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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, centre, poses for a photo with the Asia Foundation delegation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor receives Asia Foundation delegation

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor, and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar received the 32-member delegation led by Mr. David Dale Arnold, Chairman of the Asia Foundation, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. During the meeting, they discussed matters on development assistance of the Asia Foundation in Myanmar.—Myanmar News Agency

Trapped civilians in Kachin State return home

OVER 150 people trapped after fleeing from fighting in Kachin State were rescued and brought to safety earlier this week by state, local and civil society officials and residents, it was learnt.

A total of 153 people who found themselves hemmed in by the Namkwan Creek due to fighting in Myitkyina District, Tanai Township, Pyinhmaw, were rescued in motorboats and taken to Tawamchaung Bridge under the guidance of the Kachin State Government, the State General Administration Department, the district GAD and the regional military command in Tanai, officials said.

From there, they were transported by cars arranged by regional military command and the township to a temporary marshaling area in a sport ground in Samsar Ward. On 30 January, they were in the process of being sent back to their homes, it was learnt.

The 153 civilians — 118 males and 34 females — were transported from Tanai along the Namti-Mogaung Road by four taxis arranged by the township and a 10-wheel truck arranged by regional military command (Tanai).

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Pyithu Hluttaw discusses sluice gates, farm lands

Thura Zaw

THE 11th-day meeting of the seventh regular session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw was held yesterday morning in the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall, where questions were raised and answered, a motion tabled and the amendments to a bill amending the Caste Disabilities Removal Act was confirmed.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw replied to a question by U Khin Maung Latt of Myanaung constituency on the plan to install sluice gates at the 26 mile 3 furlong point of the Ayeyarwady embankment in Myanaung Township to discharge rainwater from the fields into the Ayeyarwady river. The deputy minister said studies and measurements were being conducted on matters such as the water level of the Ayeyarwady river, elevation of the fields from which the rainwater is discharged into the river, distance between the embankment and the river, and the possibility of embankment erosion due to the construction of sluice gates.

At the highest water-level mark of the river, the water level is higher than the field's elevation making it impossible to discharge water from the field into the river,

while the distance between the embankment and the river is only 1,000 feet, increasing the chances of embankment erosion with the installation of sluice gates.

The main channel for water drainage in the area is the Ma Mya creek, which is full of silt, so arrangements are being made to dredge the creek and improve the drainage of rainwater into the creek, replied the deputy minister. Next, Daw Ni Ni May Myint of Taungup constituency raised a question on the kind of actions being planned for housing projects and the new town project that were developed without transparency and which are not in accordance with the rules and regulations. Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw said that the development of a new town project and a housing project in it for Taungup Town was found to have been permitted in principle by the (Rakhine) state government in 2014.

Htawara Aung Myay Company was designated as the developer, and the company had purchased farmlands in the planned new town project from farmers through mutual agreement. It had applied to use the farmland, as well as vacant and fallow lands, totalling 123.2 acres



Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw. PHOTO: MNA

for other purposes. The designation of the land as a new ward for the town will be conducted according to the rules and regulations of the state government, explained the deputy minister.

Permission to use the farmlands as a new ward will be based on the assessment of the state farm land management group, led by the Rakhine State Chief Minister as the chairman, and as per the designation of the Central Farm Land Management Body, according to (relevant) laws.

Similarly, the application to use vacant and fallow lands in the new town project will be assessed by the (Rakhine) state vacant, fallow and virgin land management committee, led by the Rakhine Chief Minister as chairman, and as per the decision of the central

committee for the management of vacant, fallow and virgin land, said the deputy minister.

Responding to a question posed by Dr. U Lin Lin Kyaw of Myittha constituency on the plan by the department of agriculture to release a plot of land owned by the department in Myittha Town, where there are only dilapidated warehouses, so that the land can be used to build offices for five government departments that did not have any land in the town, Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw said the 8.253 acres, owned by the department of agriculture in Myittha Town, Butar Ward, housed three 100 x 60 x 15-cubic-foot warehouses, one 70 x 30 x 15-cubic-foot warehouse, a factory building and 25 shops that have been paying rent to the government. Behind the shops is empty land, measuring 275 x 200 square feet, or 1.26 acres, on which the five government departments can construct an office building, and this land can be released, said the deputy minister.

If the Mandalay regional government sends their request for land requirement for the five government departments, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation can release the land, according to the rules and regulation, added the dep-

uty minister. U Hla Kyaw also responded to questions raised by U Sai Ngaung Hsiang Hein of Maukmai constituency, Daw Thandar of Einme constituency, Daw Mi Kun Chan of Paung constituency and U Tin Hla of Danubyu constituency. A motion urging the government to increase the momentum to establish one-acre plots for the rapid implementation and success of a mechanised farming system was then tabled by Dr. Daw Khin Soe Soe Kyi of Pyay constituency and supported by Daw Ni Ni May Myint of Taungup constituency.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint requested the Hluttaw representatives to enrol their names to discuss the motion. Later, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint took the consensus of the Hluttaw on confirming the amendments to the bill amending the Caste Disabilities Removal Act and announced the approval of the Hluttaw, according to the report of the bill committee. The Pyithu Hluttaw speaker added in his announcement that the matter would be followed up according to the Pyithu Hluttaw's rules.

The 12th-day meeting of the seventh regular session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw is scheduled for 5 February. ■

Amyotha Hluttaw discusses sale of food products, health clinic

Aye Aye Thant

(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

THE seventh regular session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw held its 11th-day meeting yesterday morning in Amyotha Hluttaw's meeting hall, where asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered and the Civil Service bill was approved.

U Aung Kyi Nyunt of Magway Region constituency (4) raised a question on the plan to prevent the sale of restricted food products in the market, despite the restrictions imposed by the Food and Drug Administration; the sale of foreign food products labelled only in foreign languages; and the control of food products using excessive chemicals and artificial colours. Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe replied that we conduct market inspection. If foods are found unfit for consumption it is confiscated and destroyed. Actions against manufacturers are also made in two steps. The first is to give warning through

administrative methods and the second is to take legal action and stop the sales. This is according to the 1997 law. After amending the law in 2018 it was still found to be inadequate and process of amending it again is underway. For imported foods we need labs at the entry point on the border. At the end side, we educate the teachers and students at the school. We need to work together with school health. Ministry of Education is also drawing up plans. We need to educate those who sell to not to look at profit only. The main thing to do here is to educate. We are now advertising in the newspaper. We are also starting in Sagaing Region. All states and regions will be covered one by one. But this could not be done only by FDA. It could not be done the school and the teachers. All need to participate. Education must be provided to the home. FDA will provide the expertise and the lab. Media need to work with us. Media is important. Mainly it is



Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe. PHOTO: MNA

the schools that include students, parents and the teachers. We designated 2017 to conduct market survey which will continue in 2018, 2019, 2020. There will be surprise spot checks and if food not fit for consumption is found, action will be taken. Consumer affairs department, municipal committee and FDA will jointly conduct the spot checks. There is no law against food labeled only in foreign languages. This is an important thing that we alone couldn't do. Hluttaw representatives and relevant associations and groups need to suggest on

how to handle this. In conclusion, this is affecting the health of all the people in the country. Those who sell need to maintain good ethic and not look at profit only. Ministry for Health and Sport is making this as a priority work for 2018 said the Union Minister.

In response to a question by Dr. Win Myint of Bago Region constituency (11) on the status of constructing a sub rural health centre Bago Region, Monyo Township, Shahdaw Village, Dr. Myint Htwe said the work was signed as completed 100 per cent on 15 March 2016. It was signed by the township doctor and officer from road department. A week later, it was transferred by Gongyishin Company director and was accepted by head of the region.

In response to a question raised by U Tin Wei of Taninthayi constituency (6) on the plan to release a plot of school land taken over by the department of traditional medicine in Myeik Township, Myothit Ward, back to the ministry of education, Dr. My-

int Htwe said the department of traditional medicine constructed a 16-bed hospital on the said land of 0.223 acre in 1995 which was opened in March 1998. In 2011, a staff house was built on it. There is still some space left. After it was constructed the hospital was extended to 25-bed and the hospital was built in a new location. The earlier 16-bed hospital was turned into a house for the district head. No one is staying in the staff house because present staffs are locals from the town. When staffs are transferred from other places, they may need to stay in that place. We would like to give priority to education and transfer the land back to the school because the school is quite crowded. In fact education is more important than health. But if the land is transferred back to the school, we will need a place to build the district office. If a land is made available for this, the subject land can be transferred to education department.

SEE PAGE-7

Authorities refute AP's report on mass graves in Buthidaung Tsp

RAKHINE State authorities said they are looking into reports of mass graves from the Associated Press.

Local officials said they interrogated residents near Gu Dar Pyin Village in Buthidaung Township yesterday.

Following the inspection, the team, including officials, police, doctors and local villagers, refuted the AP report,

while the villagers reiterated they had not heard of any massacres near their village.

The AP reported that at least five previously unreported mass graves had been uncovered in Myanmar, and the bodies were burnt with acid, making them unrecognisable.

However, following the trip, the authorities told the media that security forces were

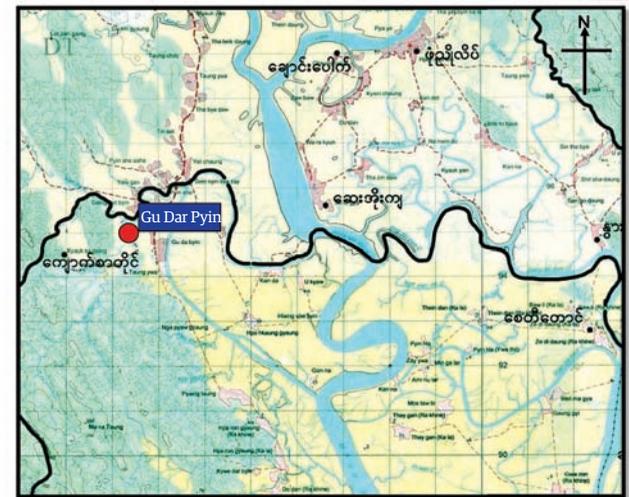
attacked by a combined group of ARSA terrorists, and some 500 villagers had attacked the security forces which were enforcing the rule of law on 28 August 2017, following attacks by ARSA terrorists on police outposts.

