State Counsellor: some success, but we are not home and dry yet

In an interview with the BBC, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi defended the progress her government has made since coming to power one year ago in terms of infrastructural improvements, the peace process and free elections, and also speculated that the October attacks last year on border police outposts that resulted in months of area clearance operations were an effort to derail attempts to negotiate peace between Myanmar and the many ethnic armed insurgent groups. The following is the complete text of the BBC television interview.

Q: In terms of change, in the lives of ordinary people, one of the things that has happened, as in South Africa, is there a massive sense of disappointment when a liberation movement comes into power. What have you done to make their life better?

A: In practical ways, lots of roads. You think that may not be much because you come from a country where there were roads from your grandfathers time. But in our country that means a lot. Because all-weather roads make a great difference to ones lives. Last year one of our priorities was job creation. We discovered that resources are limited and both the army, you don't control the security forces, and when fighting breaks out, they are free to do what they have always done, rape, pillage and torture. That they are not free to do. They are free to go in and fight. That is in the constitution. Military matters are to be left to the army. And that is why we are trying to change the constitution, we feel very awkward about it. Amending the constitution is one of our aims. Because according to the national cease-fire agreement, one of the last steps would be to adopt a federal constitution.

Q: If you look at the history of this country, that has been going on since independence? A: Fergal, you were in South Africa, and you did manage to end apartheid there didn’t you, not you, but the South Africans.

Q: Are we talking months or years?

A: We hope that it will not be more than a few years, that’s what we’re aiming at.

Q: Can I come to the issue which has caused most international concern and which has led to a real turn about in the way you are perceived internationally and you are aware of this. You have seen the newspaper headlines. The comments from international figures condemning how you have handled the issue of the Rohingya Muslims?

A: What exactly is it that they are condemning?

Q: They want you to let a UN fact finding mission into Rakhine State?

A: But that is just now, that is what they asked for last month. What have they been condemning over the last year?

Q: If you look at the history of this country, that has been going on since independence?

A: That is in the constitution. Military matters are to be left to the army. And that is why we are trying to change the constitution, we feel very awkward about it. Amending the constitution is one of our aims. Because according to the national cease-fire agreement, one of the last steps would be to adopt a federal constitution.

Q: What exactly is it that they are condemning?

A: They want you to let a UN fact finding mission into Rakhine State?

Q: You mentioned the peace process, and you felt proud that it was an achievement last year, but right at this moment you have some of the most bitter fighting taking place on the borders of this country with ethnic groups?

A: But Fergal, you work for peace particularly because there is fighting. If there were no fighting there would be no need for us to work for peace. If there were no fighting at all, if all this settles down, that means the peace process is over. Now I did say at the beginning that we are not there yet.

Q: If you look at the history of this country, that has been going on since independence?

A: Fergal, you were in South Africa, and you did manage to end apartheid there didn’t you, not you, but the South Africans.

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3 released, 8 still detained for murder, missing persons cases in Maungtaw

AUTHORITIES have released three out of 11 suspects who had been detained on suspicion of their involvement in missing persons and murder cases in villages in Maungtaw Township.

After interrogation, three men were released, but with restrictions on their movement, according to a report by the Myanmar News Agency.

The remaining eight suspects are detained for further interrogation for missing person case of Mummad Shawphi, 21, in Sintaung Village, and the murder of Sweda Armi in Limbargon Village on 2nd January.—GNLM

Husband dead, wife injured after beating by neighbour and others in Buthidaung

A HUSBAND was killed and his wife injured after they were beaten by a group of men in Khwah Village in Buthidaung Township on Wednesday.

The couple was attacked by five people, including their neighbour, on their way back home on 4th April after they informed the village’s authorities about their neighbour cursing them following a brawl between their children. Shawbi Hullah died on Thursday from his injuries. Actions are being taken against five men, including Zawwar Lo Po Dein, the neighbour of the couple. —Myanmar News Agency

Myanmar businessmen to visit InterPlas Thailand 2017

MEMBERS of the Myanmar Plastics Businessmen’s Association will visit InterPlas Thailand 2017 Exhibition at the Bangkok International Trade & Exhibition Centre (BITEC).

InterPlas Thailand 2017 Exhibition is ASEAN’s Plastics Business Exhibition, where entrepreneurs in the plastics business from Asia will attend and exhibit their products. In this exhibition, equipment for production of plastic and petro-chemical materials, technologies and its applications, engineering technology for casting and plastic injection, engineering and technological exhibition for the production of mechanical parts of vehicles, automation devices for fitting mechanical parts, enhancement of surface and painting, installation of machines for producing electrical appliances, and technologies of measurements and experiments and discussions will be displayed. If a group of over 10 people visits InterPlas Thailand 2017, according to the Overseas Delegation Package, one person from Myanmar delegation can enjoy free hotel accommodations for 2 days. If a group of over 30 people visit InterPlas Thailand 2017, according to Connect Business Camping, one person will receive US$100 and be able to use the Business Delegation Lounge for their meetings.—200

Difficulties of fishermen resolved thanks to Myanmar-Thai negotiations

A NEW agreement between Myanmar and Thailand would impose legal action or penalties on illegal fishing vessels that unload in Thai ports, according to the Port State Measure Agreement (PSMA) that went into effect on 1 April for fishery enterprises, announced the Myanmar-Thai Directorates of Fisheries.

But the new agreement put owners, operators and seamen on fishing boats that were already out to sea in potential violation, with no way to contact them and inform them of the new rules.

The Kawhtoung District Fishery Enterprises Association thus went to Ranong, Thailand and negotiated with their Thai counterparts not to incur punishments to the Myanmar seamen when they arrive back at port.

The Thai Directorate of fisheries postponed the implementation time for the purpose of sustaining long-term friendship between the two countries. The Thai Directorate of Fisheries will implement the Port State Measure Agreement (PSMA) 60 days after the original implementation date of 1 April.—Kaw Soe (Kawhtoung)

AMYOThA Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Tha received the Chair of Geneva-based Global Commission on Drug Policy (GCDP) and former President of Switzerland Ms. Ruth Dreifuss at 10 am and Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF Mr. Robert Justin Alexander Forsyth at 1 pm at the hall of Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw separately.

In their meeting, the two sides discussed the works of Global Commission Drug Policy (GCDP). The GCDP’s aim is to “bring to the international level an informed, science-based discussion about humane and effective ways to reduce the harm caused by drugs to people and societies.” The GCDP has endorsed decriminalisation of drugs for non-violent offenders.

Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Tha discussed matters related to providing assistance for development of Myanmar at the meeting with the Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF.

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

Thura U Shwe Mann meets former Swiss President and Chair of the GCDP

Thura U Shwe Mann, Chairman of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Commission for the Assessment of Legal Affairs and Special Cases, received former President of Switzerland and the Chair of the Global Commission on Drug Policy-GCDP, Ms. Ruth Dreifuss at 11 am yesterday at the Hluttaw Building I-1 in Nay Pyi Taw. During the meeting, they exchanged views on ways for elimination of drug production and using in Myanmar and taking legal actions against the lawbreakers. —Myanmar News Agency
President U Htin Kyaw and First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin arrive in People’s Republic of China on state visit

AT the invitation of President of the People’s Republic of China Mr. Xi Jinping, President U Htin Kyaw, First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin and entourage left Nay Pyi Taw yesterday for a State Visit and were seen off at the airport by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Vice Presidents U Myint Swe and U Henry Van Thio, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services, Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Myo Aung and wife, Deputy Minister for Ministry of the President’s Office U Min Thu, the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, Mr. Chan Chan, Charge d’affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar and other officials.

