinal apparatus in Yangon Region and over Ks1 billion drugs and medicinal apparatus in Mandalay Region. Also uncovered were 37 varieties of cosmetics using banned chemicals which were promptly destroyed.

In accord with the Township Sports Development Program (TSDP), all-inclusive sport competitions were carried out in 151 townships. In order to enter the 29th East Asian Games both local and foreign trainers were provided to over 540 sportsmen in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon said Prof. Dr. Thet Khaing Win.



Director-General U Tint Thwin from the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism. PHOTO: MNA



U Min Aye Ko, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs. PHOTO: MNA

## Excerpts of Q & A between Prof. Dr. Thet Khaing Win and media

Replying to a question on increasing forensic pathologist, the Permanent Secretary answered the reason behind the delays of forensic medical examinations is due to insufficient forensic examiners as a complete, systematic examination at a crime scene requires a long period of time. The Ministry is working on increasing the number of forensic examiners by opening post-graduate classes, and they are working on getting medical reports from forensic experts as quickly as possible.

A question was asked about the final stages of a patient suffering from zika virus to which the Permanent Secretary replied there has been a case of one zika virus patient who received systematic treatment in both home and abroad. There has been no more reports of the virus after that nor of the last stages of the zika virus as continuous prevention techniques for infectious diseases are being performed around the clock.

“How are early preventive measures for non-infectious diseases being performed?” to which Prof. Dr. Thet Khaing Win answered the ministry is working hard on drafting preventive measures for non-infectious diseases with collaboration from local and international organizations. These diseases are found not only in urban districts but in rural areas as well so rural health departments for diabetes/hypertension is being supplied with proper medicine. – Myanmar News Agency

## Ministry of Hotels and Tourism

Director-General U Tint Thwin from the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism stated joy of travel and peace of mind are essential components of a successful trip in both local and foreign journeys. This is why it is necessary for hotels, transportation and tour guides to be of top quality and in that endeavor continuous development has always been focused on applicable human resource.

The primary target for tourism

is mainly on big spending tourists from Japan, Korea, Europe and America. This requires successful advertising of the country's diverse landmarks through travel and tour forums and through social media and websites, and this has been performed well in the one-year period.

These efforts cannot be carried out without finance and as there is a limit on the national budget the ministry has collaborated with private enterprises and other ministries throughout the year and is researching on successful procedures for the coming fiscal year.

Currently there are four op-

“In the overall global tourism scheme, it is becoming more popular for tourists to interact with the daily lives of the locals as compared to staying in luxury hotels.

erations in designated peace areas which have armed ethnic groups residing in it as well as tour operations in areas not under complete rule of law. Therefore, if further collaboration for tourism is established in these areas there will be greater results and that is what the main focus of the ministry has been in the past year.

In efforts to promote human resource, language skill training has been given to staff members and workshops have been carried out in different regions so that the people will be further involved in the tourism sector and that will lead to better results.

In order to reduce poverty and raise standards of living, tour operations were established in villages and communities with poor income to boost their economy, with special housings built for tourists to stay in so that they can view the daily lives of the people while sampling local cuisine and observing traditional handicrafts.

In the overall global tourism scheme, it is becoming more popular for tourists to interact with the daily lives of the locals as compared to staying in luxury hotels. Taking advantage of this, the ministry has participated in travel and tour forums to expand the tourism market and was able to observe and learn how foreign tour operations were conducted. Significant evidence can be seen in boosting Myanmar's tourism sector in this way.

The ministry was able to issue hotel license, travel operation license, transportation license and tour guide license to better promote the development of businesses in the sector. The business potential can be seen to be quite strong as there are numerous applicants for tourism-based license from various enterprises. Excerpts of Q & A between Director-General U Tint Thwin and Media Agencies.

A question was asked on the status of rural based tour operations to which the Director-General replied the increased tourism in Myaing District is due to exceptional service from the local residents as tourists can participate in the daily routines and traditions of locals, such as farming. This helps increase the income of locals as they can also sell locally produced commodities and merchandise. As rural based tour operations bring happiness to tourists and increased income to locals, it is a great win-win situation that will be continued for further development in the future.

A question was asked on the status of promoting tourism in the rainy season. The Director-General replied the ministry annually discusses with other ministries and enterprises from the private sector in researching ways to promote tours in the rainy season. Since the rainy season in Myanmar from June to September coincides with the holiday season in Europe, China, Japan, Korea and other countries, those months are the primary focus for the discus-

sions.

A question was asked on the status of the travel route from Bagan to Angkorwat to which the Director-General replied the heritage site of Bagan and Angkorwat between Myanmar and Cambodia is under consideration as a travel destination so that foreign tourists can travel from one heritage country to the next in their travels. Working committees have been formed for this endeavor and direct flights to Bagan is under development and the Bagan Airport is under consideration to be opened as an international gateway.

## Ministry of Religious Affairs & Culture

U Htun Ohn, acting permanent secretary of the MRA&C said that starting from the open season 2017 the arrangements are being made to gild the Shwedagon Pagoda, in accord with the prescribed standards and about 10 drones had been held under control for the security of the pagoda. So as to protect the danger of these drones, purchase of anti-drone, installation of CCTV Cameras and erection of lamp-posts around the campus ground were made.

He added that accommodation of 1279 pilgrims free of charges at Tissa, Siha, site for offering 9000 holy candle light, Pyaesone pagoda platform, Pyaesone Mokesoetaung and 3 storeyed-dhamma preaching building with 356 rooms hired at the reasonable prices.

In order to make Maha Myat Muni Buddha Image well-endowed with the characteristics of a well-known pagoda, drawing up disciplines for trusteeship members to abide by and choosing the new board of trusteeship had been made. Similarly, law for protection of hate speech (draft) had been compiled by the multi-races friendship and unity group. There occurred destruction of ancient edifices in the Bagan cultural heritage area, due to a strong earth-quake measuring on the 6.8 Richter scale and under the survey of destruction 389 pagodas were ruined. On the minor destruction, there were over 3000 pagodas ruined for now, with major ruins reaching 36 pagodas and 53 on the medium scale. Attempts are being made to have the Bagan cultural heritage zone and Mrauk U cultural heritage area enlisted. Proposal to designate Mya Ceti Stone Inscription written in 4 languages as the world heritage was sent to the UNESCO on 28th March 2014, and 12th meeting of international advisory committee of the UNESCO World Record Heritage Programme held at Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates from October 4 to October 6 2015 designated Mya Ceti Stone Inscription in the list of the world heritage records, out of 87 applications.

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# Opinion

## Write for us

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

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

## A Major Necessity for the People

Khin Maung Oo

PEOPLE say that the principal need for the public is food, clothing and shelter. The assertion cannot be assumed to be true for all because some are well supplied with these but others may need food and shelter. In fact, the principal need for the people is only transportation

Good transportation can give us ease and convenience in travelling from one place to another. Though many things still need to be done for the development of the country, it has been found that the transport sector is developing remarkably.

Now that road transportation in rural areas has developed much more than ever, we can all see that local people have more jobs and businesses opportunities, especially youths living in rural areas have a more promising future.

The State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi herself has said, "As regards the transportation sector, some places are inaccessible in all seasons while some places are accessible in all seasons with the exception of availability of electricity. If the second kind can be supplied with electricity, the local populace from these places will create job opportunities and their own businesses on a self-help basis. And, entrepreneurs from foreign countries also will be interested in investing in the areas with good transportation and sufficient electricity."