The terrorists and villagers had used machetes and homemade arms in the attack, and the security forces



Authorities and local people inspect the mass grave reported in the Associated Press (AP) near Gu Dar Pyin Village in Buthidaung Township yesterday. PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE

The map shows the area where conflict happened between ARSA terrorists and the security forces at Gu Dar Pyin Village in Buthidaung Township on 28 August 2017.



Reference	
●	Conflict Area

had acted in self-defence until the attackers fled to the south of the village.

A security officer was injured and 19 bodies of terrorists were found, along with eight machetes and homemade weapons, including spears, as well as 12 bullets.

According to the inspection team, it was found that the bodies of the terrorists were buried, and a case was filed at the Nyaungchaung police station under Section 50 (I) of the Anti-Terrorism Law.

“Instead of denying human rights violations, when it receives accurate and confirmed evidence proving allegations of

human rights violations, the government conducts a probe into the cases and takes action against anyone who breaks the law”, the government said in a statement.

The Rakhine State government said it was extending the investigation of the allegations made in the AP report to nearby villages. The 17-member inspection team included the Buthidaung Township administrator, local police, law enforcement officials, doctors, immigration officers, members of the Buthidaung Township management committee and local villagers.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Supervision Committee for Yangon Region Industrial zones to be formed

By May Thet Hnin

A Yangon Region Industrial Zone supervision Committee will be formed with officials from the Yangon Region government, according to Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein.

The chief minister made the remarks during the 14th regular meeting with vice president U Myint Swe and entrepreneurs on 1 February.

“Currently, the industrial zones are managed by a committee comprising only entrepreneur members. Therefore, they do not have the full authority. We also need to scrutinise matters that were managed by the recent committee,” he added.

“So far, most industrial land owners are building warehouses instead of factories or leaving their industrial land empty. Most

are speculating on real estate instead of setting up industries. Therefore, we need to scrutinise the management of the industrial zones,” stated U Phyo Min Thein.

“We are studying the formation of a new industry supervision committee, and the three industrial zones in South Dagon Myothit Township will be combined,” he added.

Currently, the Yangon Regional government is upgrading the industrial zones. The government is arranging to provide the water, electricity and road infrastructure required in the 29 industrial zones in the Yangon region. The government is also implementing low-cost housing projects to remove the squatters in the industrial zones by allowing squatters to make long-term payments for housing under an instalment system and to pro-

vide loans to genuine small and medium entrepreneurs, said the chief minister.

The project to provide electricity, clean water and wastewater treatment in the zone will be given to local businesses in the industrial zones, on priority. (Only if the local businesses in the industrial zones are unable to provide the required services will the work be granted to external businesses). The electricity utility rates will be reduced for businesses that use electricity during off-peak hours, such as during the night, he added.

Myanmar Industries Association Vice Chairman U Win Naing also said the steering committee formed with the municipal, electricity, industry, construction, transport and communications ministries, who developed the industrial zone,

need to meet regularly with the industrial zone management committee and industrialists to form a mechanism that can resolve problems and issues, such as damaged roads, a lack of clean water, social security clinics, payment of electricity surcharges and squatters.

The Yangon regional government is planning to implement the Kyimyindine Myothit project, as well as construct a Yangon Special Economic Zone on the Dala side (of the river), up to Kungyangon, and it is holding discussions with the special economic zone's central committee. The Yangon regional government will implement the project when the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw grants permission, and all the projects will be completed within three years, under the guidance of the Union government. ■

Trapped civilians in Kachin State return home

FROM PAGE-1

They were sent back to their villages along the road and to Mogaung yesterday, it is learnt.

Several groups of civilians have been temporarily relocated due to recent conflict in Kachin State. From 30 January to 2 February, a total of 599 persons — 325 males and 274 females — who arrived to Tanai town were transported back to their homes.

Conflict between the Tatmadaw and members of an ethnic armed group in Kachin State has occurred since 19 January, including in Sumprabum, Waingmaw and Tanai townships.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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ACTING CHIEF EDITORAye Min Soe,
ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**EXPATRIATE CONSULTANT EDITOR**Mark Angeles,
markrangeles@gmail.com**SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**

Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORSZaw Min,
zawmin.gnlm@gmail.com
Win Ko Ko Aung,
kowinkZaung@gmail.com**INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR**Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**LOCAL NEWS EDITORS**Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com**TRANSLATORS**Khaing Thanda Lwin,
Hay Mar Tin Win,
Ei Myat Mon
Zaw Htet Oo
Kyaw Zin Lin
Kyaw Zin Tun**REPORTERS**May Thet Hnin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
mayreporter.mm@gmail.com**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAMTun Zaw,
Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin**EDITORIAL SECTION**(+95) (01) 8604529,
Fax - (+95) (01) 8604305**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

THE Kanbawzathadi Golden Palace, which was built by Myanmar King Bayinnaung in Bago Town, received more travellers this year, according to a report in the Myawady Daily.

Some 259,067 local travellers visited Kanbawzathadi Palace, as of January in the 2017-2018 fiscal year (FY). In the previous FY, Kanbawzathadi Palace hosted some 257,768 local travellers, which was a significant increase from the preceding year.

Besides local travellers, more international travellers also visited the Kanbawzathadi palace. In the 2016-2017 FY, the golden palace received some 10,571 foreign visitors in November, 12,086 in December and 27,932 in January. In the 2017-2018 FY, the golden palace received more foreign visitors, with 11,693 visiting in November, 13,074 visiting in December and 31,643 in January. Entry fee to the palace is Ks100 for children, Ks 200 for adults and Ks10,000 for foreigners.

Tourists to Kanbawzathadi Golden Palace increased this year



Kanbawzathadi Golden Palace in Bago. Nearly 50 miles away from Yangon.

The Kanbawzathadi Golden Palace was built by King Bayinnaung in 1553, but it was looted and burnt down in 1599 during an armed conflict. Dur-

ing excavations, some 176 teak pillars were found, 136 of which were inscribed with the names of towns, regions and people who donated them in the Mon and

Bamar languages. The palace was built on a 3,400-square-metre plot located in the centre of the city and surrounded by walls with 20 gates.—GNLM ■

Myanmar plans to construct first elevated express road in Yangon

MYANMAR is planning to construct its first elevated express road in Yangon, covering more than 40 kilometres from Yangon Strand road to Yangon-Mandalay highway in December, according to a report in the Myawady Daily.

The elevated express road will be managed as Yangon Inner Ring Road and Outer Ring Road. The project will be linked with the Hantharwady International Airport project, Yangon-Mandalay highway project and Thilawar special economic zone.

The road will run for 22.5

kilometres, starting from Strand road up to Minglardon industrial zone; another 15 kilometres from No. 3 road of Minglardon industrial zone to Yangon-Mandalay highway; and further to Hantharwady International Airport.

The total length of the road will be 40.5 kilometres. People will have to drive for only 20 minutes to reach the Yangon international airport from Yangon downtown.

The Ministry of Construction will be implementing the project in three phases.—

GNLM ■

Training course to provide skilled workers

TO address the shortage of skilled workers, the Bo Gate garment factory is providing a training course in sewing for free from the last week of January on Ayeyawady road, Shwe Than Lwin industry zone, according to a report in the Myawady Daily.

"Recently, garment factories have been facing a shortage of skilled workers. Therefore, we are providing a sewing training course for those who are interested in the garment sector. Moreover, we are going to provide information on the garments," said

Daw Ei Thuzar Win Maung, general manager of the Bo Gade training school.

The free training school was opened in the last week of January and provides some 22 weeks of training from Monday to Friday for eight hours per day.

Trainees will be supplied with teaching aids and provided a daily allowance of Ks1,800. Upon completion of the training course, they will be given work in the garment industry. They will also receive a certificate that is recognised by other Asian countries.—GNLM ■

Bridge connecting Sittway and nearby areas under construction

A new bridge connecting Sittway, capital of Rakhine State and its surrounding areas is being constructed by the Road Department under the Ministry of Construction under the supervision of the Rakhine State government.

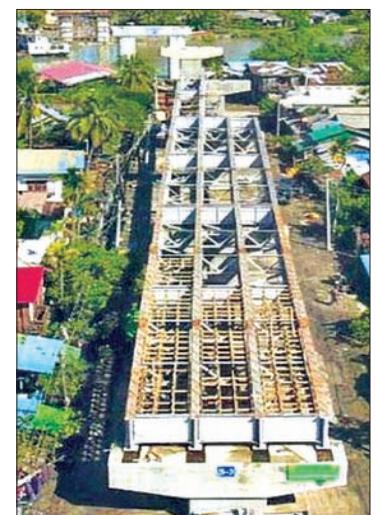
The project was approved in the previous regime and con-

struction of the bridge began in the fiscal years of 2016-2017. The new bridge is constructed mostly from concrete and will be 164 feet long and 31 feet wide. Pedestrian walk ways on the bridge will be 3.6 inches wide each.

The bridge is being built at a cost of Ks. 5 billion (around

US\$ 3.5 million), as of now the bridge is 75 per cent complete and is scheduled to be open to traffic in the financial years 2018-2019.

Upon completion, the local people will be able to directly travel between Sittway and nearby areas by car or boat.—
Khayan Soe Myint ■



MRF calls for suggestions to enhance Myanmar's rice sector

TO improve the local rice industry, the authorities are planning to hold a multi-stakeholder forum this month in Nay Pyi Taw and have called for suggestions from those engaged in the supply chain, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday.

This forum aims to maintain the status quo in Myanmar's rice industry and create a new scheme to ensure sustainable development.

The date for the forum is still under negotiation. Suggestions can be submitted to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) by 9 February.

It is the first time that Myanmar will hold this kind of a forum. The forum will be titled "Rice Trade Development Fo-

rum," but panel discussions will be held on the milling and agricultural sectors.

Officials from MRF will hold a forum to exchange ideas on policy suggestions with the government to lay down plans for a three-year short-term plan for Myanmar's rice sector.

This forum will include discussions on controlling the rice price; farmers' problems; gaining appropriate profits for rice millers, rice merchants and exporters; and providing assistance by making policies for small and medium enterprises. Those who want to contribute ideas for discussions on these subjects can email MRF at admin@mrf.com.mm or call 01 218266-8/2301128-9. -GNLM ■



Workers carry bags of rice at a jetty in Yangon. PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR

Unseasonal rainfall harms pigeon pea yield; growers face loss

By May Thet Hnin

MAGWAY pigeon pea farmers are faced with low yields this harvest season due to unseasonal rainfall in early January and the consequent low-quality pulses.