The President and First Lady accompanied by Union Ministers, U Kyaw Tint Swe, Dr. Than Myint and U Win Khaing, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin, Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone Management Committee Chairman Dr. Soe Win and officials arrived in Shuang Liu International Airport, Chengdu, China at 10:30 a.m. local standard time.

President U Htin Kyaw, the First Lady and entourage were welcomed by Sichuan Province Vice Governor Mr Yang Hongbo, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thit Lin Oo and other officials. The President and entourage were then taken to Chengdu Jinjiang Hotel by motorcade. In the afternoon, the President, the First Lady and entourage visited the Giant Buddha in Leshan. The 233 ft tall stone Buddha statue is carved out of a cliff face that lies at the confluence of the Minjiang, Dadu and Qingyi rivers near the city of Leshan, China. The Giant Buddha is the largest stone Buddha in the world and has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1996.

In the afternoon, President U Htin Kyaw met with Sichuan Province Party Secretary Mr. Wang Dongmang at Jinjiang Hotel in Chengdu and discussed matters relating to promoting bilateral relations, cooperating in economic, trade, investment, agriculture, education sectors and exchanging of the scholars.

Afterwards, the President and the First Lady attended a dinner hosted by Sichuan Province Party Secretary.—Myanmar News Agency

Diplomatic relations established between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Republic of Malta

THE Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Republic of Malta, desirous of establishing friendly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation on the basis of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of International Law in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, established diplomatic relations at the level of Ambassadors, with effect from 5 April 2017.


Myanmar is making efforts to expand its diplomatic ties with countries around the world. The Republic of Malta is the 115th country with which Myanmar has established diplomatic relations.

STATE Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received the delegation led by Mr. Robert Justin Alexander Forsyth, Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at 10:00 am, on 6 April 2017.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on matters pertaining to UNICEF’s country programme in Myanmar; children’s nutrition, education and health, and prevention of underage recruitment.—Myanmar News Agency

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with Mr. Robert Justin Alexander Forsyth, Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA
MFF to cooperate with Vietnamese companies to boost fishery exports

WITH a view to scaling up fishery export volume, discussions on cooperation with Viet Nam’s companies is ongoing, according to an announcement of the Myanmar Fishery Federation (MFF).

Currently, fishery products are being shipped to European Union countries, but only a small volume can be exported because of a lack of production.

“Viet Nam possesses strong capacity in fish and meat production, and so we have decided to cooperate with Viet Nam companies to enhance Myanmar’s fishery industry”, said U Hnin Oo, the vice chairman of MFF.

A delegation including officials from the MFF attended a meeting in Ho Chi Minh City to introduce the International Exhibition and Conference on Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture, Fisheries for Cambodia and Myanmar.

The exhibition will be held from 2nd to 4th August in Phnom Penh, Cambodia and from 27th to 29th September in Yangon, Myanmar, offering a good opportunity to understand more about those markets and explore business and investment opportunities.

In addition to showcasing the latest technologies and equipment as well as agriculture, livestock and fisheries products, the international agricultural exhibitions in Cambodia and Myanmar will also feature business matching between suppliers and distributors and professional conferences and seminars to help the participants realise the investment opportunities of the two markets.

Fisheries exports attained over US$660mln in 2011-2012, over US$493mln in 2012-2013 and over US$341mln in 2013-2014. Then the export value was a bit up in 2015-2016 with over US$469mln and US$556.47mln as of 24th March this FY 2016-2017. Erratic weather adversely affects fisheries production and fish resources, and offshore fishing does not look very promising. As a result, to boost the export volume, the fish farming sector is required to prioritise and concerted efforts are needed to be exerted by all the stakeholders in the fisheries export supply chain, including the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and Myanmar Fishery Federation (MFF), officials said.

Those engaged in Myanmar’s fish and prawn farming need to switch over to a modern farming method from the traditional one. Adopting modern farming techniques can help prevent the fish from infectious disease, increase the growth rate of fish and prawn and clean the farming lakes, according to the MFF.— Ko Htet

Over 2.3million tonnes of sugar re-exported

Starting from fiscal year 2015-2016 to the first week of March in the current year, over 2.3 million tonnes of sugar were reportedly re-exported to foreign partners, earning US$1.29 billion.

Myanmar is making efforts to enhance re-export trade and grant permits for more items, negotiating with the departments concerned. Sugar, betel nut, fuel oil, clothes, garlic, sesame seeds, dried pepper, peanuts, cotton, tea, sugar millers are able to produce sugar mainly for the local market as Myanmar sugar does not look appealing and does not meet export criteria for the lack of advanced refining machinery. The Commerce Ministry will also verify and approve the proposals concerning the commodities which can be re-exported, it is learnt.—Mon Mon

Viet Nam purchased large volume of maize from Myanmar

VIET NAM is a regular purchaser of Myanmar’s maize, placing large orders every year, according to the news of the Commerce Ministry.

A total of 6.370 tonnes of maize worth US$1.153mlion were exported abroad through normal trade from the 12th to 18th March 2017, shipping 4,722 tonnes to Viet Nam, 808 tonnes to Singapore and 840 tonnes to Malaysia.

The total export volume is up by 2,439 tonnes when compared to that of last week. The increase in the export volume is attributed to the high export volume of Viet Nam against that of last week and attaining the new Singapore market this week.

A tonne of maize in the week of 12th to 18th March fetched US$180 to $200, according to the price announcement of Bayintnaung Commodity Depot.

Myanmar can yearly produce from 300,000 to 400,000 tonnes of corn. Myanmar’s corn was mainly exported to China and also to Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, India, Hong Kong, Bangladesh, Viet Nam, Bulgaria and Spain.— Ko Htet

Thailand to assist in Myanmar plastics business

THAILAND will help develop plastic materials production in Myanmar by providing technical assistance, said Mr. Juk Bun Long, Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar.

“Thailand is leading in plastic materials production in the ASEAN region and will contribute to upgrading production technology”, Mr. Juk Bun Long said at a press conference held at the Chatrium Hotel on Tuesday.

The event was held in order to encourage Myanmar plastic materials businessmen to attend Interplas Thailand 2017, which will be held on 21st June in Bangkok, Thailand.

“With the development of small and medium-sized enterprises in Myanmar, the plastic materials production business has also risen. We are willing to cooperate with international countries to upgrade technology and enhance quality of the plastic materials”, according to a local plastic production organisation.

About 300,000 tonnes of plastic raw materials are yearly imported into the country. Myanmar can now start to manufacture personal plastic goods and plastic materials used in industry and construction to ship back to the foreign countries.