It is heartening to hear that the Union Government will implement projects to supply electricity and all-season-accessible roads so that the people will get job opportunities at the same time. In accord with the instruction of the Union Government, all responsible personnel are required to cooperate to provide power supply according to the needs of the local areas.

At the present time, Regions and States still have some weakness to supply electricity to the local residents to some extent. Due to some weaknesses between the central government and regional authorities, first of all, ways and means of acquiring electricity over a vast area of the land must be suggested to the Union Government and benefits for the people must be carried out along with the instruction, support and implementation of the Union Government.

National policy on power is aimed at the distribution of power over the whole area, supporting the national economic development, and sustainable supply of power in accord with the increasing demand of the country. With a view to sustainable utilization of power resources, a framework on policy to utilize power in a fair and equitable manner between the Regions and States is said to be laid down.

Aims and objectives have already been drawn up to implement power policy which will help projects, enterprises and business ventures. These projects will be implemented in accordance with the national economic policies to bring about the development of human resources by creating opportunities for exploiting power resources equally between Regions and States.

At such a time when road transportation is developing for the development of people's lives, it is necessary for all to cooperate wholeheartedly for gaining success in the projects of the power sector and to negotiate between the power producers and the power consumers for the distribution of power at reasonable prices so that it will be a win-win situation for both sides.

# Augean Stables in Myanmar & Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

Linn Aye

U Mya Sein (Pathein) (ambassador), who was a university school-mate wrote an article about Bogyoke Aung San under the pseudonym "NN" in which it was described that Ko Aung San dropped out to join Doh Bamar Asiayone (We Burmese Association), acting as the general secretary to perform heavy duties as follows—



Bogyoke Aung San.

“I want to say that you must work hard, abide by disciplines and get rid of your old and evil habits since now, if you want to savor the taste of Independence.”

Bogyoke Aung San

After taking office in the organization as the general secretary, the first-ever duty for Thakin Aung San to do was like "Cleaning the Augean Stables." [N.N: Out of the past—An intimate sketch of Bogyoke Aung San, Guardian Magazine Vol IX, No.5, May 1961]

The story of Cleaning Augean Stables is the one of Greek Mythology about the legendary hero, "Hercules." Hercules was the demigod son born to the god Zeus and Alcmane, the mortal.

Under the influence of the witchcraft of the god Hera, who was also a queen of Zeus, Hercules went insane, committing the murders of the children. For the offences he did, he consulted a medium at the god shrine. The god ordered Hercules to

serve for Eurystheus, the king, for 12 years, instructing him to perform Twelve Labors of great difficulty.

The fifth labor of the twelve was to clean up the excretion from the king Eurystheus's stables. The dung of cattle—cows, bulls, sheep, goats and horses piled up so much for being left without doing any sanitation for over 30 years, getting dirty and smelly.

Hercules managed to clean up the dirt piled up in 3000 stables in one day (or rather—just in a few hours) to perfection. Legendary hero Hercules's way of cleaning up the dirt was none other than thrashing the dirt away with the force of the water from the diverted current of the two rivers flowing nearby.

By comparing with Hercules's marvelous deed, U Mya Sein described Bogyoke Aung San's great responsibilities ahead of him. In fact, Thakin Aung San performed such great duties not only in the existence of Thakin but also in the life of Bogyoke Aung San taking office as the leader of Tatmataw and in the life of U Aung San acting as the chairman of AFP-FL (Anti Fascist People's Freedom League) till his last day.

Now, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the daughter of Bogyoke Aung San has been performing the enormously great burden & duties of the country like her father, trying to get rid of the legacy of pile of trash and dirt left by the old regimes. I am likening Hercules, the legendary hero of Greek Mythology, who cleaned up the dirt from stables to our Bogyoke and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi who are trying to remove the problems of the country, only as an example. As a matter of fact, they are totally different from each other in nature, ways of occurrence and matters to be solved. Hercules was given a punishment whereas Bogyoke and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi performed the duties and responsibilities entrusted by the people.

The dirt Hercules had to clean was excretion left by cattle in 3000 stables only. The dirt and problems for Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to solve are trash piled up by people for over 50 years, exceeding much more than the amount of trash in Augean Stables, hence more difficulty to clean up for its horrid smell.

In accordance with slogan or the motto, "Together with the people" if the government and the people will walk together, leaders and people need to be highly moti-



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. PHOTO: REUTERS

And, Hercules was a powerful demigod while Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is only a human being. Accordingly, it is sure that the latter cannot manage to clean up the waste matters from stables in our country in one year period, not to mention cleaning up in one day like Hercules. It is difficult to clean up these in 4-5 years to come.

A government cannot avoid from these disgusting problems left by the former one before it, by pointing at these with its index finger, claiming that these were caused by the former ones. The government is required to deal with these to the best of its caliber. As addressed by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the ceremony held in commemoration of taking office of the government for one year, these problems must be solved hand in hand with the people.

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Such a claim laying stress on the spirit is attributed to my assumption that the spirit of the whole populace plays an important role in building & rebuilding up the nation, and developing the nation. Just prior to the demise of our leader Bogyoke Aung San he finally made an address to the nation on 13 July 1947, in which he said, "I want to say that you must work hard, abide by disciplines and get rid of your old and evil habits since now, if you want to savor the taste of Independence."

The blanket-blank habit which Bogyoke expressed was meant for bad habits and evil behaviors. Bogyoke's speeches lasted for 70 years. Yet, the current situations show whether Myanmar followed his speech or not.

If the country's leaders, especially those who ruled the country

following 14-15 years after Myanmar gained its Independence would have been qualified enough, there is no reason for our country to have plunged into the current stage. And, Augean stables in Myanmar would not have piled up dirt and problems as much as seen presently.

There emerged a lot of criticism over one-year performances of the incumbent government formed under the leadership of NLD Party that won in the previous general election. They included constructive criticism and destructive ones. This is reasonable. A government must be criticized and get ready to be criticized. The government led by President U Htin Kyaw and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is not the kind that cannot tolerate criticism. In my opinion, I think that the incumbent regime is too good in everything, like tolerance.

It is not an easy task to perform the responsibilities of dealing with problems in political, economic, social and health affairs of the country. In all countries including Myanmar, it is not easy for the governments to rule their countries. Especially, it is more difficult for the country under the great pressure of a myriad of problems for many years, like Myanmar to do so. Simultaneously, we need to be well convinced that the ruling party-led government has not yet become the one with absolute power so that they can build up the nation as desired.

There may be shortcomings, failures and lack of efficiency in management in the performances in one-year period. However, we must acknowledge their Cetana/true willingness toward the country though some faults and flaws were found. We should not severely criticize the government we elected ourselves out of our fondness, in such a short period of time. In other word, we should neither blame nor assess with destructive kinds of criticism.

On considering the other way round, it will be unfair if I assert that all performances Daw Aung San Suu Kyi & NLD party do are good and flawless. As composed by our national poet, "Zaw Gyi" in Poet's attitude from Peaceful land; Introduction to Aesthetic literature, it is worth considering that it is very interesting to highly eulogize a lady of beauty and a king.