"The pulses are of low quality. Some beans are rotting due to the rainwater content in them. Some can be used only as animal feed. Farmers are not even harvesting the crop as production cannot cover the labour charges. Some have allowed their cattle into the farms, treating the crop as pasture," said U Sein Lwin, executive of Magway Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry and secretary of Pakokku Merchants Association.

The production cost, including the labour charges and the harvesting cost, is Ks8,500 to Ks9,000 per basket of pigeon peas, while it fetches only Ks10,500 when it is sold. The growers cannot reap good profits at this rate, discouraging them from harvesting the crop.

In the same period last year, a basket of pigeon peas was worth Ks30,000. This year, even quality peas fetched only some Ks13,000 per basket.

Inferior peas are only worth Ks10,000 per basket.

"The yield has dropped by half compared with last year," said U Sein Lwin.

The Magway Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry has requested the government's help to provide technical assistance and pedigree seeds, as this year's yield does not meet the standards of previous years, at a regular meeting between Vice President U Myint Swe and businessmen held on 1 February. The government has responded saying they will discuss this matter step by step.

As a result, Magway growers plan to focus on other crops such as corn, peanuts and sesame, instead of pigeon peas, said U Sein Lwin.

In previous years, an acre produced some 20 to 30 baskets of pigeon peas, and now, only 15 baskets are produced per acre, stated U Than Tun Aung, a grower from Meethwaykan village, Pakokku District, Magway region.

"What a waste of our hard work. Production cannot cover the cultivation costs. Some cannot pay off their fertiliser debt. We are saddled with huge debts," he maintained.

Magway primarily cultivates green grams and pigeon peas, while some growers cultivate peanuts, corn and sesame.

"The pulses season is in May. A few people leave the rural areas for towns to make a living. When the yield is good, they do not have to worry about domestic expenditure," said U Than Tun Aung.

Pigeon peas were in huge demand in India, encouraging farmers to grow this pulse. Nevertheless, India's restriction on the import of pulses since April will come into effect from the end of May. Prices of pigeon peas have plunged drastically. Following such disastrous consequences, the commerce ministry will buy the pigeon peas with the allocated fund of Ks15 billion to control the price, when the price of a ton of pigeon peas dips below Ks300,000, which is less than the cultivation cost, remarked Union Minister U Kyaw Win.

The sub-committees have already been formed to buy pulses in the respective regions and states but no purchase has been made yet.

Currently, Sagaing pigeon pea growers are facing similar problems as the Magway Region farmers. ■

MRF, JICA to jointly conduct moisture content test on paddy

FOR the development of the paddy sector, the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) will jointly conduct a test to determine the moisture content in paddy in the 2018-2019 fiscal year (FY), according to MRF.

MRF and Kett Electric Laboratory Company signed a memorandum of understanding at MRF's office on 26 January. "MRF has been implementing the project for two years to determine the level of moisture content in paddy from the western part of the Bago Region," said Dr. Myo Aung Kyaw, vice chairman of MRF.

"Since 2015, the moisture content in paddy has been high

in Myanmar. Later on, various brands of machines that test moisture content of paddy has entered the country. Recently, we found moisture content testing machine from China entering the market. Currently, we are planning to draw up a law to set the standard to control the level of moisture in Myanmar's paddy," he added.

The MRF will jointly conduct the survey with the agricultural department and the consumer affairs department. Six people each from among the local farmers, rice traders and rice mill workers will conduct the moisture content test on paddy.—Zar Lin Thu (AMIA) ■

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Union Minister for Information attends Glutinous Rice Festival

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint attended the Myanmar Traditional htamane-making (Glutinous Rice Festival) contest held at the ministry's office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Teams from Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV), the Information and Public Relations Department, the Printing and Publishing Department, and the News and Periodicals Enterprises

participated in the contest.

Dr. Pe Myint and Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun presented awards to the top teams. First prize went to the Printing and Publishing team, second to the Myanmar Radio and Television team, and third to the Ministry for Information team.

All the contestants and attendees were entertained by Myanmar music and dancing. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Dr. Pe Myint and Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun encourage teams from MRTV and various departments under the Ministry of Information participating in a htamane-making contest in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Dawei Special Economic Zone

MYANMAR and Thailand have signed a memorandum of understanding to permit the Italian-Thai Development public company (ITD) to begin work on the Dawei deep sea port infrastructure project in 2018.

The original project started in 2008 and was set to build and develop a port, a highway to and from Myanmar and Thailand, industrial zones, office buildings, residential buildings and other infrastructure. However, the project never took off due to the large scale of the project.

The Dawei Special Economic Zone Management Committee convened in August 2015 and March 2016 and have agreed to allow Italian-Thai Plc. and other related companies to begin working on the area for the deep sea port. The deep sea port measures 27 square kilometers, while the total project area is 196 square kilometers.

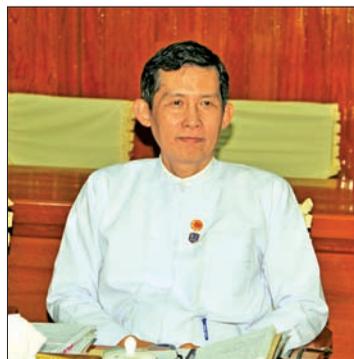
The Dawei SEZ Management Committee was formed on 12 October 2016 with members

of the Special Economic Zone Central Management Committee and foreign experts. Dr. Tun Naing, the Union Minister for Electricity and Power, was elected as the Dawei SEZ Management Committee's chairman.

Before the project can begin, the group of companies led by Italian-Thai Plc. will need to do a report on the social and natural environment of Dawei. They will also need to legalise the lease of the lands in the area for the project. Then they will have to wait for a notice to proceed from the Dawei SEZ Management Committee to begin the project.

The Ministry for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has given affirmation for seven of the 10 reports for the social and natural environment in September and November 2017. The Ministry will reportedly approve the remaining three reports this month.

A meeting to discuss the legalisation of the leases began



Dr. Tun Naing, Chairman of the Dawei SEZ Management Committee.

in January and is expected to reach a conclusion by 30 April.

The budget for the construction of the highway to and from Thailand's border will be provided by the Thai Government in the form of a low-interest loan. Myanmar's Ministry of Construction and Thailand's Department of Highways have officially measured the length of the highway.

On 4 July 2015, Myanmar, Thailand and Japan signed a memorandum of intent (MOI) which allows the three countries

to use Dawei SEZ Development Co. Ltd as a special purpose vehicle. They will also detail a master plan for the pilot project and conduct a feasibility study for construction of the highway.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is conducting a survey for the deep sea port project, including setting up an electrical grid, basic infrastructure and buildings which will begin after the pilot project is completed. JICA said it hopes to complete the survey by June.

On 19 January, a public awareness campaign was held to promote transparency on the project. Dr. Tun Naing, the Chairman of Dawei SEZ Management Committee, said the Ministry of Electricity and Power collaborated with the Tanintharyi Region Government and installed 12 gas engines that supply 12 megawatts of electricity to the Dawei SEZ. The chairman, however, remarked it was not enough.

"There was a plan to supply electricity to Dawei during the previous administration. The plan was a joint collaboration between Italian-Thai, Shell Co. Ltd and LNG Plus. The plan was a joint collaboration between Italian-Thai, Shell Co. Ltd and LNG Plus. However, the cost was too high and the project's scope was limited to just Dawei's SEZ", he said

He also said the Union Government has plans for the development of both Dawei and Myeik areas in the Tanintharyi Region. He said their Ministry is in negotiations with Asia Development Bank to acquire a loan at a low

interest rate.

He said if the budget is acquired then they will begin construction of two 230KV electric stations in Yay City and Dawei. The station in Yay will draw power from Mawlamyine's station and be sent to the station in Dawei. He said the project is estimated to take 2 years to finish and they expect to begin in 2019.

Dr. Tun Naing said connecting to the national grid via Yay and Mawlamyine is the first plan. The second plan involves forming a joint venture company with Total S.A, a French multinational integrated oil and gas company, and Siemens AG, a German conglomerate with a division in the energy sector.

The company would be based in Kanpauk and import LNG gas by ship. The ship would dock in Kanpauk's vicinity and send the LNG via pipelines to Kanpauk, where it will power two engines to produce 1,230 megawatts of energy. From there the electricity would be sent to Dawei, situated south of Kanpauk.

Dr. Tun Naing said if both plans to supply electricity to Dawei are completed, then 500KV from the Kanpauk project can be sent to Payargyi via Mawlamyine, which in turn will benefit Kayin, Mon, Bago and Yangon Region.

The Dawei SEZ aims to become Southeast Asia's largest industrial and trade zone. Upon its completion it will connect Dawei with Bangkok, Phnom Penh and Ho Chi Min City. Furthermore it would also serve as a gate for India, Africa and Europe to access Myanmar. — Shin Min, Mhwe Kyu ■



Foreign Head of State sends felicitations to President U Htin Kyaw

The following is message of felicitations from Foreign Heads of State / Government sent to President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Htin Kyaw, on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

**From H.E Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu
Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs
of State of Israel**
Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of the people and Government of Israel, please accept my warm congratulations to you and the people of Myanmar on the occasion of your 70th Independence Day. As you celebrate this historic milestone, I wish you continued growth,

prosperity and success.

The friendship between the people of Israel and the people of Myanmar is strong and longstanding. WE remember with the deepest appreciation that Myanmar was one of the first countries in Asia to open its doors to the young Jewish state. Prime Minister U Nu's historic visit to Israel in 1955 lifted the spirits of the Israeli public and strengthened us during a difficult time of international isolation and boycott. Our relations have stood the test of time and have

continued uninterrupted since then.

I look forward to further expanding the cooperation between Israel and Myanmar in all areas of common interest, including interest, including agriculture, education, technology, innovation and more. I hope to have an opportunity to welcome you to Israel at your earliest convenience to discuss how we can advance an even closer and more robust partnership.

I wish you memorable and enjoyable 70th anniversary celebrations.



Army fires missiles during the combined military exercise in Patheingyi. PHOTO: MNA

Tatmadaw army, navy, air forces conduct "Sinbyushin" military exercise

Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing observed and inspected the Tatmadaw army, navy, air forces combined military exercise known as "Sinbyushin" held in the Southwest Command Patheingyi cantonment. The exercise was held with an aim toward security and defence of the country and to raise the capability of conducting conventional warfare.

Also in attendance were the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), Commander-in-Chief (Air), high ranking officers from the Commander-in-Chief's Office, the Southwest Command Commander, Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) personnel, and local and foreign media.