— Myint Maung Soe
Export value with ITC over Ks1billion; imports over Ks16billion

EXPORT value with the use of the Individual Trading Card (ITC) from 1st April to 24th March this fiscal year reached Ks1.15 billion, whereas import value with ITC hit over Ks16.81 billion, according to statistics provided by the Commerce Ministry.

Trade value with ITC amounted to Ks17.96 billion as of 24th March in the current fiscal year. Out of border trade camps, Myawady and Kan Pike Tee border trade camps are found to have the largest trade value using the ITC.

The border trade values with ITC as of 24th March in this FY were over Ks861million in Tamu, over Ks867million in Muse, over Ks11.15 billion in Myawady, Ks767million in Tachileik, over Ks30million in Lweje, over Ks21.8 billion in Kan Pike Tee, over Ks383million in Kawthaung, over Ks708million in Reed, over Ks961million in Maese, and the Ks24million in Keng Tung and Ks20million in Maese, according to the official statistics of the Commerce Ministry.


A businessman can trade Ks1.5million a day with an ITC, and the trade department granted trade up to Ks15million a day, which amounted to a five-day trade value.—Ko Khant

MPU system for border and normal trade transaction

CONCERTED efforts are being exerted to launch an MPU system for transactions of import and export through normal and border trade, according to the Commerce Ministry. The Ministry of Commerce and Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB) launched an e-payment system in 2017. A coordinating meeting was held on 4th April, 2017 in Nay Pyi Taw with the banks so that transactions can be made with all the banks linked with Myanmar Payment Union (MPU).

Present at the meeting were U Yan Naing Tun, the director-general of the Trade Department, officials from the department under the Ministry of Planning and Finance and the banks.

This system will start in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, the Muse 105th Mile trade zone and Myawady trade zone. Additionally, transactions will soon be conducted with the e-commerce system via the Myanmar Tradenet website and Point of Sales (POS) terminals of 23 banks linked with the MPU system.—Ko Htet

Shortage of old trucks hike up rental costs for Thingyan revelers

WITH a shortage of old trucks because of vehicle registration, rent forThingyan revelers is on the rise, according to car rental businesses.

Those who would like to enjoy Thingyan Festival visiting the pavilions in the city usually rent the trucks but the number of trucks decreased this year. The truck owners have scaled up the rent up to Ks180,000 which is up by Ks20,000 against last year.

People used to rent light trucks such as the Toyota Dyna, which can load many people on board in order to make the rounds of pandals and pavilions during Thingyan. However, the number of deregistered cars and trucks has risen this year.—Ko Htet
Three Ministries hold press conference on one-year performance

Press conference for the current government’s one-year performance was held yesterday, at 1pm at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the press conference, U Kyaw Zeya, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, talked about creating job opportunities with direct benefits for citizens that involves communication with international organizations and promoting investment in regions with slow development.

During the one-year period, efforts have been made on developing and maintaining diplomatic relations with Myanmar’s neighboring countries, and those that have supported Myanmar’s democratic transition.

The President made diplomatic visits to Laos, India, Vietnam and Cambodia during the previous years. Efforts have also been made to the 71st United Nations General Assembly in America, the BRICS-BIMSTEC Summit in India, the 28th and 29th ASEAN Summits in Bali, Indonesia.

During the first year term of the new government, discussions were made in the 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 4th Regular Session and in establishing diplomatic relations with the seven countries namely Guinea, Ecuador, Seychelles, Liberia, Vatican, Malta, and the Marshall Islands which will bring the number of countries Myanmar has diplomatic relations up to 121.

Myanmar has been collaborating with the UN, international and regional organizations, and has been recognized for becoming the ASEAN country with the most freedom in the area of the Press and Politics. Myanmar was also able to host a conference with ASEAN Foreign Ministers on 19 December 2016 and have discussions about the incidents in Rakhine state.

Myanmar also accepted humanitarian aid from ASEAN countries including Indonesia, Thailand, and Malaysia via diplomatic channels.

Myanmar visited the Indian Ocean Rim Association for the first time and is preparing to be accepted as a member of the IORA, hosted the ASEAN-Australia East Asia Summit, and will host the ASEAN Ministerial Meetings from 20-21 November 2017.

Concerning UN relations, the State Counsellor delivered a policy speech at the 71st UN General Assembly. The greatest achievement for Myanmar was the finalization and protection of Proposal submitted yearly to the Third Committee in EU since 1991, which after 2016 in the 71st UN Congress was no longer required for submission.

Myanmar also participated in the conference on Nuclear Test Ban Treaty – CTBT, the convention on Nuclear Safety – CAN, and the convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material – CPPNM.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also declared its position on the Rakhine crisis and stated that it was not one of passive support but that the government was solving the crisis but standing firm with allied countries to prevent discord, pressure and unnecessary interventions from outside.

Concerning border affairs, the State Counsellor was able to achieve mutual agreement with Thailand on beginning measures to prevent the border conflict in Rakhine state and solving the crisis but standing firm with allied countries to prevent discord, pressure and unnecessary interventions from outside.

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State Counsellor: some success, but we are not home and dry yet