Once in the past, confidential followers or disciples used to praise their leaders greatly. They always praised whatever the great leader did. They dare not say or point out the wrong, if ever. These

conditions drove the country into the state of sheer desperation.

I hereby want to present some cases which became worse remarkably in one-year period when the People's government took office. The first thing is a matter of bribery and corruption. It has been learnt that the bribed money is bigger than ever. (Eradication of bribery and corruption is a matter to be written separately.)

Another is hate speech and rude words posted on some face-book pages. Some face-book users freely called names between each other or leaders of the governments or anyone who were not with them. They came to use vulgar and indecent usages we had never heard before. Some agitated to abolish section 66/d of the telecommunication law. Even though the law is still valid, some are writing various kinds of articles and news without restriction. In case there is the section cancelled, I guessed how much the situation would become worse. For saying so, I would not like you to think that I mean the section is very good. Despite the fact that we have already had the law, some people are writing as desired. There will never be absolute freedom in the human society. Every individual has freedom to some extent. Assuming wrongly that it is one's right, we cannot say or insult as we desire.

I am worried as to how our country will proceed under such a kind of condition, whenever I find men facing moral bankruptcy. I remember the first of 10 disciplines for the monastery, laid down by Maha Ghandayone Reverend Sayadaw Ashin Janakka Bhivamsa—having wholesome mind is the first and foremost importance.

For the country and its people as well, "Having Wholesome Mind is the First and Foremost Importance". Though it cannot be true practically, sometimes I happened to have daydreamed that it would be very good if we all have good mind, love our country, have good character and high intelligence.

To possess good character and qualification, we must try hard individually as well as on the whole community basis. To try to get rid of evil mind and bad habits of all people is like trying to clean the dirt of the country.

In the New Year, I pray to God for the government to successfully implement the task of cleaning up the Augean Stables in the country, together with the people.—Translated by Khin Maung Oo (Tada-U)

POEM:

## The Tree

These Roots must be firmly rooted,  
Can't go away,  
Can't get separated from the mother tree,  
But let go their wiry hands down deep, clawing  
the earth steadfast,  
Must hold the standing mother high, upright,  
Sending green forces through the tubular  
vessels twining, twirling,  
into myriad cells,  
While the sinewy boughs and branches  
Unfurling under the sun  
Hold her in perfect balance,  
in beauty of symmetry and might,  
standing against the wind and the torrential rain.  
Yes, these Roots must be strongly rooted.

Zaw Tun



## Shilly Shally

"Friendless punctual shuttle  
between dawn and dusk  
creep and shroud over the clouds  
leave to the Mounts  
blood of the earth  
Crown of this universe;

Blamed as a Victim  
who loads more burdens:  
Prey disguised by Renaissance  
heat stroke as loss of life  
shrivelling crop as loss of property  
thirsty of shadowy as a demand  
Being transient is Enough!"

Wai Yan Min Oo



# Unforgettable Kyemon Journal

## Anyattara

IN the early years, prior to the publication of Kyemon Daily, we had ever heard that Kyemon Journal and Kyemon Magazine had been published. Yet, most of us neglected the matter as back issues are not within our reach any longer, like back numbers of Kyemon Dailies. Magazines, journals and newspapers are milestones for a history. They are unforgettable and noteworthy records or chronicles. They include objective lessons.

Those who love newspapers and admire literature are in the habit of collecting works which are worth recording. Due to the impact of 60th anniversary of the publication of Kyemon Daily, I had an opportunity to get the information and facts about the newspaper from our veteran news men. Thanks to the receipt of an authentic copy of Kyemon journal

from Sayar U Kyi Myint, the then publisher and in charge of the newspaper, I hereby shared it to our fellow readers who had failed to appreciate it. The journal commenced to publish the first-ever issue on 10th September 1956, before publishing Kyemon Daily. It was a weekly journal with 24 pages and its size as same as the present paper. The journal was a creation of U Thaug (Aung Bala as pseudonym) who founded Kyemon Press, U Thein (Zawana), Sein Khin Maung Yi and U Win Tin.

In the credit box of the journal, names of editors had not been included. It had been printed at Tun Myat Printing House, 398, Bolane road, Yangon with the journal edited by U Kyi Myint. And it was described that telephone number was Myoma 740 and price for one copy was 50 pyas.

The then journals and magazines described bitter experiences in pre-inde-

pendence days in Myanmar, detestable and shocking happenings during the periods of World War I & World War II, sports and artistic sectors for the people to know. In the cover page of the Kyemon Journal serial number 8 of 11th November 1956 issue, after gaining Independence, it was expressed "It reached exactly 38 years tomorrow

ly atrocious."

On an overall review of the journal, it described gory details of warring flames, general outlooks and variety of outlooks. In the journal's editorial section, it was written as "the unforgettable day," informing readers of evil effects of a war. Sayar Zanawa wrote his opinions under the title of "Ex-

“ On an overall review of the journal, it described gory details of warring flames, general outlooks and variety of outlooks.

November 11, Sunday that the First World War came to a close."

In addition, it was also found the wording "The Second World War started in 1939, claiming as follows. Now again, the great powers are preparing for waging for the Third World War, seeming to be aggressive. Humans are extreme-

tinguish a spark before it catches fire," comparing international conflicts and the things to be noticed in Myanmar.

At that time, the article titled "Red China Aggression had been solved out by U Nu," was described every week. And articles on wars such as "Production of nuclear arms is not



yet possible in Myanmar," "Why did British make military aggression?" were expressed. Moreover, Sayar Sein Khin Maung Yi's critics on the Myanmar film, "Inhumane own-blooded son" was very interesting.

Film press shows such as "You, my darling, Oh husband" "Ma Mai Kwyai" "The Weakened One" What are you?" were also expressed in it. In the journal, a remarkable article was included, named, "Into which situation will Myanmar turn after next 100 years?" In it the writer Maung Myo Chit assessed briefly the events during

the period from 1056 to 1956, foretelling the potential situations in 2056. His ideas and expectations were extremely symmetrical to the present situations, so I greatly appreciated him for his advanced outlooks.

I had got a lot of knowledge from reading the excellent works of writers in the rare journal we failed to read on this 60th anniversary of the publication of Kyemon Journal, once in the past. I greatly thank a lot to the then Kyemon newsmen. I pray for the eternal survival of Kyemon Newspaper which has been gaining success.

## GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

**Acting Chief Editor - Aye Min Soe**  
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**Expatriate Consultant Editor**  
Mark Angeles  
markrangeles@gmail.com

**Senior Translators**  
Khin Maung Oo  
editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
Copy Writer Min Zaw

**International News Editor**  
Ye Htut Tin  
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**Local News Editors**  
Tun Tun Naing (Editor)  
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor)

**Translators**  
Khaing Thanda Lwin,  
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
Hay Mar Tin Win,  
translator@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
Ei Myat Mon

**Chief Reporter**  
Tun Aung Kyaw,  
reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**Computer Team**  
Tun Zaw (Chief of Computer Team), Thein Ngwe,  
Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,  
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win, Sanda Hnin,  
Zu Zin Hnin

**Circulation**  
San Lwin (+95) (01) 8604532, Hotline - 09 974424114

**Advertising inquiry**  
01 8604530, Hotline - 09 974424848  
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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## Five more ministries hold press conference on one year performance

>> FROM PAGE 7

Designation of the Bell inscription letters written in 3 languages— Mon, Myanmar and Pali, donated by King Bayintnaung at the Shwesigone Pagoda in the Bagan cultural zone was submitted and it was designated as the world heritage record at the meeting held on May 18-20 2016. It is likely to be designated as the Memory of the World in 2017.