The Tatmadaw Com-

mander-in-Chief and party were first briefed about the exercise with a Power Point presentation and a scaled-down tabletop model by the commanding officer of the exercise Southwest Command Commander Maj-Gen Tayza Kyaw. Related commanders of the army, navy and air forces also explained their respective parts in the exercise.

The Joint Operation Command Center was also inspected, after which the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief observed the Tatmadaw army, navy, air forces combined military exercise "Sinbyushin" involving battalion level combine attack of infantry and armor.

Sinbyushin, literally meaning "the possessor of the white elephant", was a

famous Burmese king.

Yesterday's exercise involved transport of artillery hooked to a helicopter and a combined infantry and armor attack on an enemy position.

The Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief viewed the division-level attack exercise, which involves the firing of multiple rocket launchers, a preliminary air attack by Tatmadaw (Air) fighters and helicopters on the enemy position and a final attack on the enemy position with infantry.

The Commander-in-Chief then inspected the military support bases and the 20-bed battlefield hospital.

The second part of the Tatmadaw army, navy, air forces combined exercise will be held today. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Amyotha Hluttaw discusses...

FROM PAGE-2

We are also coordinating with district head and head of district education department on how to proceed. We would like to give this land back said the Union Minister. A question raised by U Min Oo of Bago constituency (6) was then answered by Union Civil Service Board Chairman Dr. Win Thein, while questions raised by U Kyaw Thaung of Sagaing Region constituency (1) and U Myint Naing of Rakhine State constituency (5) were answered by Dr. Myint Htwe.

Next, a report by the bill

committee on the findings and remarks made on the second amendment of the public servant bill was read and explained by committee member Daw Ohn Kyi. Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced the decision of the Hluttaw to confirm the bill by its clauses.

Later, Dr. Win Thein tabled a motion to approve the bill, which was supported by U Win Aung of Sagaing Region Constituency 3. This was followed by the Amyotha Hluttaw speaker approving the bill after obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw on the bill. ■

3000 locals in Buthidaung receive free health care services

Medical specialists provided free healthcare services to 3000 patients during 28 and 29 January in Buthidaung, Rakhine State under the arrangement of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development.

Sixteen patients underwent general surgery procedures, five patients had orthopedic surgery and five patients had obstetric and gynecological operations. A total of 26 in-patients were treated in the Buthidaung General Hospital according to Deputy Director Dr. Than Tun Kyaw.

"The main operations were on the gastrointestinal tract in addition to hernias and bone fractures. Medical personnel discussed contraception methods with the patients" he added.

"My uncle fractured his waist and hand. Now he is better and he will recover soon." said a nephew of one patient. Many patients suffer from hypertension and diabetes and doctors treated their conditions. Specialists offer the best healthcare services to those who suffer orthopedic and neurological diseases. —Myanmar Digital News ■



Present and future of power generation and distribution

THE Ministry of Electricity and Energy announced recently that it will expand the power supply network nationwide and will use the four meters system including Smart Technology. Our people have known that Myanmar has seen a 15 per cent increase in power consumption every year. Currently, our country can produce 3189 MW, and it shows that the country's power consumption is higher than production. On the other hand, it means that current production of electricity cannot meet the demands of the country.

In the near future, power generation is expected to satisfy the country's demand, but still, cables and grid networks need to be upgraded in the supply and distribution sector.

country. However, coal-fired power generation is not included in the projects reported by the Union Minister for Electricity and Energy in a recent interview.

Out of the power generation resources which will be used for increasing power production LNG will be stored in a Floating Storage Re-gasification Unit and will be piped to a Combined Cycle Power Plant. This is a new model of power generation system in our country.

In the near future, power generation is expected to satisfy the country's demand, but still, cables and grid networks need to be upgraded in the supply and distribution sector. Currently, out of 482 towns in the country, only 350 have access to the National Grid. The remaining 132 towns can access a power supply through other means which are not connected with the National Grid. Small-scale hydropower plants and diesel-fired power plants are the major ways for power production beyond the National Grid. It is good to know that solar power plants will play a part in supplying power to the people living in areas which cannot access to the National Grid.

In the near future, the four-meters system would benefit the residents in Yangon and Mandalay first. Hence, we welcome the efforts of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy making concerted efforts for well-being of the people for the present and future.

Ground reality in seeking more educational budget

By A University Faculty Member

THIS article is an attempt to clarify the esteemed readers on the ground reality in connection with the demand for more educational budget. The actual intent is to understand the situation and draw lesson on the issue.

In some universities, the students unions are being constituted and that Yadanabon University has formed All Burma Students Union (Ba Ka Ta) and the Yadanabon University Students Union (Ya Ta Ka Ta). On 8 January 2018, Ba Ka Ta sought permission from Yadanabon University Rector to hold an educational seminar, and it was duly accorded permission to hold on 20 and 21 January 2018. Necessary assistances were also provided. This is the starting point of the issue in this regards.

Peaceful pursuance of education

The Ba Ka Ta students of Yadanabon University conducted the Ba Ka Ta League's Educational Seminar at Yadanabon University on 20 and 21 January 2018 for two days. After holding the seminar, the students that attended the discussions started to gather at the front of the Yadanabon University Main Building on 22 January 2018. The purpose of gathering was to expose their demand for more educational budget, it was learnt. The rector, pro-rector and educational team of faculty members asked them to refrain from disturbances on the pursuance of peaceful teaching environment in the class rooms and called them in for peaceful submission of their requirements.

Yadanabon University Ba Ka Ta League chairman Maung Kyaw Thiha Ye Kyaw insisted that as the students of Yadanabon University are permitted to attend the University Training Corps (UTC), and therefore they have the rights to expose their desire freely. Then, the students marched near the class rooms in protest inside the campus.

While the lectures were in progress in the class rooms, they used the hand held loud speakers and demanded the enhancement



Seven officials of Ministry of Education including the Yadanabon University rector and seven leaders of Ba Ka Ta discuss at the meeting hall (1) in Yadanabon University on 22 January 2018.

of educational budget, provision of adequate teaching aids, and the construction of hostels in the campus.

In the afternoon, the rector and educational team of faculty members held discussions with the student leaders, but they responded that until or unless the authorities of the Ministry of Education come in for discussion, they would continue the protest and establish a strike base of demonstration.

Discussions

Next, the protesters continued their demands over the hand held loud speakers. On 22 January 2018, seven officials of Ministry of Education including the Yadanabon University rector and seven leaders of Ba Ka Ta started the discussions in the meeting hall (1).

The three-point demands were submitted to the Director-General and the Deputy Director-General. The DG replied that among the three-point demands, the construction of hostels and the provision of teaching aids were included in the next year plan. He said that in the upcoming academic year, a total of (71) hostels for the students are to be built in the country, and that one teaching device would be allocated to five-students instead of present ten-students. Regarding

the demand number (1) on the enhancement of educational budget, the Department of Education would submit proposal for more budget to the Ministry of Education. At 8:15 pm, the students asked for a break of 15 minutes for their private discussions.

At that junction, the Deputy Director-General Dr. Aung Aung Min communicated through the telephone to officials of the Lower House and the Upper House for a meeting with lawmakers. It is to be communicated in writing to the Speaker of Lower House and that on a convenient date; a meeting could be realized at Meeting Hall (1-13) of the Parliament premises.

After the short break of 15 minutes, the students came back into the meeting room, the student leader Maung Yazar Htun declared that the students would not go to the Parliament premises. He added that unless the responsible persons with full authority from the Union Parliament must come to them for budget enhancement, the protest and demonstration would be accelerated to high degree. The meeting was adjourned at 9 pm and agreed to meet again at 10:00 am on 23 January 2018.

At 10:30 am on 23 January 2018, the responsible persons of the Ministry of Education and the student leaders met and discussed again. Deputy Director-General Dr. Aung Aung Min asked the seven student leaders to agree in meeting with the responsible persons of the Union Parliament for educational budget fill up. If agreed, the vehicles for transport would be arranged to proceed to Nay Pyi Taw.

When Ba Ka Ta student leader Maung Kyaw Thiha Ye Kyaw responded with a refusal, the Yadanabon University Teachers Union member intervened and explained the year by year enhancement of educational budget of the country in statistics from 5.9 per cent starting from fiscal year 2014-2015 to 8.53 per cent in 2017-2018.

Scrutiny of expenditure

The respective (13) Budget Management Committees of the Union Parliament have been scrutinizing all the budget proposals of various ministries in a proper mechanism, and that the endorsed budgets by the management committees are approved by the Speaker of the Union Parliament.

Instead of demanding 15 per cent budget increase by the students and calling the persons with authority to come and meet with the students, it would be much better to travel to Nay Pyi Taw for further discussions. However, the discussions failed and the Ba Ka

Ta students declared to intensify and increase with hunger strike in the protest.

As the demand was tantamount to put the government into difficulty and not in conformity with the current situation of the country, one of the members of the Yadanabon University Teachers' Union asked the student leaders to reconsider their demand. Then, the student leaders asked for a break for 15 minutes for discussions and left the meeting room. When they came back, they demanded that a person with full authority must come to them and sign an assurance document promising a 15 per cent budget increase, otherwise, the protest would be continued and heightened.

On 24 January 2018, the students marched inside the university campus with hand held loud speakers shouting slogans. Moreover, the protesters entered the class rooms with flags in protests. At 5 pm in the evening of 24 January, seven student leaders and the official of the Ministry of Education met and had a discussion. It has been advised to take the opportunity to proceed to Parliament to have a discussion. However, the student leaders refused by saying that if no one signs the document for budget increase, then the discussion was considered as failure, and they left the meeting hall.

A disturbance to teaching environment

The activities of student protesters included the entry into the class rooms of the Yadanabon University, giving agitated speeches, and the disturbing of teaching process have resulted with the tolerance and anger of students, leading to conflict among them. Therefore, in line with the proper management procedure, the protesters were dispersed from the main building and send them back to their

“Instead of demanding 15 per cent budget increase by the students and calling the persons with authority to come and meet with the students, it would be much better to travel to Nay Pyi Taw for further discussions.

respective parents by the faculty members.

With the assistance and support of the Mandalay Region Government, students were transported Mandalay Thiri Sports Ground with the Express Buses at 4:15 am on 25 January 2018 escorted by faculty members. In cooperation and coordination between the regional governments, total of (72) students were entrusted back into embrace of their parents by the faculty members.