Q: Many many people, including those who would be sympathetic to you look at the situation and say why have you not spoken more? Is there an icon of human rights?
A: What do you mean by speaking out, Fergal, this question has been asked since 2013, when the last round of troubles broke out in Rakhine. And they would ask me quite legally why wouldn’t answer them and people would say I said nothing. Simply because I did not make the statements people wanted, which people wanted me to make, simply to condemn one community or the other.
Q: Well let me quote to you what your fellow Nobel laureates have said, despite repeated appeals to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to take action that is not only the responsibility of the Rakhine, but which are frustrated that she has not taken any initiative to ensure full and equal citizen rights to the Rohingyas.
A: Well that is their perception, but have they considered the fact that one of the first thing we did after we took over the administration was to go through the national verification process to give citizenship to all those who were entitled to it. And we started doing this and engaging in other development activities to bring about stability and harmony. A lot of the problems in the Rakhine State are due to the fact that resources are limited and both communities are anxious about how their lives are going to pan out. In October there were these totally unexpected attacks on police outposts for no reason we could think of... because we had started the citizenship verification process and the process of bringing people back from the IDP camps, and resettle them, but the whole thing went awry because those attacks took place. We had no idea why these attacks took place. But a lot of people prefer to ignore the fact that there is nothing at all.
Q: I have been there, on the ground, on a number of occasions, and I would say I am someone who recognises ethnic hatred and not ethnic cleansing when I see it, after Rwanda and the Balkans. Maybe the attacks took place because... there is a rising sense of frustration, and that has fed into the hands of the militants?
A: But as far as we could make out, at that time, the things were calm because people were waiting to see how are development plans would work and our nationality verification plan. If I wonder if these attacks were calculated to put a stop to this process.
Q: Wouldn’t the worst thing to do to clear up all of this, would be to allow an international fact finding mission to go there? To allow international agencies in?
A: We invited Dr. Annan and the commission to look into Rakhine before anything happened. Well this happened not because the UN asked for this, or any other body said we should have a fact finding mission, we invited Dr. Kofi Annan to form this commission and look into the problems in the Rakhine and help us to find long term solutions. We would very much like him to come back to see how we are getting on with the implementation of his recommendations.
Q: Would you be happy, would you appeal to those tens of thousands who have fled the country into refugee camps in Bangladesh to come back?
A: And you would tell them that they would be safe if they do?
Q: If they come back, they will be safe. It is up for them to decide, some have come back. And we have tried to find out why they fled. We have asked them why they fled and they said it is because of the fighting. They did not want to come back if there was still fighting. And you would welcome them back.
A: We welcome them. It is not a matter, we will welcome them back. They have been coming back. And those who have come back have been welcomed. If you worry that you will be remembered as the champion of human rights, the Nobel laureate who failed to stand up to ethnic cleansing in her own country?
A: No, because I don’t think there is ethnic cleansing going on. I think ethnic cleansing is too strong an expression to use for what is happening.
Q: It is what I think I see, there I have, to say. If Fergal I think there is a lot of hostility there, and as I pointed out now, it is Muslims killing Muslims, as well as they think they are collaborating with authorities. It is not just a matter of ethnic cleansing. It is a matter of people on different sides of a divide, and this divide we are trying to close up. As best as possible and not to widen it further.
Q: Do you think people in the west misjudged you or mischaracterised you or misunderstood you. Expecting to be this sort of amalgam of Mahatma Gandhi and Mother Teresa, for example, and actually maybe your closer to Margaret Thatcher.
A: Well No. I am just a politician. I am not quite like Margaret Thatcher, no. But on the other hand I am no Mother Teresa, either. I have never said that I was. Mahatma Gandhi was a very astute politician.
Q: He did put his own life at risk and ultimately tragically his life to protect his own minority Muslim population, was that an example you would not be tempted to follow?
A: I don’t think putting one’s life at risk is a particular example that I would like to follow. I would like to think that there are always ways to live up to my high principles.
Q: One last question. What would stop you now going to Rakhine State and talking to all communities and appealing for peace? On the ground yourself?
A: Because I want to give those who are working for the Rakhine a chance to show that they are capable of it. I think there’s not enough confidence in what our people are capable of doing.
Q: Do you worry that people who do not want you to change the constitution, who are embedded in the military, embedded in intelligence, are going to target you and the people round you?
A: Well it is not something I think about, because we were asked the same set of questions over the last 30 years since I started working for the NLD. I’m not concerned about an assassination, and all kinds of other dangers coming from the powers that be and from those who are in a position to engage in these activities. But it is not something you think about on a day to day basis, it’s just part of your job.—Myanmar News Agency

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE MV YUAN JIAN VOY. NO (0881)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV YUAN JIAN VOY. NO (0881) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.4.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIIT-2 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.

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE MV ANAN BHM VOY. NO ( )
Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHM VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.4.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIIP 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.

Extension of the closing Date of Invitation for Cooperation in the areas of Industrial Complex (Thaton) Under No.(3) Heavy Industries Enterprise, Ministry of Industry
Regarding to the invitation of Expression of Interest for Industrial Complex (Thaton) Under No.(3) Heavy Industries Enterprise, Ministry of Industry, the Closing Date is extended to 25th April, 2017 instead of 7th April, 2017 (Reference to the advertisement in the Global New Light of Myanmar dated 8th and 10th March, 2017)
The investors who interested in those cooperation are required to submit their Draft Proposal, in which mentioning kinds of business, to Technology Development Department No.(3) Heavy Industries Enterprise, Ministry of Industry, at Office No.(37) Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, not later than 4:00 pm Myanmar Standard Time on 25th April, 2017.
(For more information, contact No. 09 67 408355, 408129, 09 425269690)
DEPRESSION: LET'S TALK

Dr. Aung Soe @ Aung Kyaw Moe
Retired State Medical Superintendent

The above mentioned slogan is meant for World Health Day 2017 which falls on April 7. As the depression cases are on rise globally as well as in Myanmar, together with increased incidence of suicidal attempts, World Health Organization has chosen Depression as theme for 2017 World Health Day. psychiatric illnesses are fundamentally no different from medical illnesses. Historically, illnesses in which there was prominent disturbance of psychological function or behavior and no obvious pathology came to be regarded as 'psychiatric'. However, we now know that there is demonstrably altered brain function in many psychiatric disorders. We also know that psycho- logical disturbance is common in medical illness. Hence regarding psychiatric illness as 'mental' as opposed to physical is incorrect. psychiatric illness is no less real or less deserving of care than are medical conditions.

Diagnosis in psychiatry, as in much of medicine, is based mainly on identifying recognized patterns of subjective symptoms. These symptoms involve abnormalities of behavior, mood, perception, thinking and intellectual function. When severe, these abnormalities may lead to patients being a danger to themselves or to other people. This is recognized in law, and the manner in which our national brethren are not savoring the taste of Independence. Instead, it has been often heard that our ethnic people including children are being displaced from their locations due to these armed conflicts, or rather running for their survival. Our children are building up their edifices of hopes for brighter future with those from armed conflict areas losing their future. Seeing their sufferings gave us vicarious sufferings. Out of consideration of their sufferings, we want to give subsidies to our brethren and we want to give voluntary labor in developing their areas of the back-water of modernization. But armed conflicts beget hindrances of approaching those areas, which cause impossibilities to accomplish our hopes.

Perhaps suicidal attempts are the worst outcomes of depression most of which are fatal. Predisposing factors of depression are numerous. Genetic factors play an important role, such as a higher prevalence among first-degree relatives than in the general populations; a higher concordance rate in twins, even if the twins have been reared apart; a higher prevalence rate for children of mentally ill parents who are brought up by healthy adoptive parents.

Family background also plays a decisive role. Many patients with psychiatric disorders report an unhappy childhood and it seems likely that a traumatic upbringing predisposes to future psychiatric illness. Important factors are loss of a parent in childhood, due to either death or separation, parental disharmony and physical, especially sexual, abuse. Physical illness and chronic ill health too precipitate mental health. Both predispose to psychiatric disorder. There is an especially well-established link between brain injury and subsequent depressive illness. Physical illness of acute onset can give rise to psychiatric disorder due either to its effect on brain anatomy and physiology or to its emotional significance and implications for the patient's future well-being.

Stressful life events also give rise to mental illnesses in vulnerable people. They usually involve a sense of loss or threat of loss, and include death of a close relative, marital breakdown, redundancy, retirement and major financial crisis. Social isolation leads to psychiatric problems. Many psychiatrically ill patients are socially isolated and this often appears to be a contributory factor in their illness. Particularly important is the lack of a close, confiding relationship. Social deprivation is associated with various conditions, such as attempted suicide, alcoholism and drug dependence.

Some Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) were in touch with their family when I was conceived. A Medical Superintendent at General Hospital Myitkyina, Kachin State. As a health care provider, I noticed stress and strain, physical illness and chronic ailments which led to psychiatric health problems among community. Depression is present in a quarter to a half of all medical patients.Depressed mood is usually a consequence or adverse circumstances in vulnerable populations.

Many cases of depression in medical settings are missed. It is therefore important to ask all patients about symptoms. Depression is the main risk factor for suicide and patients with depression should be asked about suicidal ideas and plans. The first step in managing depression is to find out the patient's concerns and provide an appropriate explanation and reassurance. By removing the stigma of depression, it may emerge that he or she has an unjustifiably negative understanding of prognosis or treatment. If depression is persistent, specific treatment should be considered.