Workshop on Myanmar Puppet on the verge of extinction had been held to convince the world of puppet art. Under the sponsorship of Japanese Embassy, Restaurant of Many Orders play and workshop had been held. In cooperation of Republic of Korea, Korea Association of Classical Music Exchange was presented, with Suranaree University of Technology presented in cooperation with Thailand.

Then, responsible officials of the ministry of religious affairs and culture, replied to the questions raised by news media.

As regards preaching sermons with the mouth taped, Sayardaw U Virasu made preaches for 9 times. Religious affairs are very sensitive, so the tasks to be done are to be performed after getting permissions

from the State Maha Sangha Nayaka and the State Government. Now is too early to reply the news, and news and information are to be released to keep up with the time through the web pages of the ministry.

In answer to posting indecent images at the religious edifices, the ministry has laid down policy to respective board of trusteeship. Matters to take action against those who violated restriction were granted to the respective Regions and States & boards of pagoda trusteeship.

As regards compilation of Myanmar History in reality, U Aung Myint, acting director-general said that it had been assigned to write freely and really. In compiling by eras, the department is responsible for compiling truly and for their writing they must take accountability.

### The government has done works for ethnic development

The aim of the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs is to enhance union spirit such as helping, respecting and unity of all ethnicities, for ethnics have the rights in accordance with law, to protect and develop ethnic's custom, art, history, literature and dialects,

to create environment to have the ethnic's origin, to improve socio-economic sectors such as education, health and economy and transportation in ethnic areas, said U Min Aye Ko, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs.

To execute the ministry's work, a budget was proposed in the 2016-2017 fiscal year and Ks1. 59 billion was approved in the second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to be utilized for the works.

For the protection of ethnic's rights, culture and customs, and literature, a National Language Policy Symposium was held on July, 2016 by the cooperation of Ministry of Education and UNICEF to be able to apply office language, ethnic language and international language in schools.

A National level workshop by cooperating with Chin Human Rights Organisation was held in October at Nay Pyi Taw to observe the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People to which Myanmar has shown support. The discussion of National Policy Dialogue on the Rights of Indigenous People in Myanmar was also held on

February 2017 in Nay Pyi Taw.

Negotiation efforts with Minister of Education to open summer literature and culture classes in Basic Education schools in various Regions and States by their respective cultural groups after making workshops for ethnics' literature and for law was carried out.

The offices of ethnic literature and culture and the offices of the protection of ethnic rights were opened in Regions and States. The offices were opened in Mon and Kayin States and continue to be opened in other Regions and State, he said.

In accordance with the law, the Union Minister had sent his greeting messages at various ethnic's National Days and New Year occasions, he said.

The Deputy Permanent Secretary U Min Aye Ko then answered questions by the media.

The ministry has provided healthcare, social welfare and development activities in the IDP areas. The ministry also has been involved in supporting peace process and encouraged the armed groups to participate in the peace discussion.—Myanmar News Agency

# Kyemon daily celebrates 60th anniversary in Yangon

A ceremony to mark the 60th anniversary of the Kyemon (the Mirror Daily) newspaper was held in Yangon yesterday, with attendance one of the founders of the daily newspaper and veteran journalists.

The Mirror was first founded by the youths and the middle aged, and is a newspaper that has changed obviously in Myanmar's print media, said Dr. Pe Myint, Union Minister for Information, in his greetings on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Kyemon Newspaper.

The history of the Kyemon, published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information, was mentioned in yesterday's Sunday Supplement.

He said that the Kyemon is the first newspaper he read in his boyhood. At the time, there were many newspapers being published and the Kyemon was the most popular one and is still the best one, with its circulation being more than the combination of other newspaper's circulation.

He said he still remembers the writings of Author Zawana, Kyemon Khine of Sayar Aung Shein and the political cartoons by



Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint addresses the 60th anniversary of the Kyemon (the Mirror Daily) Daily yesterday at Sky Star Hotel in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

Sayargyi U Pe Thein. The papers were sent by plane to Thandwe where he lived and Kyemon had the highest circulation.

In 1962, the freedom of press was faded and Kyemon became the state owned newspaper. As

people are saying Kyemon is the government's newspaper, It is I think a matter of interpretation. He thinks that the pure government newspaper were Working People's Daily and Lotha Pyi Thu Nezin in 1963-1964 which were

the government's mouthpiece, he said.

But, Kyemon and Myanmar Alin of today were founded with different motivation, he said.

In fact, Kyaemon and Myanmar Alin had become the

state owned newspapers only in the absence of the Working People's Daily and Lotha Pyi Thu Daily. At present, Kyemon and Myanmar Alin are owned by the government and so, then can be called the state owned papers but they are not the mouth piece of the government.

Despite the truth that Kyemon is owned by the government and is reporting on the activities of the government, it is not the voice of the government.

Kyemon is serving as a bridge between the government and the public by sharing information. However, it is not a propaganda tool, he said.

If one casts a glance at the print media of today, one will see that there are Myanmar Alin, Kyemon, the Global New Light of Myanmar and other private run newspaper harboring different thoughts and views in addition to on line publications, added the Union Minister.

Next, A video clip about the history of the Kyemon was shown. The ceremony was attended by the co founders, also ex chief editors of Kyemon and retired officials of the Ministry of Information.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## UCSB Chairman meets New Zealand Ambassador

CHAIRMAN of Union Civil Service Board Dr. Win Thein met with Ambassador of New Zealand Mr. Steve Marshall at the hall of the UCSB in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Matters relating to undertakings for development of public administration sector in New

Zealand, political appointments, policies and principles in New Zealand's governmental organizations and Myanmar delegation's trip to New Zealand to observe civil service reforms during the second week of the coming May were discussed during the meeting.

Present at the meeting were Member of the UCSB U Saw Valentine, Permanent Secretary U Khin Maung Win, Director-General U Kyaw Soe and Director Daw Thet Thet Kyaw of the Civil Service Selection and Training Department.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Pathein umbrella sells well in Ayeyawady region

PATHEIN is famous for its locally made Pathein umbrella, which is unique in style and a typical souvenir for tourists as the umbrellas are available in many parts of the country. These days, Pathein umbrellas are selling well in the town of Pathein, in Ayeyawady region because of increased tourist arrivals.

Tourists visiting Chaung Tha and Ngwe Hsaung beaches usually drop by Pathein, where they visit the pagodas and buy souvenirs, mostly umbrellas, which are made of wood and cloth.

Nationwide, the Pathein umbrella is selling well in Yangon, Mandalay, Bagan, Nyaung U, Taunggyi, Inlay and Mawlamyine. These umbrellas are given as gifts at novitiations, ceremonies, ear piercing ceremonies, wedding receptions and charitable activities. The colorful umbrellas are also used to decorate hotels, restaurants and shops as a trendy mark of Myanmar culture.

Tourism companies also or-



Pathein umbrellas decorate a cafe in Yangon. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

der Pathein umbrellas bearing their company logos. Italian, French, German, English and American tourists are the major clients.