Disciplinary actions

On the following day, the student protesters came back into the campus and gathered at the students' union office. Due to the undesirable acts, (12) students of Yadanabon University were taken disciplinary action under University Entrance Directive namely Section (d) paragraph (1) and serial (6) regarding the breach of decent and proper character of student, and the breach of university code and regulations under rule (1) on 26 January 2018. The Yadanabon University Management Board through a meeting decided in suspending the students from the academic year 2017-2018. However, the past precedence existed that the students were accepted back into the university to pursue education with the petition of the parents.

With the motto such as “Let us endeavor to be good person, and let us train to be fine personality”, the universities in the country are nurturing bright, brilliant and glowing educated youth in the nation. Today's age is education age, and that the enhancing and uplifting of education is the ardent desire of all nationals and the entire country. Therefore, the author sincerely urged all concerned “To work in cooperation with kind hearts for betterment of Myanmar education” in the country. ■

Translated by UMT (Ahlon)

The Ayeyawady will continue to flow

By Arakan Sein

I WAS much heartened by the news in your daily the other day that Myanmar and Bangladesh had reached an agreement on repatriation of returnees from Bangladesh. Named as the Physical Arrangement for Repatriation of Displaced Residents from Bangladesh under the Return of Displaced Persons from Rakhine State, the agreement was signed by the two sides in Nay Pyi Taw on 16 January and the repatriation process will commence on 23 January, 2018 through land and river routes. The recent news appeared in your daily has stated that even though Myanmar is ready for repatriation process, Bangladesh is not ready yet.

But trade volume at Maungtway Trade Zone has exceeded the target of the 2017-18 Financial Year; it has shown that it was making progress in the border region. I would like to point out that friendly relation has existed between the peoples and governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh from the days we were under the British Empire. After the Second World War ended in 1945, India, Pakistan and Burma gained independence from the British. India became independent in 1947 following the Pakistan Movement and eventual partition of British India, with India in between West Pakistan and East Pakistan. The war between the two Pakistans broke out in 1970 and the resulting refugee crisis led to the intervention of India which sided with East Pakistan, marking the formation of the new nation of Bangladesh on 16 December, 1971. Myanmar was one of the first few countries to establish diplomatic relation with Bangladesh.

As friendly neighbours, Myanmar and Bangladesh are expected to start repatriation process under the spirit of reconciliation, rehabilitation, peace and stability. It is not surprising that almost all the countries in the world are facing crises and challenges in their respective countries. Myanmar, too, has been grappling with her own problems. Myanmar has been constantly under pressure after Islamic terrorist attacks on Myanmar security posts on 25 August. International organizations such as the UN, UK, USA, Amnesty International and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation have brought to bear on Myanmar.

Economy

Critics both local and international are pessimistic: they have claimed that under the new government, growth has started to slow and foreign direct

investment has dropped sharply. Furthermore, the Rakhine crisis will make things worse. But the World Bank has expected that Myanmar GDP growth would recover to 6.5% with the IMF predicting 6.7% expansion. The Government stated that the real GDP growth rate recorded at 6.5%. Shanaka Peiris, head of the IMF's latest economic mission to Myanmar pointed out on 17 Nov. 2017 that all evidence points to Foreign Direct Investment being higher in 2017-18 than it was the year before the government took power. Finally, the IMF sees no evidence of wider economic fallout from the Rakhine crisis.

Politics

2018 will be a “make-or-break” year for the State Counsellor and her party, the National League for Democracy, according to Larry Jagan's article in the 20 Nov issue of the Bangkok Post. He also pointed out that the government is besieged by endless problems: a stagnant economy, a stalling peace process and escalating violence in the country's western region of Rakhine. It is obvious that many rallies across the country have voiced their support for the State Counsellor with the motto “together with the people”. Myanmar's business community has particularly supported the government's plans, pledging financial support and participation in the restoration of peace and stability in Rakhine.

Again Roger Cohen wrote an article about her in the New York Times, pointing out that the West made a saint of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi; the crisis in the Rakhine State revealed her a politician. What I would like to defend on her behalf: She can not say what many people including journalists wanted her to say because she is representing a government.

What she says will reflect the policy, strategy and guidelines of the government. She has a lot of savvy: not exciting but working towards accuracy and harmony in the religious communities in the country.

The democratically-elected government will perform its duties and responsibilities in accordance with recommendations of the Kofi Annan's report under the supervision of the Advisory Board headed by Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai who candidly spoke to journalists that they are not the mouthpiece of the Myanmar government nor that of the international community.

In conclusion, the people of Myanmar will keep on supporting the democratically-elected government led by the State Counsellor as the Ayeyawady will continue to flow from the North to the South as usual. ■



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, right, holds talks with Mr. David Dale Arnold, second from left, Chairman of the Asia Foundation, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than receives Chairman of the Asia Foundation

Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than received a delegation led by Mr. David Dale Arnold, Chairman of the Asia Foundation, at the reception hall of the Amyotha Hluttaw in

Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon. During the meeting, they discussed matters on the development assistance of the Hluttaw, empowerment of the Hluttaw's representatives and

the affairs of making laws.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung and officials of the Hluttaw office. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Indian embassy officials, ambassador celebrate 69th Republic Day in Yangon

THE Indian Embassy in Yangon celebrated the 69th Republic Day of India at the residence of Indian Ambassador to Myanmar in Yangon yesterday.

Indian Ambassador Mr. Vikram Misri and Union Minister U Thaug Tun delivered welcoming speeches.

Also present at the ceremony were Union Minister for Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe, Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Thet Pon, Ambassadors, Military Attaché, Representatives of United Nations, officials and invited guests.—MNA ■



Union Minister U Thaug Tun, right, is welcomed by Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Vikram Misri, second from right, at the 69th Republic Day of India celebration in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Palmyra frond basket weavers eye good profits in mango season

Local weavers of palmyra frond baskets from Tada-U Township are expecting to gain strong profits from selling their baskets during the mango season, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday.

Earlier, the raw materials to weave palm baskets cost some Ks4,000 per 100 palmyra frond. However, now, the raw materials cost Ks5,000 per 100 palmyra frond. Prices of the baskets have also increased in the market, alongside the rise in the price of

raw materials.

Local people from the Balaeba village are engaged in the weaving of palm baskets throughout the year. To be able to weave these palm baskets year-round, they have to store their palmyra fronds.

The majority of villagers from the Balaeba village mainly rely on the production of hand-made palm-woven baskets for their survival. There is constant demand for the woven baskets, which are available in different

sizes, in the first five months of the year. In the remaining months, the price of a palmyra frond basket declines. Locals typically make strong profits, especially during the mango season.

The wholesale price of a basket is Ks2,000. Balaeba villagers are making the baskets on a sustainable scale. One local villager can weave up to 10 baskets per day. Some of the villagers work as a piece worker. They receive wages of up to Ks500 per basket, said a local basket-maker.—GNLM ■

5th Meeting of Coordination Body for Rule of Law and Justice Sector held



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo addresses the meeting of the Coordination Body for Rule of Law and Justice Sector. **PHOTO: MNA**

The 5th meeting of the Coordination Body for Rule of Law and Justice Sector was held at the meeting hall of the Union Attorney General's office at 11:00 am this morning.

U Tun Tun Oo, Union Attorney-General and Chairman of the Coordination Body for the Rule of Law and Justice Sector, said in his opening speech that the coordination body has been extended in Regions and States in order to effectively coordinate for the rule of law and justice sector.

The sub-bodies were formed with eight members; 4 government officials and 4 from civil society. The leader of the sub-body, two representatives from civil society organizations and one legal expert – were nominated by their region's or state's respective Chief Minister.

In the seven months since the sub-bodies were formed, a total of 500 cases were submitted from all over the nation. It has become necessary to lay down work frame, processes and strategy in order to effec-

tively administer the rule of law and justice sector between coordination body and sub-bodies.

Hence to get advices from persons concerned and to learn about practical exercises from international firms, a national-level forum inviting internal and international experts and civil societies will be held in March. Drawing on the facts and results from the forum, the justice sector's coordination strategies will be drawn out for improving rule of law. The Attorney-General urged departments concerned, civil societies and international partner organizations to help achieve this aim.

Attendees then discussed on what is to be done for rule of law and justice sector and preparation works for the forum held in March.

The Chairman, vice chairman and members of coordination bodies for rule of law and justice sector; advisory-groups' members and invited guests from international organizations also attended the meeting.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Trapped civilians in Kachin State return home

Authorities provide cash assistance to civilians who returned home in Kachin State. **PHOTO: MNA (ARTICLE ON PAGE-1)**

Five people injured in classroom shooting at Los Angeles middle school

LOS ANGELES — Five people were injured, including two students shot, in a classroom shooting Thursday at the Salvador Castro Middle School in the western US city of Los Angeles, local authorities said.

A 15-year-old boy who was shot in the head was in critical condition and a 15-year-old girl who was shot in the wrist was in stable condition, according to Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD).

“We had some type of a shooting occurrence inside a classroom,” said L.A. School Police Chief Steve Zipperman during a press briefing at the scene.

The shooting was reported to police around 9 a.m. local time. Police rushed to the scene and conducted room searches at the campus.

Three other people, including two children and 30-year-old woman suffered minor injuries which were not caused by the shooting.

A handcuffed girl was seen being taken into custody by police and referred as a “person of interest” by Zipperman.

Police officials said the shooting suspect is about 12



Police officers stand guard outside Salvador Castro Middle School in Los Angeles, the United States on 1 February 2018. Five people were injured, including two students shot, in a classroom shooting Thursday at the Salvador Castro Middle School in the western US city of Los Angeles, local authorities said. PHOTO: XINHUA

years old and the weapon of the shooter has been recovered by police.

Police officials told reporters that they don't know the exact number of students on the scene when the shooting happened and it is still too early in the investigation to determine

the motive of the suspect.

There was a heavy police presence at the location and the campus was on lockdown. A lot of anxious parents and relatives were waiting outside the campus.

All of the parents of the victims have been notified, said

authorities.

Salvador Castro Middle School has a total enrollment of 428 students and 22 full-time teachers. More than 92 per cent of the students are Hispanic, according to the data on the website of the www.localschooldirectory.com. —Xinhua ■

Boiler room explosion rocks Turkish capital, three injured - governor, media

ISTANBUL — An explosion in the boiler room of a building rocked the Turkish capital Ankara on Thursday, the local governor said on Twitter, and media reports quoted him as saying three people had been injured as a result.

“An explosion has occurred in the gas boiler room of a building in (the district of) Cukurambar, the cause of which is currently undetermined,” Ankara governor Ercan Topaca said. Authorities were considering sabotage as the cause of the explosion, and the investigation was going on, he was also quoted by media as saying.