Deliberate self-harm (DSH) is a very common reason for presentation to medical services. The term 'attempted suicide' is potentially misleading in that the majority of patients are not ineptically trying to kill themselves. Most suicidal attempts are associated with extreme anxiety, despair, hopelessness, guilt, pain and despair of suicidal patients. Some Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) were in touch with their family when I was conceived. A Medical Superintendent at General Hospital Myitkyina, Kachin State. As a health care provider, I noticed stress and strain, physical illness and chronic ailments which led to psychiatric health problems among community.

Suicide attempts are more common in women than in men, and in young adults than in the elderly. In contrast, completed suicide is more common in men and in the elderly, although there has recently been an increased rate of suicide in young adults. There is a higher incidence of suicide attempts among the lower socio-economic groups, particularly those living in crowded, socially deprived urban areas. Patients often have a deprived family background and have struggled through suicide death or separation. There are also links with alcohol misuse, child abuse, unemployment and recently broken relationships.

Wish you all a very happy and prosperous new year and complete physical, mental and social well being free from depression.
MPA arranges for embarkation of ocean liners

THE Managing Director of Myanma Port Authority (MPA) under the Ministry of Transport and Communications and the Master Attendant of the marine department have made proper arrangements for ocean liners which have 190 meters length overall or longer to enter the Yangon River.

International cargo ship owners use large ocean liners in order to be cost-effective and to minimise costs. Despite having many ports to load and unload at Yangon port along the Yangon River, super ocean liners are not allowed to embark at the river port because of the low level of draft as well as of narrow width of the river. Thus, cargo ships are allowed to embark only at the river ports if they have not more than 167 meters overall in length.

Cargo ships with an overall length of 200 meters, including ocean-going cargo ships, international tourist cruises, naval ships and container ships have to wait outside the transitional anchor-age for docking at Thilawa Port for long periods of time. The cost of hiring cargo ships can be difficult because the ship’s owners are waiting to get a place at the port.

So, the Myanma Port Authority is finding a new route in the river and is also systematically dredging the river so that the cargo ships will be able to dock at the jetties in the Yangon River. The MPA is also doing what is necessary to safely dock MV Top Fair cargo ships at Thilawa Port and assign duties to the chief navigation a marine at the pilot station on 23 March.—GNLM

Agricultural loans for crop growers to be increased this FY

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation said it plans to raise the amount of agricultural loans for crop growers as of this fiscal year.

The amount of agricultural loans will be increased to Ks50,000 from Ks20,000 per acre of farmland through the Myanma Agricultural Development Bank as many crop growers were omitted at the time when the government increased its financial support for farmers, especially rice growers.

The authorities have no plans to raise the amount of farming loans per acre for rice farmers, but crop growers will be helped this financial year, according to an official from the Myanmar Rice Federation, which welcomes the new plan to enhance agricultural production.

30-mile greening project around Yangon City to continue this FY

A PROJECT for greening Yangon City and its environs in a 30-mile radius will be continued this fiscal year with the use of government budget funds, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

The ministry will carry out construction of irrigation facilities such as spillways, water channels and silt excluders in project areas including the Moeyungyi Wildlife Sanctuary, Shwekaung Dam and Salu Dam. The greening project has been implemented since 2013. Initially, authorities targeted development of 65,000 acres of paddy plantations in Kawa Township in Bago Region, Khayay, Thonewa and Kyauktan townships in Yangon Region. However, only about 9,000 acres of rice have successfully been planted in Kawa Township and more than 200 acres of paddy fields in Khayay Township.

Growers in Kyauktan Township are facing difficulties to cultivate summer paddy fields because of poor irrigation this season, while some summer paddy plantations were damaged in Thanlyin Township due to the shortage of agricultural water. About 1,880 acres of paddy plantations were developed in Thanlyin this year.—200

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Is it the Government policy not to carry the news of the demonstration by the Confederation of Trade Unions Myanma CTUM of the 26th March 2017 in the government printed media?

On the 27th of March, almost all the private news papers and journals ( 7Daydaily, The Voice, Democracy Today, Myanmar Times – Myanmar version, Myanmar Times – Eng, Eleven - Eng) carried the news of the demonstration by CTUM against the order of the Union Government that cut down the annual Thingyan Buddhist New Year Holidays from 10 days to five days on the printed media. MTV, RFA, VOA, BBC, Kamayut media all carried on the broadcast media.

As part of the demonstration, CTUM, which is the largest and only registered Confederation of Trade Unions requested the Union Government, when deciding on issues directly related to workers, to utilize the National Tripartite Dialogue Forum NTDF ( nine MOLIP+ nine UMFCCT+ nine Workers). The NTDF was formed in 2015 to develop good Industrial Relations and has been in use regarding the Labor Law Reform process, the Employment Contract Act.

We are surprised that the Global New Light of Myanmar, the Myanmar Alin as well as the Mirror daily / Kye Mon did not carry the news. We gave interviews to many reporters including the Government media – to explain the why of the Demonstration and for a solution.

CTUM notes that on 24th March 2017 the Myanmar Alin carried news and photo of Shwe Li Plastic factory workers demonstration in Pathein Gyi township, Mandalay.

This shows that the government printed media does carry workers protests but not any criticism on the government’s policies.

Are we still under a single party society that denies any and all objections to Gov policy ?

What happened to the Freedom of Expression and the Freedom of the Press?

A democratic, open society is not just the government and the Parliament.

For CTUM, denial of mutual respect to organized labor ( formed in accordance with the Myanmar Labor Organization Law), denying acknowledgement of established mechanisms designed to develop good Industrial Relations ( in accordance with the ILO standards), closing eyes to positive criticism, and, refusing space for respective stakeholders to work together for the betterment of all, IS NOT DEMOCRACY IN ACTION.

All of us contributed to the political transition. All of us had worked / are now working for the betterment of our country, each in its own sector. Most importantly, now that transition is here, CTUM calls upon all to “ Lend a hand play the game” to achieve our objective of an Open, Inclusive and Interactive society.

Pyi Thit Nyunt Wai @ Maung Maung.

POEM:

Because it’s Time

Fly the banner of Peace because it’s time.
Do you hear the cries of the Bones?
Do you see the Bird Ruffle off the burning ashes,
And soar into the azure sky?

Bury the hatchets because it’s time
our hearts were welded in love,
our hands entwined in friendship.

Tell the world that this is now our time.

Lay the foundation now
For the future of our children
because what a waste of Hate Bullets,
what a waste of the bloodshed of our brothers,
and our people in the throes of agony!

It’s time, dear Bros!