Currently, the Pathein umbrella is selling for Ks3,000 to K 0.1 million, depending on the design, texture of the cloth used and sizes.

Pathein umbrellas are completely natural, handcrafted

products with a combination of beauty and flexibility. The umbrellas are made of bamboo, wood and cloth and are decorated or painted mostly with flowers or landscapes.

The art of making of umbrellas has been passed from generation to generation for over 1,000 years, with the production of the umbrellas is still very active.—*Min Thu*

## MYANMAR GAZETTE

### Head of service organization appointed

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Khin Latt Gyi, Deputy Director-General, Mining Department under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation as Director-General of the same department on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.—*MNA*

## Yangon govt to invest 64 per cent of housing budget for squatters

THE Yangon region government will invest 64 per cent of its housing budget in a low-cost housing project which will be implemented for those having to live in squatter huts in the Yangon region, said Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein.

"Apartments of the low-cost housing type will be sold by bank loans with long-term instalments. The housing estate will be constructed with an aim to remove the squatters", said Regional Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein at the Union of Myanmar Federation of

Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) on Tuesday.

The regional government is making arrangements to link with the Central Bank of Myanmar for needy people to be able to pay in instalments in the purchase of the low-cost flats.

Currently, the government is in discussions with developers to implement the affordable housing project. The project is expected to start at the end of April.

The government has compiled a list of the squatter households to provide with 30-year loans.—*200*

## Yangon school buses soon to be internationalized

THE Yangon Region Cabinet disclosed its plan to upgrade school buses to international standards in order to provide better safety to school children.

"It does not mean that current school cars must halt the operation but our plan is to upgrade the school ferries so as to meet the

international standard for the safety of the children," said U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region Chief Minister. In 2016, the regional government failed to replace light-trucks, which are still in use for ferrying school children, with mini-buses as private ferry owners objected the plan.—*200*

# Pope Francis arrives in Cairo seeking to mend ties with Islam



Pope Francis waves as he leaves for his pastoral trip to Egypt at the Leonardo da Vinci-Fiumicino Airport in Rome, Italy, on 28 April 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

CAIRO — Pope Francis arrives in Cairo on Friday hoping to mend ties with Islamic religious leaders just as Egypt's ancient Christian community faces unprecedented pressure from Islamic State militants who have threatened to wipe it out.

In an address to the Egyptian people this week, Francis spoke of his hope that his visit would help bring peace and encourage dialogue and reconciliation with the Islamic world.

But it comes at a painful

time for Egypt's Copts, the Middle East's largest Christian community, three weeks after Islamic State suicide bombers killed 45 people in twin church bombings.

Those attacks followed a cathedral bombing that killed 28 people in December and a spree of murders that has forced hundreds of Christians to flee North Sinai, where the group is most active. Islamic State attacks and sectarian wars in Iraq, Syria and elsewhere are devastating Christian popula-

tions and jeopardising their future in the Middle East, the birthplace of Jesus and home to the earliest churches.

Despite the security threat hanging over Francis' visit, the pope will use an ordinary car during his 27 hours in Cairo, continuing his practice of shunning armoured limousines to be closer to people. Streets near the Vatican embassy in Cairo and other sites have been cleared of cars and blocked off, and pedestrians have not been allowed to linger.

"After all the pain we have experienced ... we are satisfied and confident that the state is taking strong security measures to prevent terrorism and protect churches," said Father Boulos Halim, spokesman of the Coptic Orthodox church to which the majority of Egypt's Christians belong.

"It's in the state's interests to protect its nationals and the Copts are not an independent people, they are part and parcel of the nation itself."—Reuters

## Brazil faces nationwide strike threatening to paralyse country

SAO PAULO/RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazilian unions called nationwide strikes on Friday to protest President Michel Temer's efforts to reduce social security benefits and weaken labour laws, with disruption expected to road and rail transport, factories and schools.

Many workers were expected to heed the strike call, due in part to anger about reforms that will force many Brazilians to work for years longer before drawing a pension, but also because the strike will extend a holiday weekend ahead of Labor Day on Monday.

If successful, the protest

would mark Brazil's first general strike in more than two decades.

In Brasilia, the capital, authorities boarded up windows of government buildings on Thursday amid fears that protests could result in violent clashes between demonstrators and police.

Demonstrations were scheduled in other major cities across the Latin American nation of more than 200 million people.

"It is going to be the biggest strike in the history of Brazil," said Paulo Pereira da Silva, the president of trade union group Forca Sindical.

Violent protests have occurred repeatedly during the past four years amid political turmoil, Brazil's worst recession on record, and unprecedented corruption investigations that revealed stunning levels of systematic graft among politicians.

Nearly a third of Temer's cabinet and key congressional allies came under investigation in the scandal this month, worsening his dismal approval ratings since taking office last year after the impeachment of ex-President Dilma Rousseff.

Rousseff's Workers Party grew out of the labour

movement, and her allies have called her removal for breaking budget rules an illegitimate "coup," contributing to political polarization in Brazil and hardline union resistance to Temer's agenda. Vagner Freitas, the national president of the Central Workers Union (CUT), Brazil's biggest labour confederation, said the government's reforms "leave no room to negotiate."

"Temer does not even want to negotiate, he just wants to meet the demands of the businessmen who financed the 'coup' precisely to end social security and legalize the exploitation of



Members of Brazil's Movimento dos Sem-Teto (Roofless Movement) shout slogans to Police as they try open the front door of a vacant building during an occupation of an empty building in the early hours of general strike, in the centre of Sao Paulo, Brazil, on 28 April 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

workers," Freitas said in a statement.

A spokesman for Temer rejected the union criticism, saying the government was working to undo the economic damage wrought under the previous Workers Party government, which

had the backing of the CUT.

"The inheritance of that was 13 million unemployed. The government is carrying out reforms to change this situation, to create jobs and economic growth," said spokesman Marcio de Freitas.—Reuters

### THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO CONSULTANT COMPANIES FOR DEVELOPING VEHICLE REGISTRATION BY RADIO FREQUENCY IDENTIFICATION (RFID) SYSTEM NOTIFICATION

1. Ministry of Transport and Communications (MOTC) Tender Invitation and Evaluation Committee has invited the proposals of EOI from consultant companies for the Developing Vehicle Registration by Radio Frequency Identification System (RFID) by announcement in state-owned daily newspapers from 4th to 8th February 2017.

2. Fifteen companies submitted proposals of EOI by the last date of 10th March 2017.

3. After evaluation of the submitted proposals in line with the evaluation procedures, the Tender Evaluation and Selection Committee has shortlisted the following (5) companies:

- Challenger (Xiamen) Intelligent Co.,Ltd
- Detecon Consulting Asia-Pacific Co.,Ltd
- Hunan Provincial Communications Planning Survey & Design Institute Co.,Ltd
- Moon Engineering Co.,Ltd
- PCCW Solutions Limited

4. The shortlisted companies mentioned above are not arranged by marks or rank, they are arranged alphabetically.

5. The Tender Evaluation and Selection Committee will be issuing Request for Proposals (RFP) to the shortlisted companies in early June 2017. The exact date will be informed to the shortlisted companies.

6. The information and application forms concerning RFP of the RFID Project can be obtained from Director, Computer Division, Road Transport Administration Department, Building No. (29), Ministry of Transport and Communications, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar from the date informed by the Committee.