Three people had sustained light injuries due to debris flying from the scene of the explosion, he was also quoted as saying.

Ambulances rushed to the scene following the sound of the explosion, a Reuters witness said. Images from the scene showed extensive damage to the building's facade. Windows of nearby cars were blown out and debris was strewn in the street. The building had been empty except for security personnel at the time of the explosion, local media said.—Reuters ■

Japan's regulator urged Coincheck to fix flaws before \$530 million cyber theft

TOKYO— Japan's financial regulator on Friday swooped on Coincheck Inc with surprise checks of its systems and said it had asked the Tokyo-based cryptocurrency exchange to fix flaws in its computer networks well before hackers stole \$530 million of digital money last week.

Security gaps in Coincheck's systems were among the reasons the exchange had not been given official approval to operate, the Financial Services Agency said. Coincheck had been allowed by the regulator to operate pending registration. The comments came after 10 FSA officials conducted surprise checks on Coincheck's office on Friday morning, as authorities stepped up efforts to pin down how hackers pulled off one of the world's biggest cyber heists.

The inspection, launched at 8 a.m. on Friday (2300 GMT Thursday), focused on compensation for customers, financial conditions

and system management at the exchange, and Coincheck's efforts on consumer protection, a senior FSA official said. Coincheck has said the virtual coins were stored in a “hot wallet” instead of the more secure “cold wallet,” which operates on platforms not directly connected to the internet. The exchange was also not using an extra layer of security known as a multi-signature system. The regulator's knowledge of flaws in Coincheck's systems before the theft will likely draw further focus on Japan's approach to regulating cryptocurrency exchanges.

Japan last year became the first country to regulate exchanges at the national level — a move that won praise for boosting innovation and protecting consumers, contrasting sharply with crackdowns in South Korea and China.

The theft highlights the vulnerabilities in trading an asset that policymakers are struggling

to regulate, as well as the broader risks for Japan as it aims to leverage the fintech industry to stimulate economic growth.

The FSA earlier this week issued a business improvement order to Coincheck and said it would investigate all cryptocurrency exchanges in Japan for security gaps following the hack.

The regulator said on Friday it had ordered all cryptocurrency exchanges to submit a report on their system risk management.

Coincheck had been ordered to submit a report on the hack and measures for preventing a recurrence by 13 February. But Friday's surprise inspection was conducted ahead of the deadline to “ensure protection of users,” Finance Minister Taro Aso told reporters. The FSA has already conducted an interview-based hearing with Coincheck but questions remain, a source with direct knowledge of the matter

told Reuters on Friday. In 2014, Tokyo-based Mt. Gox, which once handled 80 per cent of the world's bitcoin trades, filed for bankruptcy after losing bitcoins worth nearly half a billion dollars to a hacking attack. More recently, South Korean cryptocurrency exchange Yobit shut down and filed for bankruptcy after being hacked twice last year.

INVESTIGATIONS

Coincheck said on Sunday it would repay about 46.3 billion yen (\$425 million) of the virtual money. The FSA has said it had yet to confirm whether the company had sufficient funds for the reimbursement. Coincheck has turned over communication records to police in Tokyo investigating the heist, the Nikkei business daily said on Thursday. A Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department spokesman declined to comment. Authorities in several countries are also inves-

tigating last week's heist involving the NEM cryptocurrency, a member of the foundation behind the digital coin said on Thursday. Last year's explosive rise in the value of digital coins and the flood of new retail investors drawn to the market have rattled global regulators nervous about a sector used largely for speculation. Officials have said cryptocurrencies are used by criminals to launder money. Bitcoin, the world's largest cryptocurrency, skidded 11 percent on Thursday to its lowest since November, as a Facebook ban on cryptocurrency adverts and a growing regulatory backlash against the nascent market frightened investors.

Bitcoin extended its slide to \$8,639 on Friday after skidding a day earlier to as low as \$9,022 on the Luxembourg-based Bitstamp exchange, less than half the peak price of almost \$20,000 it reached in December.—Reuters ■

More N. Korean athletes arrive for Olympics in S. Korea

SEOUL — A North Korean delegation consisting of officials and athletes competing in the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics arrived aboard a South Korean chartered plane on Thursday, according to a pool report.

The plane carrying the 32-member delegation, led by North Korean Vice Sports Minister Won Kil U, arrived in the northeastern city of Yangyang shortly after 6 p.m. from the North's eastern port city of Wonsan.

The 10 athletes in the delegation include those competing in alpine and cross-country skiing, as well as figure and short-track skating.

They join 12 North Korean female ice hockey players already in the South for training with their South Korean counterparts as part of a historic unified team.

Also aboard the plane was

a South Korean delegation including skiers who finished two days of joint training with North Koreans at the Masikryong ski resort in eastern North Korea.

The joint training did not involve South Korean skiers who will compete in the Feb. 9-25 Winter Olympics and appeared largely symbolic of reconciliation between the countries.

North and South Korea held their first official talks in more than two years last month after the North's leader Kim Jong Un struck a conciliatory note on relations with the South in his New Year's address.

North Korea has since agreed to send athletes, a cheering squad, a taekwondo demonstration team, an art troupe and high-ranking officials to the South. At the games, North and South Korea will march together under one flag in the opening ceremony. —Kyodo News



Attendees release pigeon-shaped balloons to celebrate the opening of the athletes' living quarters for the Pyeongchang Olympics in Gangneung, South Korea, on 1 February 2018. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Hundreds of tourists stranded in New Zealand as storm batters much of the country

SYDNEY — Hundreds of tourists in New Zealand were left stranded on Friday after a strong storm damaged roads, uprooted trees and felled power lines.

Former Tropical Cyclone Fehi this week has brought heavy rain that flooded the southern city of Dunedin and west coast town of Buller, forcing authorities to declare a state of emergency and ask people not to travel by road.

New Zealand authorities said the adverse weather has damaged a major road around Haast, 426 km (265 miles) northwest of Dunedin, leaving hundreds of tourists stranded

in the town.

"There are at least 600 tourists in Haast and we are undertaking a welfare assessment of their needs," Westland District Council said in an emailed statement.

Authorities said work on repairing the damage was underway but were unable to say when the tourists would be able to see the small coastal town.

New Zealand's weather forecaster MetService said on Friday the storm was moving southeast, providing some relief to the country's west coast, which has been hardest hit by the heavy rain and strong winds.—Reuters ■



Emergency personnel work on a flooded road in Nelson, after the downgraded Tropical Cyclone Fehi brought heavy rain in New Zealand, in this still image taken from a on 1 February 2018. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

China launches electromagnetic satellite to study earthquake precursors

JIUQUAN — China on Friday launched its first seismo-electromagnetic satellite to study seismic precursors, which might help establish a ground-space earthquake monitoring and forecasting network in the future.

A Long March-2D rocket launched at 15:51 from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center, in northwest China's Gobi Desert, carried the 730-kilogram China Seismo-Electromagnetic Satellite (CSES) into a sun-synchronous orbit at an altitude of about 500 kilometers. Known as Zhangheng 1 in Chinese, it will help scientists monitor the electromagnetic field, ionospheric plasma and high-energy particles for an expected mission life of five years, said Zhao Jian, a senior official with China National Space Administration (CNSA).

The satellite is named after Zhang Heng, a renowned scholar of the East Han Dynasty (25-220), who pioneered earthquake studies by inventing the first ever seismoscope in the year 132.

Zhangheng 1 will record electromagnetic data associated with earthquakes above 6 magnitude in China and those above 7 magnitude around the world, in a bid to identify patterns in the electromagnetic disturbances in the near-Earth environment,



China launches its first seismo-electromagnetic satellite, known as Zhangheng 1 in Chinese, into a sun-synchronous orbit from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center, in northwest China's Gobi Desert, on 2 February 2018. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Zhao said.

Covering the latitude area between 65 degrees north and 65 degrees south, it will focus on Chinese mainland, areas within 1,000 kilometers to China's land borders and two major global earthquake belts. Zhangheng 1 was funded by CNSA, developed by China Earthquake Administration (CEA) and produced by DFH Satellite Co., Ltd., a subsidiary of China Academy of Space Technology (CAST). Based on a CAST2000 platform, Zhangheng 1 is a cubic satellite, 1.4 meters on each side. It has a single solar panel and six booms, which will deploy and keep electromagnetic detectors more than 4 meters

away from the satellite, said Zhou Feng, a senior manager with DFH Satellite Company. It carries a high-precision magnetometer, a search-coil magnetometer and electric field probes to measure components and intensity of the magnetic and electric fields. It is also equipped with a Langmuir probe, a plasma analyzer, a GNSS occultation receiver and a tri-band beacon to measure in-situ plasma and ionospheric profile as well, Zhou said.

It also carries high-energy particle detectors, some of which are provided by Italian partners, and a magnetic field calibration device developed in Austria, according to Zhou.—Xinhua ■



Authorities examine a gutted facility for welfare recipients in Sapporo, Hokkaido, on 2 February 2018, where 11 residents died in a blaze that began two days earlier. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Police to investigate fire protection measures after Sapporo blaze

SAPPORO — Police in Hokkaido said Friday they are set to investigate fire protection measures taken at a home for welfare recipients in Sapporo after a blaze gutted the lodging, leaving 11 people dead and three others injured.

The police in Japan's northernmost prefecture said they suspect the operator of the decrepit wooden building that housed 16 poor people in their 40s to 80s was guilty of professional negligence resulting in death and injury, as it failed to prevent the disaster.

According to the company that ran the facility, each of the 16 rooms of the three-story building had a fire alarm installed but no sprinklers.

The home effectively functioned as a low-cost shelter for poor elderly people. Of the 16 residents,

13 were receiving welfare, according to the local government. Among them were dementia patients, people with no relatives and some needing assistance in daily life.

A resident of the facility who escaped the fire that had started late Wednesday night told police that the blaze spread within a few minutes after a fire alarm went off, investigators said.

A corridor and area near the kitchen on the first floor of the nearly 50-year-old building, located about 1.5 kilometers north of Sapporo railway station, were particularly badly burnt, they said.

Eight men and three women died in the blaze that was brought under control about 12 hours later. The three injured residents are not in a life-threatening condition.

Fire protection measures have been problematic for facilities providing accommodation for low-income earners as such buildings are generally made up of a cluster of small rooms. The operators are reluctant to spend too much money on equipment as it would lead them to charge higher rents.