Zaw Tun

A female farmer harvests rice grown in irrigated field near Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: AYE MIN SAE

The Myanma Agricultural Development Bank is currently under the purview of the Ministry of Planning and Finance. Before April of this year, the bank was under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation. —200

DEAR EDITOR

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Pyi Thit Nyunt Wai @ Maung Maung.
Three Ministries hold press conference on one-year performance

THOUSANDS OF MYANMAR MIGRANT WORKERS APPLY FOR IDENTITY CARDS IN THAILAND

The Myanmar Embassy in Thailand warned Myanmar migrant workers to obtain a CI or face a risk of being deported. The CI is for migrants who have a Burmese ID card and makes bearers eligible to get a work permit in Thailand within 15 days after receiving a certificate of Identity issued by the Thai government. They are going to be arrested if they do not have a work permit in hand after 15 days from the date the certificate is issued when they are being investigate by the Thai authorities, said the Labor Attaché U Moe Aung Khaing of the Myanmar embassy in Bangkok.

The objective of the Certificate of Identity, or CI, is to identify all migrants in Thailand and register their workplaces. The CI will replace the current Pink Card as permission to stay in Thailand and makes bearers eligible to get the blue book work permit. All migrants in Thailand are required to obtain a CI or apply for a Burmese Passport.

The CI is for migrants who don’t have a Burmese ID card and household registration document at hand. A CI will allow migrants to travel freely in order to obtain necessary documents and ultimately apply for a Burmese Passport.

Last week, 37 migrant workers going back to Myanmar who held CIs were arrested in Mae Sot, Thailand because they could not show work permit documents. U Zaw Myo Htwe, an officer from Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in the CI centre helped the arrested to be freed.

“We requested Thailand immigration not to abolish their rights situation in Myanmar and apply for a CI,” said Dr. Myint Han, Director of the Department of Drug Control, to which the ministry is satisfied with the all regional development works it had conducted. The challenge to the ministry is the long term maintaining of the achievements together with the people.

Permanent Secretary U Hein Lwin replied to the questions on permission in the electric power and energy sector.

On the question of using Kyat 30 billion on lighting up Yangon, the Permanent Secretary said the fund was for a natural gas and diesel fueled generator that generated 25 megawatt. This is partial fulfillment of the power requirement in Yangon. It is to help provide for the requirement shortage in the summer time. This generator was purchased under the arrangement of Yangon region government.

Regarding the question on the CI, the Permanent Secretary said this was intended to supplement the power shortag-es during the summer time. But due to many causes, it could not be done this year and will be con-sidered again depending upon the situation of power distribution in the summer of 2018.

On the matter of increasing electricity charge, the Permanent Secretary said the matter of pro-duction cost was reported. Production cost by hydropower is cheapest while production cost with natural gas is higher. Programs are being drawn to provide cheap electrical power to the grass root level people. Once it is drawn up, it will be submitted to the parliament.

About the rates applied for individuals, the Permanent Secretary said different rates are used. Rates for the public are reduced as much as possible for the public to use while the rate for industries are at the level to recover production cost. Charging the same rate for both usages is not an international practice. For the sake of the public, we are taking time to calculate this.

National level committee was formed for the Myitsone hydropower project. Our ministry will see how the committee’s suggestion matches the government’s decision. We could improve our delivery of treatment together with the people.

The most notable performance by MOFA during the first year was the ending of the 25 years of draft proposal submission on human rights situation in Myanmar by the European Union. Similarly, outstanding successes were achieved in the increasing mutual understandings between the national leaders’ visits.

Questioned about future foreign policy, Permanent Secretary U Kyaw Zeya said new approaches is being tailored to come of the geological surveys, tendering for offshore blocks in 2017, the Permanent Secretary said this was intended to increase the on-shore blocks. The permanent Secretary said this was intended to increase the on-shore blocks.

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PARIS — France is still seeking a United Nations Security Council resolution on Syria, foreign minister Jean-Marc Ayrault said on Thursday, adding that diplomatic negotiations were a priority over possible military action.

A suspected chemical attack by government forces in Syria’s rebel-held Idlib province earlier this week, which killed at least 70 people, has sparked widespread criticism, including from US President Donald Trump.

Ayrault told CNSNews television that France was pursuing a UN resolution condemning the attack and trying to convince allies to back it, in spite of pushback from Russia.

“France is still seeking to talk with its partners on the Security Council, especially the permanent members, and Russia in particular,” Ayrault said.

He was more cautious on whether or not France, one of the main backers of the Syrian opposition to President Bashar al-Assad, would contemplate a military intervention if the United States decided to take action and ruled out stepping in for now.

Trump said on Wednesday that Assad’s government had gone “beyond a red line” with the poison attack on civilians, but did not detail how he might respond.

US ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley warned that countries “could be compelled to act.”

“The first stage is to get a resolution vote and above all to re-start peace negotiations in Geneva. It is not to go in ourselves, under the pretext that the US President may have a rush of blood to the head, and get onto a war footing,” Ayrault said, asked whether France would join any possible US military operation.

Ayrault added that the US response on Syria was still unclear, and that he was getting mixed messages from his counterpart, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis.

“They’re not saying the same thing,” he said.

France has repeatedly said that Assad cannot be part of a credible solution on Syria as part of peace talks, and along with Britain renewed its call this week for the Syrian president to leave office.

“His crimes cannot remain unpunished. The day will come when international justice will have its say on Bashar al-Assad,” Ayrault said.

Assad tells paper he sees no ‘option except victory’ in Syria

DAMASCUS — Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said there is no “option except victory” in the country’s civil war in an interview published by the Syrian state news agency SANA on Thursday.

The interview with the Croatian newspaper Vecernji List appeared to have been conducted before US President Donald Trump accused Assad of causing “many, many lines” with a poison gas attack on Tuesday.

Assad was not asked about the chemical attack in the northwestern Syrian town of Khan Sheikhoun, a text of the interview published by the Syrian state news agency SANA showed. The government has strongly denied any role.

More than six years into the Syrian conflict, Assad appears militarily unassailable in the areas of western Syria where he has shoved up his rule with decisive help from the Russian military and Iranian-backed militias from across the region.

The interview published on Thursday underlined Assad’s confidence as he reiterated his goal of bringing greater; and this hope is built on confidence, for without confidence there wouldn’t be any hope. In any case, we do not have any other option except victory,” he said.

“If we do not win this war, it means that Syria will be deleted from the map. We have no choice in facing this war, and that’s why we are confident, we are persistent and we are determined,” he said.

More than 70 people, including at least 20 children, were killed in the chemical attack on Tuesday.

The US administration says the deaths were caused by a leak from an arms depot where rebels were making chemical weapons, after it was hit in a Syrian air strike. Rebels deny this.

Rebels have in recent weeks launched two of their boldest offensive in many months, attacking in Damascus and north of the government-held city of Hama. The army says both assaults have been repelled.

Syria’s President Bashar al-Assad speaks during an interview with Croatian newspaper Vecernji List in Damascus, Syria, in this handout picture provided by SANA on 6 April 2017. Photo: Reuters
Big miners have trouble joining technology revolution

SANTIAGO/LONDON — Mining companies chasing the kind of technological breakthroughs made long ago in the manufacture of cars and mobile phones have veiled eye-catching innovations ranging from vast drills and remote-controlled trucks to second-by-second data analysis.

“Behind the scenes, however, there has so far been limited progress towards a transformation the companies say is more and more vital to their survival.

They are being jolted into action by volatile commodity prices and the increasing difficulty and danger of accessing remaining reserves in hot, narrow seams several kilometers below ground.