**Tender Evaluation and Selection Committee  
Ministry of Transport and Communications**

## Tech firms race to spot video violence

SINGAPORE — Companies from Singapore to Finland are racing to improve artificial intelligence so software can automatically spot and block videos of grisly murders and mayhem before they go viral on social media.

None, so far, claim to have cracked the problem completely.

A Thai man who broadcast himself killing his 11-month-old daughter in a live video on Facebook this week, was the latest in a string of violent crimes shown live on the social media company. The incidents have prompted questions about how Facebook's reporting system works and how violent content can be flagged faster.

A dozen or more companies are wrestling with the problem, those in the industry say. Google — which faces similar problems with its YouTube service — and Facebook are working on their own solutions.



Graymatics employees pretend to fight as they record footage to be used to 'train' their software to watch and filter internet videos for violence, at their office in Singapore, on 27 April 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Most are focusing on deep learning: a type of artificial intelligence that makes use of computerised neural networks. It is an approach that David Lissmyr, founder of Paris-based image and video analysis company Sightengine, says goes back to efforts in the

1950s to mimic the way neurons work and interact in the brain.

Teaching computers to learn with deep layers of artificial neurons has really only taken off in the past few years, said Matt Zeiler, founder and CEO of New York-based Clarifai, another

video analysis company.

It's only been relatively recently that there has been enough computing power and data available for teaching these systems, enabling "exponential leaps in the accuracy and efficacy of machine learning," Zeiler said.—Reuters



## 'Baahubali 2' morning shows cancelled over 'financial dispute'

CHENNAI — The morning shows of "Baahubali 2: The Conclusion" were cancelled across theatres in Tamil Nadu over alleged financial dispute.

Cinema owners announced the cancellation of the morning shows and boards were put up outside the halls informing the audience about the development.

However, no reasons were cited, which irked fans who had been eagerly waiting to watch the final part of the SS Rajamouli-directed film.

According to reports, a financial settlement dispute between the film's producers and its Tamil version distributors, resulted in the delay.—PTI

## No one walked the way he did: Bachchan on Vinod Khanna

MUMBAI — The year was 1969. Amitabh Bachchan was looking for a break in Hindi films; Vinod Khanna had already bagged his first role.

"I was struggling to get a role, any role, anywhere," Bachchan, 74, wrote in an emotional blog today.

"He was working in the Ajanta Arts film, 'Man ka Meet'," Bachchan wrote, recalling his first meeting with Khanna, his old screen partner who died yesterday.

Their first meeting was in the office of actor Sunil Dutt, who also gave the two their first screen space together in "Reshma Aur Shera" in 1971.

"A most good looking handsome young man; a body in elegant frame; a swagger in his walk. And a gentle smile as he looked towards me," Bachchan wrote. "It was 1969 ..."

He mourned the end of a 48-year-old friendship with Khanna, recalling his "infectious charm" and "optimistic swagger". "His confident charm was infectious.

There was always an optimistic swagger about him, a smile, a laugh, a casualness," Bachchan wrote, punctuating his words with a string of ellipses to indicate his frame of mind.

"Nothing seemed to disturb him, one felt ... the relaxed 'cool' of today's times." Khanna, he believed, was one of a kind. "No one walked the way he did...No one had the presence he had in a crowded room...No one could lighten up the surroundings he was in, like him ... No one," Bachchan wrote. The mega star said soon after their first meeting, they got a chance to work together in Dutt's production and became life-long friends. "Spending time in each other's make-up rooms, sharing our lunch, just biding time and talking of all kinds of talk...

The late shoot pack ups and the beyond midnight drives to Juhu Beach, to just sit with our directors — he to have a drink, and I mine (I used to in those days)," Bachchan wrote. The actor toasted the "amazing chemistry of the

several historic films" they did together, the "association that was so loveable and considerate."—PTI

## Ballet great Baryshnikov granted Latvian citizenship

RIGA — Latvia has granted citizenship to ballet great Mikhail Baryshnikov, who left more than 50 years ago when the Baltic country was still under the Soviet rule.

The 69-year-old Baryshnikov, born in Riga to Russian parents, will have two passports as he is also a US citizen.

"When I received invitation from Latvian government to accept honorary citizenship, my heart quivered," Baryshnikov said during a ceremony in parliament where he was given the Latvian passport by deputy parliamentary speaker Inese Libina-Egnere.

"I thought how wonderful it would be to return to my childhood (country) no longer as an outsider, but as a native, to visit my mother's grave, to cherish those whom I loved and respected as a child. ... I am grateful for that."

Baryshnikov, considered one of the greatest ballet dancers



Renowned stage performer Mikhail Baryshnikov attends a news conference at the Suzanne Dellal Centre for Dance and Theatre in Tel Aviv in 2011. PHOTO: REUTERS

alongside Vaslav Nijinsky, Rudolf Nureyev and Vladimir Vasiliev, left Latvia in 1964 to begin his career in Leningrad.

He defected to Canada in 1974 before moving to the United States to join the New

York City Ballet.

"My childhood in Riga was not necessarily easy, as the son of Russian parents," Baryshnikov wrote in a letter to law makers ahead of parliament's vote to grant him citizenship.

"My father ... was stationed in Latvia to occupy the nation. In spite of this fraught circumstance, I developed a strong connection to the people of Latvia."

Baryshnikov has also made a name for himself as an actor. In 1977 he was nominated for an Academy Award and a Golden Globe for his role as Yuri Kopeikine in the film "The Turning Point". He also appeared in the TV series "Sex and the City".

During the past two years Baryshnikov has participated in arts projects in Latvia, collaborating with critically acclaimed director Alvis Hermanis. He was awarded citizenship for his contribution to popularizing Latvian culture internationally.—Reuters

## 'Tremendous' Trump impersonator wins contest to host fake news show

LAS VEGAS — A professional impressionist from Las Vegas took home first prize in a contest impersonating Donald Trump on Wednesday, earning a role hosting an online fake news comedy show.

"I won, I won. I just keep winning. That's what I do, I win. That's all I do," John Di Domenico said after his impression of the U.S. president was judged the best of ten finalists.

Contestants from as far away as Iran and New Zealand were allowed two minutes each and riffed

on topics such as Obamacare, the recent bombing in Syria, the border wall with Mexico and China.

Four comedians, including former Trump impersonator on 'Saturday Night Live', Darrell Hammond, judged the competition held at the Laugh Factory in Los Angeles. "He's not like others. He's utterly himself," said Hammond, explaining why Trump is often a target for caricature.

Di Domenico, who started doing impressions to overcome a childhood speech impediment, said

the key to mimicking Trump was more than just the voice.

"With him, there's the throat placement, the nasal placement, the very unusual pronunciation and vocal production that he has, and then so much of it is attitude. 'I'm tremendous, I'm fantastic, I'm incredible,'" he said.

Di Domenico's prize includes hosting a weekly show on the Laugh Factory's website called "Fake News/Real News", and performing at the comedy club's outlets.—Reuters



## Emma Watson : 'The Circle' brought home pitfalls of social media

NEW YORK — Emma Watson says making her new movie "The Circle," about a fictitious social media giant, had been a tough and vulnerable experience that brought home issues of ethics and the boundaries of privacy in an increasingly public age.