Local fire authorities said Thursday the facility was not obliged to install sprinklers by law, as it was deemed similar to a boarding house or apartment building.

But the Sapporo city government said it will examine whether the facility could have been categorized as a nursing home, since the operator provided meals to elderly residents.

If the authorities regard the building as equivalent to an elderly care fa-

ility, it should have been equipped with more fire safety measures such as the installation of guidance lights.

If such facilities have a certain percentage of residents who cannot escape by themselves, they are obliged to install sprinklers.

The Sapporo municipal government, meanwhile, has started on-site inspections of other homes managed by the same company in the city to see whether firefighting measures are sufficiently implemented. At least 40 such homes for impoverished people in Sapporo are subject to the inspections, firefighters said. The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare also dispatched officials to Sapporo to check on the city's engagement with the facility operator. —Kyodo News ■

US helicopter crash survivor to receive record \$100 million pretrial settlement – lawyer

DENVER — A former Colorado flight nurse who survived a helicopter ambulance crash with horrific burns over 90 per cent of his body will receive a record \$100 million cash settlement from the maker and operator of the aircraft, his lawyer said on Thursday. The sum is believed to be the largest US pretrial settlement ever reached in an individual personal injury civil claim, said Gary Robb, an attorney for the crash survivor, David Repsher, 47. The case had been set for trial on 5 March.

The Flight For Life helicopter crashed on take-off on 3 July, 2015, from the St. Anthony Summit Medical Center in Frisco, a mountain town about 70 miles west of Denver.

A second flight nurse, Matthew Bowe, was also badly injured, and the pilot, Patrick Mahany, was killed. The three men had been en route to a public relations event at a Boy Scout camp and there were no patients on board.

The thrust of Repsher's lawsuit, filed in Summit County District Court, was that the chopper's French manufacturer, Airbus Helicopters SAS, had failed to equip the aircraft with a crash-resistant fuel system, leading its fuel tank to burst into flames on impact. Such systems have been mandated on newly certified helicopters since 1994. But Robb said Airbus took advantage of a regulatory loophole to avoid the safety requirement.—Reuters ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V RATANA BHUM VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V RATANA BHUM VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3-2-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T./A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3-2-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA

Phone No: 2301185

ရဲဘော်သုံးကျိပ်ဝင်တစ်ဦးဖြစ်ပြီး
မြန်မာ့တပ်မတော်တွင် ဘီစီနိုပါတ် ၁ ဖြစ်သူ ဗိုလ်လက်ျာ၏
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သမိုင်းအမှတ်တရများ

၄နိပုဋ်စာအုပ်တိုက် - အမှတ် ၂၅၇(ပထမထပ်), ၃၉လမ်း(ထက်), ကျောက်တံတားမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့၊ ဗမာ - ၀၉ ၅၀၄ ၃၁၆၄၊ ၀၉ ၅၀၉ ၀၆၀၆

Bo Let Ya, who was second in command to
Bogyoke Aung San, a member of the thirty comrades
during the time when Burma Independence Army was
formed in Bangkok in December 1941.

BURMA'S FATE

Vision and Struggles for
Independence,
Unity and Development

Dr.Khin Let Ya

Justin Timberlake says Janet not part of Super Bowl show

LONDON — Justin Timberlake caused a national controversy when he performed the Super Bowl halftime show with Janet Jackson in 2004, and the pop singer said on Thursday not to expect his partner in crime to appear this time around.

Timberlake on Sunday will return to America's biggest stage 14 years after a "wardrobe malfunction" overshadowed his last gig at the National Football League's championship game.

"To be honest I had a ton of grand ideas about special guests. There's a whole list. I think Vegas has a lot of odds on it. From NSYNC to (Jay-Z) to Chris Stapleton to Janet," Timberlake told a news conference in Minneapolis.

"But this year... my band, the Tennessee Kids, I feel like they are my special guests and I am excited this year to rock the stage and it's going to be a lot of fun."

Timberlake infamously ripped off part of Jackson's garment during their halftime

show performance in Houston and briefly bared her breast. The incident coined the phrase "wardrobe malfunction."

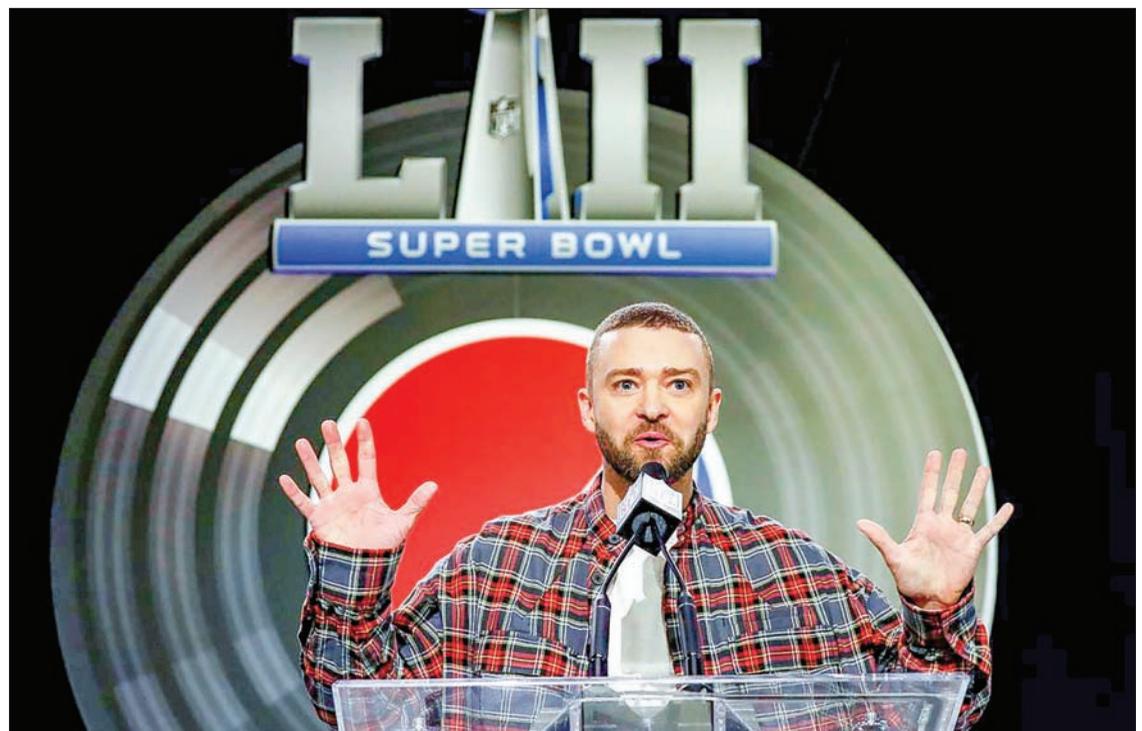
The Parents Television Council published an open letter to Timberlake on Thursday asking the 10-times Grammy winner to keep his performance, which is estimated to draw more than 100 million viewers, friendly and safe for children.

"The fallout of your performance during Super Bowl XXXVIII has left an indelible mark. You really threw us – and millions of parents who were watching with their kids," the group wrote.

"The now-infamous wardrobe malfunction was the biggest news story for weeks, even at a time when the nation had launched into war in Iraq."

The letter continued, "We ask you to keep the halftime show friendly and safe for the children watching, and who may be hoping to emulate you one day."

Timberlake did not reveal too many details of his upcoming



Super Bowl half time entertainer Justin Timberlake gives a news conference about his upcoming performance in Minneapolis, Minnesota, US on 1 February 2018. PHOTO: REUTERS

ing performance but did say his "Can't Stop The Feeling" hit song from the movie "Trolls" will be included along with plenty of dancing, while also promising something new.

"Without giving too much away we are doing a few things with this halftime show that they have never quite done before," said Timberlake, whose new album "Man of the Woods" come out on Friday.

"I always like to push, to be

able to do something like that. But also, on a more serious note, it's a moment where you have the opportunity to bring so many people together through what I think is the greatest art form, which is music."

Timberlake will have around 13 minutes to perform at halftime of the game between the New England Patriots and Philadelphia Eagles in Minneapolis.

Timberlake, who turned 37 on Wednesday and was serenad-

ed to "Happy Birthday" by some of the attending media, took many light-hearted questions but also stressed how grateful he was to be able to share his passion for writing and performing music.

"We want everyone to have a ton of fun, that's my main objective with the halftime show," said Timberlake. "I like to make dance music so I hope everyone's dancing. I think that's the greatest thing anyone can do to express joy." — Reuters

Breakup songs: 'Brexit Big Band' soundtracks Britain's EU divorce

MARSHSIDE — Whether celebrating or mourning Britain's exit from the European Union, you can now do it to music, thanks to a British composer who has set dry EU legal-speak to jazz as part of a project to explore Brexit through art.

The Brexit Big Band project is the brainchild of experimental musician Matthew Herbert, and consists of a series of concerts and workshops in Britain and across Europe, as well as an album which people from around the world can contribute to by uploading short sound samples to a website.

Herbert, who describes the decision to quit the bloc after four decades as "a shock", began the project on 29 March, 2017 - the day British Prime Minister Theresa May

triggered the Brexit process - and will culminate two years later, when the country is due to break away from the EU.

"I wanted to do something that celebrated the things that I thought were great about collaboration, celebrating things that I thought were great about being part of Europe," Herbert told Reuters.

The works produced so far include the spoken text of Article 50, the legislative clause that Britain used to initiate the Brexit divorce proceedings, set to a piece of jazz music.

Herbert says the project is not anti-Brexit, but rather a way of bringing people together. In November last year, he was given a grant for the project by the British government's Department for International Trade. — Reuters

Guess shares slump after model Kate Upton tweets about exec

NEW YORK — Guess Inc shares fell more than 17 per cent on Thursday following a tweet by model and actress Kate Upton accusing the company's co-founder of using his power to harass women.

"It's disappointing that such an iconic women's brand @GUESS is still empowering Paul Marciano as their creative director #metoo", the model tweeted on Wednesday, using a popular hashtag designed to highlight the wide spread of sexual harassment. "He shouldn't be allowed to use his power in the industry to sexually and emotionally harass women #metoo", Upton tweeted, without elaborating.

A representative for Upton, who modeled for Guess in 2011, did not respond to requests for comment on Thursday.

"Mr. Marciano denies any misconduct toward Ms. Upton," Guess said in a filing with the US

Securities and Exchange Commission on Thursday.