“There’s a big awakening in mining. The time is ripe for things to begin to change,” Anglo American’s head of technology development Donovan Waller said by telephone.

Waller said by telephone.

The mines’ productivity is particularly sensitive to changes in the price of the precious metals they produce and represents a potential threat to the mining sector.

It means horn acquired legally remains in place, which is regulated by a UN convention, and electric fencing.

Ministries and departments

The document offically from MOGE will be evaluated.

ROGER MOGEB we hereby announces an extension for interested parties to designate an Authorised Representative and to the following address:

MOGE Tender Committee for Joint Venture Establishment in Petroleum Services, Complex 44, MOGE Office, Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Interested parties are now invited to submit a second round of questions regarding the RFP and comments on the draft Joint Venture Agreement no later than 12 PM (noon) local time (Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar), on April 26, 2017. MOGE will hereby announces an extension for interested parties to submit their Applications. The Applications shall be submitted no later than 3 PM, local time (Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar), on May 17, 2017 to the following address:

MOGE Tender Committee for Joint Venture Establishment in Petroleum Services, Complex 44, MOGE Office, Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Interested parties are now invited to submit a round of questions regarding the RFP and comments on the draft Joint Venture Agreement no later than 12 PM (noon) local time (Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar) on April 26, 2017. A revised draft Joint Venture Agreement will be issued together with the response to this round of questions, taking into consideration comments received from both the first and second rounds of comments on the draft Joint Venture Agreement.

MOGE also hereby announces an extension for interested parties to designate an Authorised Representative and a Back-up Representative no later than 12 PM (noon) local time (Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar), on April 26, 2017. Any updates to the Joint Venture Partner Selection Process shall be communicated through the designated Authorised Representative and Back-up Representative and published on the official website for the Joint Venture Partner Selection Process (www.moge.my).

The RFP may still be purchased by an interested party no later than 12 PM (noon) local time (Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar), May 25, 2017. A purchase request may still be submitted by an interested party no later than 12 PM (noon) local time (Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar), on May 25, 2017. A revised draft Joint Venture Agreement will be issued together with the response to this round of questions, taking into consideration comments received from both the first and second rounds of comments on the draft Joint Venture Agreement.

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Interested parties who have well experience in provision of fuel across Myanmar and meet the above mentioned criteria are invited to submit proposal to UNICEF Office, No. 23-A, Inya Myaing road, Shwe Taung Gyaw Ward (2), Bahan Township, Yangon on or before 10:00 am (local time Yangon/Yangon) 10 May 2017. Late receipt of the proposal shall be rejected.

The RFP form can be collected at UNICEF office on or before 28 April 2017. For detailed information, please contact Ms. El Cho Nyunt, Supply Officer, UNICEF, Tel: 01 230-596 Ext: 1563, E-mail: enyunt@unicef.org

SAO PAULO — Brazil’s President Michel Temer’s landmark pension reform would not pass the Lower House of Congress at it stands, according to a survey of lawmakers published by newspaper Estado de S.Paulo on Wednesday.

Not even a watered-down version of the constitutional amendment, which is considered key for Brazil to plug a widening budget gap, would muster enough votes to clear the house, the daily said. The reform, submitted last year to Congress, sets a minimum age of retirement for both women and men of 65 years and demands more years on the job for workers to gain full pension benefits.

Those points and others to limit benefits are criticized by lawmakers who face elections next year and are calling to ease some requirements that are already facing stiff resistance from unions and public servants.

Brazil’s pension system is one of the world’s most generous and expensive with many workers retiring in their early 50s with full benefits. A watered-down proposal would be rejected by 242 lawmakers with only 92 in favour, the survey shows. The amendment needs 308, or three-fifths of the house, to pass.

A special lower house committee is expected to vote on the proposal this month before it heads to the floor.—Reuters
Construction starts on world’s highest power transmission in Tibet

LHASA — Construction started Thursday on the world’s highest power transmission project in southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region.

The 1.62 billion yuan (2.35 billion US dollars) project includes the construction or upgrade of 16 110-kv substations and transmission lines, with a total length of 2,738 km. The average altitude is 3,750 meters, with the biggest altitude gap of 494 meters between two adjacent transmission towers. The project also includes power supply facilities for the railway between Lhasa, the regional capital, and Nyingchi. The Lhasa-Nyingchi section of the Sichuan-Tibet railway began construction in December 2014.

Shu Yunbiao, chairman of the State Grid, said the project would ensure stable power supply and assist with the transmission of Tibet’s clean energy to other places.

Currently, the backbone grids in Tibet are not all interconnected, resulting in unstable operation.

The complicated grid project will be completed in 2018. From 2011 to 2015, the State Grid spent 27 billion yuan building key power projects, connecting Tibet’s grids to those of Sichuan and Qinghai provinces and enabling 480,000 people in Tibet to have power.

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Nissan Jidosha Kabushiki Kaisha (also trading as Nissan Motor Co., Ltd.), a company incorporated in Japan and having its registered office at No.2, Takara-cho, Kanagawa-ku, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa-ken, Japan is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademark:

**Reg. No. 4/2580/2017 (14.3.2017)***

In respect of “Industrial oils and greases; lubricants; dust absorbing, wetting and binding compositions; fuels [including motor spirit] and illuminants; candles and wicks for lighting; industrial oil; industrial grease; Lubricants; Motor Oil; Lubricating grease; Castor oil for industrial purposes; Fuel” included in International Class 04.

“Mufflers for motors and engines; Grease rings [parts of machines]; Cylinders for motors and engines; Plinots for cylinders; Belts for motors and engines; Oil pans; Cylinder heads for engines; Cylinder head covers; Engine covers; Crank shafts; Pulleys [parts of machines]; Crankcases for machines, motors and engines; Exhaust manifold for engines; Intake manifold; Filters [parts of machines or engines]; Filters for cleaning cooling air, for engines; Air cleaners for engines; Fans for motors and engines; Oil coolers; Sparking plugs for internal combustion engines; Radiators [engines]; Gaskets for engines; Filters and internal combustion engines; Igniting devices for internal combustion engines; Superchargers; Turbochargers; Generators of electricity; Compressors [machines]; Hydraulic controls for machines, motors and engines; Pumps [parts of machines, engines or motors]; Alternators; Valves [parts of machines]; Piston rings; Starters for motors and engines” included in International Class 07.

“Clothing, footwear, headgear; Belts [clothings]; Caps [headwear]; Hats; Vests [headwear]; Scarfs; Neck scarfs [mufflows]; Shawls; Neckties; Overalls; Work clothes; Motorists’ clothing; Jackets [clothings]; Knitwear [clothings]; Parkas; Shirts; Pullovers; Sweaters; Neck warmers [clothings]; Wristbands [clothings]; Gloves [clothings]; Shoes; Ear muffs [clothings]; Headbands [clothings] included in International Class 25.

“Games and playthings; gymnastic and sporting articles not included in other classes; decorations for Christmas trees; Radio-controlled toy vehicles; Light and sound toys; Plush toys; Scale model vehicles; Toy vehicles; Toys and playthings in the form of replica helmets; Divot repair tools [golf accessories]; Golf tees; Golf bags, with or without wheels; Skis, Balls for games; Billiard equipment; Jigsaw puzzles; Chessboards; Chess; games; Playing cards; Video game machines; Sports equipment” included in International Class 28.