Watson, 27, grew up in the public eye as a child actress in the "Harry Potter" movies, but the British star said

she had not fully considered the implications of mass data collection, online activities, and personal freedom before making "The Circle." "It was a very vulnerable experience for me making this movie... (It) was very hard for me and very meaningful," Watson told the audience after the premiere of the movie on Wednesday at the Tribeca film festival.

Based on the book of the same name by Dave Eggers, "The Circle," opening in US movie theaters on Friday, is a chilling vision of

how social media giants control and monitor personal information - not always for the good. The Circle is a fictitious company that has been likened to Google, Facebook and Twitter. In a culture of "Dream Fridays" and slogans like "Sharing is Caring," Watson's character Mae volunteers to become "fully transparent" wearing a marble-sized camera, 24/7 that streams all her activities online. The experiment leads to the terrifying online hounding, tracking and death of a close friend who had tried to shun social

media. "I didn't think about most of this stuff before," said Watson, who noted that the US Congress in March reversed Obama administration era internet privacy rules on the selling of individual browsing information "Trust me, I have grilled Dave Eggers. Really, I have taken him to a room and said 'What do we do? What do we do?!,'" she said. "A lot of friendships have a hard time surviving in the pressure cooker of the world that we live in and how public everything is. It's really tough." —Reuters

**Mrs Winifred Saldanha (Dimples) - Ma Lone Yin**

Dimples, aged 97, second daughter of U Tun Hlaing and Daw Pya Ohn of Belugyun, Chaungzone, beloved wife of the late Wilfred Saldanha and loving mother of Winsome, Barbara+Andrew, Jeanne+ Meenu, Clement+Finn, Dorothy+Christopher, Wilfred+Kirsten and Patricia+Gottfried, passed away on **27 April 2017** at her home in 135E Than Lwin Road, Yangon. She is also survived by six grandchildren, Natasha, Jason, Lydia, Nathaniel, Nathan, Marckie and two great grandchildren Anjeli and Alexia. She will be greatly missed by all. May her soul rest in peace.

Funeral services will be held at St Augustine's RC Church at 64 Inya Road at 08:00 am on **1st May 2017** followed by burial at Htein Pin. Catholic cemetery.

## Ninja picked as “Japan Heritage” aimed at boosting tourism

TOKYO — The government said Friday it has picked a pair of cities known for ninja, Japan's feudal mercenaries, among 17 newly designated assortments of cultural assets aimed at boosting tourism ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics.

The cities straddling the border of central and western Japan — Iga in Mie Prefecture and Koka in Shiga Prefecture — known for the two most famous ninja clans, respectively, were included in the third batch of “Japan Heritage” properties, the Cultural Affairs Agency said.

The government seeks to recognize tangible and intangible cultural assets in regional areas as “Japan Heritage” under a project launched in 2015 to attract more domestic and overseas tourists to revitalize local economies. It groups such assets based on historical stories and traditions to make it easier to appeal to visitors.

A set of cities and

towns known as ports for Kitamaebune cargo ships which sailed along the Sea of Japan coast during Japan's Edo (1603-1868) and Meiji (1868-1912) periods was also added to the list.

Among other newly added assets are Japan's northernmost silk-producing area in Yamagata Prefecture and the Yabakei Gorge in Oita Prefecture, southwestern Japan.

The new certification of 17 sets of cultural assets this year brought the total number of designation sites to 54 and the agency aims to choose 100 sites by 2020 when the country hosts the Tokyo Games.

The agency offers financial assistance for local governments to launch multilingual websites and provide training for volunteer guides among other measures to attract visitors.

The third batch of Japan Heritage assets was chosen from a total of 79 proposals from local municipalities earlier this year.— *Kyodo News*

## Sao Paulo mayor declares war on wall writers



A ‘pichador’, a graffiti artist who tags buildings and landmarks with angular, runic fonts, poses for a photograph in front of a mural of a Brazilian artist ‘Humanos’, on a street in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on 11 April, 2017. The two faces on the mural are in reference to a ‘pichador’ (L) and a graffiti artist. PHOTO: REUTERS

SAO PAULO — It took Brazilian artist Iaco one minute to whip out a can of spray paint and write “doria” seven times across a grey wall in Sao Paulo.

It took four minutes for a police officer to arrive, gun drawn, handcuff Iaco and haul him to the nearest precinct — a swift response to a high-profile provocation in Mayor João Doria's war on graffiti.

This was not just any wall.

Weeks before, Doria donned orange overalls and a face mask to help spray grey paint over some 15,000 square meters of street art along that same stretch of Avenida 23 de Maio.

The fate of those murals, commissioned by the prior mayor, has sparked a debate over the world-famous graffiti scene in South America's biggest city and its place in the cleaner landscape imagined by Doria's “Pretty

City” programme.

The mayor has since called the move to repaint that busy avenue too hasty and now insists that his fight is not with the city's colourful street art but with a style of aggressive tagging known as “pichação.” The angular, runic font has conquered swaths of Sao Paulo's landscape as unseen street artists scale buildings and landmarks with paint rollers and spray cans in hand, drawing the ire of many who embrace other forms of graffiti. “A muralist is an artist and has our respect,” Doria said in an interview this month, highlighting his plans to commission new works of street art. “Pichação is aggression ... It is not a social problem. It is mental, criminal.”

Doria says police have caught more than 100 people writing on walls illegally in Sao Paulo since he took office in January.

He has established a

fine for pichação of up to 10,000 reais (\$3,200), or 10 times Brazil's monthly minimum wage. But practitioners, known as ‘pichadores’, say that will do little to dissuade them from climbing high-rises and highway overpasses to leave their mark.

“What other artist puts their safety at risk for what they do?” said the pichador known as Du.

“All art involves freedom of expression, but pichação is the expression of freedom. You're telling the world, ‘Here I am. You can't ignore me.’”

Most pichadores write little more than their street name or the name of their crew, and spare social commentary in rare instances. “Who is Doria?” one scrawled in a tag.

Pichadores often compete for the highest or most audacious tags, but few would deface another's work. Although it is synonymous with urban

decay, those who take part say pichação has no ties to gangs in Sao Paulo.

Some in the graffiti world question the distinction between other street art and pichação, which has been featured in the Berlin Biennale, at the Cartier Foundation in Paris and at Sao Paulo Fashion Week. Originally inspired by heavy metal album covers of the 1980s, the cryptic calligraphy has won admirers in the global graffiti scene, including photographer Martha Cooper, who has documented the New York subculture for four decades. “I'm a big fan of what they're doing in Sao Paulo. They've invented their own alphabet,” said Cooper, who was introduced to the old guard pichadores on a recent visit to Brazil.