The fashion retailer said it will investigate Upton's concerns if it determines they have merit, adding that she had not yet made any specific allegations.

Guess also said it had investigated claims that Marciano behaved inappropriately towards

two women in November 2017, after an entertainment website contacted them. It said the investigation, aided by outside counsel, had so far been unable to corroborate the allegations and the company's board had been unable to determine if they had merit. Marciano has denied the allegations. — Reuters



Kate Upton attends Harper's Bazaar's celebration of 'ICONS By Carine Roitfeld' at The Plaza Hotel during New York Fashion Week in Manhattan, New York, US on 9 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Press and media in Myanmar play an important role in peace-making and cessation of war: WHPL Chairman

BY Dr Tha Sein
Photo: Thant Zin Win

MYANMAR Religious Peace Conference of The Heavenly Culture, World Peace, Restoration of Light (HWPL) was held at International Business Center-IBC, on Pyay Road in Hlaing township, Yangon on 1 and 2 February with the theme of "The Sound of Peace Spreading in Myanmar".

After the first day session of conference, the Myanmar News Agency-MNA conducted an interview with chairman of HWPL Mr. Man Hee Lee at Lotte hotels and resorts where the banquet to mark the event took place.

1. Chairman Mr. Man Hee Lee, what is the main purpose of 26th Peace Tour?

My main purpose is to ensure world peace and cessation of war and therefore I was now in Myanmar towards this end.

2. It was very impressive that promise to bring peace together by inviting religions leaders in all around the world at the World Alliance of Religions' Peace Summit which held in 2014. Was there any particular reason to invite religious leaders to the summit? And wasn't there any difficulties while gathering those who has different religions hearts?

Before the Summit, we visited the religious leaders of dif-



Mr. Man Hee Lee, middle, at the HWPL conference for spreading peace in Myanmar at the International Business Center. PHOTO: MNA

ferent countries and told them about the summit. And then, we invited them to visit this event. There were many difficulties in bringing them together to the summit.

3. We hope this Myanmar Religions Peace Conference will contribute to harmony, peace and prosperity in countries where Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity, Islam and people of different faiths live. What is your opinion on and its activities which aims for changing hostility and war to peace?

We have peace conference today in Myanmar because it is important to have conversation

and dialogue between different religions in Myanmar where different faiths live together. Today in Myanmar we hope that this peace event will make a success.

We always have the same goal which is to achieve world peace and cessation of the war in the world that is the big picture of goal everything we do.

4. In last year May, the HWPL Myanmar Religious Peace Camp was held in Myanmar, can you elaborate on the HWPL Myanmar Religious Peace Camp and its activities which aims for changing hostility and was to peace?

Religions have different

scriptures and teachings and they are also diverse in many different ways. However we do have a good conversation among the different religions. A total of 80 percent of wars and conflicts originated from religions. So long as we have conflicts wars will not be able to end. The reason behind we are doing religious camp was to make sure to dispatch the messages on religions and we must be together in God and in truth. There are many people doing the work of peace, however I do have the solution and answer. That is why I am doing my peace work I have presented all borders of nations.

5. In HWPL WARP Office, the leaders of various religions continue to compare the scripture together. What is the meaning of the scripture-based religious conversation?

There is one God and one creator only, however there are different religions in the world, thus making religious conflicts. Even though, there is only one God the teachings of religions and believes are different. In solving the wars and conflicts in South Korea we all promised that we will be working together in God. We cannot just say we want to work together with religious leaders, we must show with by action and deed. It is only one scripture because it is only one religion as well.

The work of peace and cessation of war is not just for individual but the whole world. This must be done by all people of the world. And we bring religious leaders together and we do the works of comparison. That's why all the people in Myanmar and the world gathered here for the work of peace. Also the press and media in Myanmar play an important role in the process. If we do the work together with the media we are sure our mission will be accomplished. That's why the press and media like you play such an important role. So, let's work together. ■

FDA grants certificate of chemical dye-free shop in Zay Cho market

THE Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted 124 certificates to chemical dye-free shops in Mandalay's Zay Cho market on February 1.

The certificate is granted to shops that don't carry chemical dyed food after three separate inspections conducted by the FDA in Mandalay.

This is the first time the FDA issued certificates to the shops. The FDA's ultimate motive is to make the Zay Cho market a chemical dye-free zone in 2018 this plan will be adopted in other markets in Mandalay.

There are more than 200 shops that are selling food that probably contain chemical dye in the market, and the department has frequently conducted surprise checks if a shop is found selling food treated with chem-

ical dye.

The FDA will continue to inspect shops that have already been granted a certificate, and if these shops are found selling food with chemical dye again the certificates will be revoked.

"We will conduct surprise checks in these shops in spite of already having a certificate. If we find food containing chemical dye, we will revoke the certificate on the spot," said Dr Kyaw Kyaw, deputy director of Food and Drug Administration (Mandalay branch). The FDA has created a set of criteria for dealing with shops that sell food with chemical dye. If a shop is found for the first time selling food containing chemical dye they are warned. The second time, they are fined K50, 000. The third time, action will be taken against the shop

owners to close their shop for a period of one month.

A member of the Mandalay City Development Committee explained the process of how the team inspects all the food in the market. "We collected some samples from some shops in the market in Mandalay; then, we test the food to see whether or not it's chemically treated food," said U Kyaw San Myint, a member of MCDC. The plan to sell chemical dye-free food in markets started in May 2015. The new administration drew up a plan in 2016 during its 100 day plans. The cooperative team includes the FDA, the Department of Public Health and the Department of Consumer Affairs, and the Mandalay City Development Committee inspected all markets in Mandalay.—Su Su Shi ■



in
Picture

A scene from Barcamp Yangon 2018 held at MICT Park, from 27 to 28 January, with Chindwin College as the official education partner. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Myanmar Futsal loses to World Grade 5 Iran in AFC Futsal Championship

MYANMAR was beaten by the Futsal Powerhouse of the world by 0-14 in Group (C) opener of 2018 AFC futsal Championship Taipei, China yesterday.

The first goal came within seconds of the kick off when Iran forced a turnover and AFC Futsal Player of the Year Ali Asghar Hassanzadeh slid the ball across for a simple tap in for Mahdi Javid.

No less than 30 seconds later and they had their second of the evening courtesy of Hassanzadeh, who added Iran's third and his second a further three minutes later.

Iran then proceeded to go on a scoring spree, adding five goals in the space of three minutes, which included a run of three goals in a minute, to more than put the match beyond doubt halfway through the first half.

Myanmar's defense solidified in the final 10 minutes of the first half, with Yan Paing Hein making some wonderful saves,



Iran(white) and Myanmar (red) engage in combat for the ball in yesterday's AFC Futsal Championship in Chinese Taipei. **PHOTO:MFF**

to restrict Iran to just one further goal for the half, which saw them head in at half time with a commanding 9-0 lead.

In the opening 10 minutes of the second half Myanmar's defense held firm again, with Iran scoring only once in the

22nd minute when Javid scored his third for the evening.

But a flurry of late goals – a further four in the final 10 min-

utes – added some extra icing on top of the cake for Iran.

In the end, Hassanzadeh and Javid ended with four goals apiece, while Hossein Tayebi tallied a hat-trick highlighting their dominance across the evening.

Myanmar Head Coach U Htay Myint said that, "Iran is a world class team, so we told our players to take this match as an experience. We will try to fix our defensive tactics, and that's what we will improve on for our next match. We already have a plan for Iraq, and that's a final game for us if we want to go to the next round."

"This was a game that we expected. Myanmar is a good team who were fast. The only problem they had was lack of experience, and I can foresee that they will be one of the best teams in Asia," said Mohammad Nazem Alsharie: IR Iran Head Coach.

Myanmar will next play Iraq on Sunday, while Iran will play China.—KyawZin Lin ■

Tennis: Nishikori reaches semifinals at Dallas Challenger event

DALLAS — Former world No. 4 Kei Nishikori reached the semi-finals of the RBC Tennis Championships in Dallas on Thursday after beating No. 295 Diminik Koepfer.

Japan's Nishikori, who dropped to world No. 27 after a five-month injury layoff, defeated Germany's Koepfer 7-6(3), 6-3 in a tough 1 hour, 35 minute match at the ATP Challenger Tour event.

The 28-year-old started out in strong shape when he broke his opponent's serve in the third game of the first set, but he gave up the next game. Nishikori bounced back in the second set when he took the first four games, but struggled later on as he handed the next three games to his opponent.

"I was able to bring my rhythm up bit by bit," Nishikori said. "There were times in the second set where I struggled, but I was able to nail my strokes



Japanese tennis player Kei Nishikori hits a forehand during his quarterfinal match of an ATP Challenger Tour event in Dallas, Texas, on 1 February 2018 against Dominik Koepfer of Germany. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

and my serves got better."

"I think I'm doing better than my previous match. I want to work harder," he said.

He was granted a wildcard for the Jan. 29-Feb. 3 tournament at the T Bar M Racquet Club. He will face No. 234 Jason

Jung of Taiwan in the semifinal.

Nishikori injured his right wrist while practicing at the Western and Southern Open in Cincinnati last August, an injury which forced him to shut down his 2017 season. —Kyodo News ■

Magway FC signs with Grand Sport for team's kits

MAGWAY FC, one of the well-known football clubs which is competing in MPT Myanmar National League 2018, signed with Grand Sport as a sponsor contraction for the team's kits on 31 Jan. The ceremony was attended by Chief Executive Officer of Magway FC, team manager U Kyi Lwin, secretary of the team U Aung Myo Lwin, players from Magway FC and officials from Grand Sport.

Grand Sport will support complete sets of kits for the team's players, coaches and football officials of the team.

Magway Football Club is a Myanmar Professional football club, based in Magway, Myanmar. The club represents the Magway Division of Upper Myanmar. The club was founded in 2009, as a member team of the Myanmar National League.

The club won their first title in 2016, defeating Yangon United in the MFF Cup, qualifying for the AFC Cup as a result.

The club was famous for its aggressive playing style and nurtured many young, talented football players. Every season, Magway Football Club relies on young talent football players as Zaw Min Tun, a national player, who was negotiated by highest transfer fee of Myanmar National League to Yadanarbon Football Club.

Magway uses Magway Stadium, a multi-use stadium in Magway, as their home stadium. It is currently used mostly for football matches and is the home ground of Magway FC of the Myanmar National League. The stadium has a capacity to hold 7,000 spectators. —KyawZin Lin ■