“It's not acts of random vandalism at all,” she said. “It's a way of making your environment your own.”—*Reuters*

**Programme Schedule**  
(29- 4- 2017, Saturday)

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<p>6:00 Am ◆ Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw</p> <p>7:00 Am ◆ Breakfast News</p> <p>7:30 Am ◆ Weekly Sport Info</p> <p>8:35 Am ◆ Pan Pyo Khin</p> <p>9:10 Am ◆ Documentary</p> <p>10:30 Am ◆ Poem for Children</p> <p>11:00 Am ◆ Health and Vegetables</p> <p>11:30 Am ◆ Game for Children</p> <p>12:20 Pm ◆ TV Drama Series</p> <p>4:35 Pm ◆ Documentary</p> <p>5:15 Pm ◆ Documentary (ASEAN)</p>	<p>5:30 Pm ◆ NHK Programme “Beautiful Landscape of Japan” (Shining Lights of Hope: A Ningt in Koba)</p> <p>6:15 Pm ◆ Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than</p> <p>6:30 Pm ◆ Tasty Trip</p> <p>7:15 Pm ◆ TV Drama Series</p> <p>8:00 Pm ◆ News/International News/ Weather Report</p> <p>8:35 Pm ◆ Towards All Sector Development</p> <p>◆ Unity Melody</p> <p>9:15 Pm ◆ TV Drama Series</p> <p>◆ Musician's Talk</p>
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**Myanmar International**  
Programme Schedule

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(29-4-2017 07:00am ~ 30-4-2017 07:00am) MST

<p>07:03 Am News</p> <p>07:27 Am Great Shwedagon - Charitable Associations</p> <p>08:03 Am News</p> <p>08:26 Am Ar Khar New Year Festival</p> <p>08:48 Am Toddy Palm Product Shop</p> <p>09:03 Am News</p> <p>09:26 Am Myanmar Game Changers (Ep - III)</p> <p>09:52 Am Sai Ye Kwan</p> <p>10:03 Am News</p> <p>10:26 Am Caves of Myanmar</p>	<p>10:52 Am Cultural Show: Theatrical Make Up</p> <p>(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm)- Friday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p><b>Prime Time</b></p> <p>07:03 Pm New</p> <p>07:25 Pm A Famous Pagoda in the Sea</p> <p>07:50 Pm Today Myanmar: CBT in Kampetlet Township</p> <p>08:03 Pm New</p> <p>08:26 Pm Bogalay Tint Aung: A Man of Versatility (Part-2)</p> <p>08:53 Pm Myanmar Masterclass: Conceptual Art</p> <p>(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am)- Friday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p>	<p>(For Detailed Schedule – <a href="http://www.myanmaritv.com/schedule">www.myanmaritv.com/schedule</a>)</p>
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Myanmar youth National Football Team. PHOTO: MFF

## Myanmar football teams to play friendly match against Inter Milan

MYANMAR youth national football teams are planned to play friendly matches against Inter Milan youth FC in coming August. Representatives of Myanmar Football Federation are in talk with the authorities of Italian football giant Inter Milan FC for the friendly games to be able to promote Myanmar football standard.

Talks will also focus on youth programmes and the development of football academies within the country, along with the slogan, “helping to open My-

anmar’s door for foreign teams to come and play here.” According to the bilateral negotiations, MFF had already chosen best players from U18 and U22 Myanmar national teams.

Both Myanmar U-18 and U-22 football teams are preparing to compete in international tournaments before the friendly matches against Inter Milan in August. Myanmar U22 will be headed by German Coach Gerd Friedrich and Myanmar U18 by French Coach Bun Berli. —Kyaw Zin Lin

## Mourinho defends United approach, hails spirit after derby draw

MANCHESTER, (England) — Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho defended his team’s approach in Thursday’s 0-0 derby draw with Manchester City, hailing their spirit as they held on with 10 men.

United had only 31 per cent possession and created few chances as they battled for a share of the spoils that left them a point behind fourth-placed City in the Premier League.

But Mourinho, who also questioned Sergio Aguero’s reaction in the incident which saw United midfielder Marouane Fellaini sent off in the 84th minute, was in no mood for apology.

“They had more ball, they had more chances but I have to defend the players and the spirit of my players and say they were amazing the way they fight,” he said, after his team extended their unbeaten run to 24 games.

United could have grabbed the lead just before halftime when midfielder Ander Herrera missed a glorious chance, heading wide from close range when left unmarked, and Mourinho felt they would have deserved the advantage.

“In the first half we controlled easily the game, we controlled easily the defensive side of the game and we were always dangerous on the counter-attack and we had two good chances to score,” he said.

“Marcus (Rashford) gave their defenders lots of problems, they stopped him sometimes with lots of fouls, so for me the spirit was amazing and the first half was really good.

“In the second half, I think they were stronger than us. Despite the fact that we were very strong defensively, we didn’t create enough problems in attack and we allowed them to be more offensive and play more in our half,” he added.

But the former Chelsea and Real Madrid manager said he was hampered in his ability to positively influence the

outcome of the match by having few options from the bench due to injuries. “In the crucial period of the game I had no players to change in midfield, I had no midfielders on the bench, then we lose Marouane and for 15 minutes we play with ten and fight for the point, which the boys did brilliantly,” he said.

Guardiola said he had no problem with United’s tactics.

“In my career I have come across many different styles. I am going to be respectful of my opponents’ style. We did absolutely everything to win and tonight it wasn’t enough.

“We tried to have the ball and attack like we have tried to do all season. Today it was much harder against a team who hadn’t lost in 23 (games) — it was not easy but we tried. It’s one point and the fight keeps going.”

Mourinho could not resist a jibe at Argentine striker Aguero over the dismissal of Fellaini for a relatively light headbutt. “I saw Aguero in the tunnel, no broken nose, no broken head, his face as nice as always. If he doesn’t go to the floor, it’s not a red card,” said the Portuguese.—Reuters



Manchester United’s Marouane Fellaini after being sent off with manager Jose Mourinho at Etihad Stadium, on 27 April 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Kenya says another ‘high-profile athlete’ failed doping test



Athletes exercise in the early morning in the sports ground of the University of Eldoret in western Kenya, on 21 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

NAIROBI — The chairman of Athletics Kenya (AK) has told Reuters that another “high-profile athlete” has failed a doping test, just weeks after it emerged Rio Olympics marathon champion Jemima Sumgong tested positive for performance enhancing drugs.

Jackson Tuwei told Reuters that the IAAF, the sport’s global governing body, had found the positive test but said the identity of the athlete could not yet be revealed.

Kenya’s middle and long distance success has been marred by doping cases involving elite athletes. Officials estimate the number of positive tests at about 50 in the past four years.

“There is another high-profile athlete who has also failed a doping test but we have to wait for legal procedures to be followed,” Tuwei told Reuters in an interview on Thursday.

“Obviously we cannot say who the athlete is.”

News of the test comes after Sumgong, who last year became the first Kenyan woman to win Olympic gold in the marathon, tested positive for the banned blood-boost-

er EPO (erythropoietin) in an out-of-competition test carried out by IAAF.

Doping was made a criminal offence in Kenya in June 2016. Tuwei said the IAAF had rejected Sumgong’s explanation about the circumstances that led to her positive test.

“Her explanation has been rejected and she has been ordered to send a more convincing explanation before further action is taken,” Tuwei said.

Sumgong’s positive test came in the wake of a four-year ban handed to Kenya’s multi-marathon champion Rita Jeptoo, Sumgong’s former training partner, after she tested positive for EPO in 2014. “We also wish to send a very strong message to athletes representatives, doctors, coaches and all athletes support personnel that those found culpable or proved to be encouraging our athletes in this line of sporting subterfuge will be charged as prescribed by the law of the land,” AK said in a separate statement on Thursday.

Sumgong, 32, was among the six Kenyan gold medallists in Rio, which was the country’s best performance at an Olympics.—Reuters