“Advertising; business management; business administration; office functions; Retail or wholesale services for vehicles, structural parts and fittings therefor; Dealerships in the field of vehicles; Sales promotion for others; Compilation of information into computer databases; Systemization of information into computer databases; Advertising and publicity services for vehicles; Import-export agency services; Providing information about land vehicles, namely, consumer product information and price comparison information; Information services, namely, providing price-comparison information in the field of fuel; Commercial information and advice for consumers [consumer advice shop]; Administration of consumer loyalty programs; Organization of exhibitions for commercial or advertising purposes; Organization of trade fairs for commercial or advertising purposes” included in International Class 35.

“Insurances; financial affairs; monetary affairs; real estate affairs; Accident insurance underwriting; Brokerage for hire-purchase; Credit and cash card services; Financial information; Financing services; Issuance of credit cards; Used automobiles appraisal; Insurance of land vehicles; Providing of comprehensive warranty services for land vehicles, structural parts and fittings therefor; Extended warranty insurance services; Factoring; Lending against security; Loans [financing]; Automobile lease financing; Leasing of vehicles; Debit card services” included in International Class 36.

“Transport; packaging and storage of goods; travel arrangement; Transportation information; Car transport; Vehicle rental; Vehicle breakdown towing services; Passenger transport; Providing information relating to the transportation of goods and passengers; Information services relating to transport, namely, providing best forecast route guidance, voice routing, location assistance and convenience services to drivers through components integrated into land vehicles; Car parking; Leasing of vehicles; Transport brokerage; Chauffeur services; Collection, transport and storage of used parts of land vehicles; GPS navigation services” included in International Class 39.

Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the Mark shall be dealt with according to law.

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The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Dated 7th April 2017

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TRADEMARK CAUTION

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“Laboratory apparatus and instruments; laboratory devices for genetic testing; optical analyzers; foods analyzers; chemical composition analyzers; gas analyzers; telecommunication devices and apparatus; electronic machines, apparatus and their parts; computer operating programs, recorded; downloadable computer programs; computer software, recorded; downloadable electronic publications featuring computers or computer programs; computer software for use in medical data management, recorded; downloadable computer programs for use in medical data management; apparatus for consumer games adopted for use with an external display screen or monitor; measuring or testing machines and instruments; electronic publications” in Class 9.

“Medica apparatus; and instruments; blood analyzers for medical purposes and their parts; automated biochemical analyzers for medical purposes and their parts; diagnostic apparatus for urine analysis and their parts; medical apparatus for measuring glycated hemoglobin and their parts; medical apparatus for determining osmotic pressure and their parts; blood gas analyzers for medical purposes and their parts; medical apparatus for drawing blood samples; blood glucose meters and their parts; sensors for monitoring blood glucose level as part of blood glucose meters; puncture apparatus for blood drawing and their parts; lancets; lancets for blood drawing; blood test apparatus and instruments; pH; apparatus and instruments; apparatus and instruments for testing tympanic membranes; prosthetic or filling materials, not for dental use; electric massage apparatus for household use; gloves for medical purposes; urinals for medical purposes; bed pans; contraceptives, non-chemical, ear picks” in Class 10.

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Sheena Easton debuts at West End in ‘42nd Street’ musical

LOS ANGELES — Grammy award-winning artist Sheena Easton has made her West End debut in the musical “42nd Street”, with Britain’s Duchess of Cambridge Kate Middleton, actor Morgan Freeman and tennis coach Judy Murray attending the show’s premiere.

The musical follows a Broadway director named Julian Marsh as he attempts to put on a successful theatrical production in the middle of the Great Depression. Easton plays Peggy Marsh, one of the chorus line in the show, who takes over as the lead when the star actress breaks her ankle.

Produced by Johnny Hon and directed by Mark Bramble, “42nd Street” is famous for songs like “Dames”, “We’re In The Money” and “I Only Have Eyes For You”.

It is not the production’s first showing in London, having run in the West End from 1984 to 1989. A relatively unknown Catherine Zeta Jones performed in the chorus line in 1984.— Reuters

Trump defends Fox News host O’Reilly as ‘good person’

NEW YORK — US President Donald Trump on Wednesday defended TV anchor Bill O’Reilly after a report that the conservative commentator and his employer, 21st Century Fox, paid five women to settle claims he sexually harassed them.

“I think he’s a person I know well — he is a good person,” Trump said of O’Reilly in an interview with The New York Times.

The Times reported over the weekend that Fox and O’Reilly paid $13 million to five women who accused him of sexual harassment. O’Reilly, in a statement posted on his website on Saturday, said he had been unfairly targeted because of his prominence.

“I think he shouldn’t have settled; personally I think he shouldn’t have settled,” Trump told the Times on Wednesday. “Because you should have taken it all the way. I don’t think Bill did anything wrong.”

Fox News is a unit of 21st Century Fox. Several companies have pulled ads from O’Reilly’s Fox News show “The O’Reilly Factor.”— Reuters

‘Your Name’ draws modern love film from ancient poem

LOS ANGELES — A thousand-year-old Japanese poem inspired filmmaker Makoto Shinkai to create “Your Name,” an animated story that weaves love and time travel into what he called a message of hope for Japanese millennials.

“Your Name” (Kimi No Na Wa) follows Mitsuha, a young girl fed up with living in an idyllic rural Japanese village, and Taki, a teenage boy in Tokyo. The two find themselves waking up randomly in each other’s bodies.

Shinkai, speaking in Japan, told Reuters that he drew from poet Ono no Komachi’s words written centuries ago in which she described meeting a lover in a dream and waking up feeling sad.

In “Your Name,” Taki and Mitsuha live each other’s lives, leaving notes on their cell phones of their experiences, but when Taki tries to find Mitsuha, his fate takes a fantastical turn as time bends into alternate realities.

The film opens in US theaters on Friday after topping the Japanese box office in 2016 with nearly $215 million, according to film tracker BoxOfficeMojo.com.

Shinkai, 44, the filmmaker behind 2013’s “The Garden of Words,” said he wanted to make a movie aimed at younger Japanese audiences in which “they can believe in their future.”

“I created this movie hoping that younger audiences would believe that ‘maybe there is the one in my life I might have not met yet but hopefully will see tomorrow or in the future,’” he said.

The juxtaposition of Mitsuha’s rural, traditional lifestyle with Taki’s modern city life was something Shinkai said he drew from his own life, growing up in a small village and later moving to Tokyo, a city that he said “feels like almost a different country” within Japan.

“I think it is one of the common themes for many Japanese people to choose where to live, Tokyo or their hometown,” he said.

Shinkai has been hailed as the successor to animator Hayao Miyazaki, the Studio Ghibli co-founder behind films such as “Howl’s Moving Castle” and “Spirited Away.” But Shinkai said that while he was “honored and flattered” by the comparison, “people are overestimating me.”

“Miyazaki has a great talent, but I really struggle every time I make more animation films, which cannot be the same as his but created in a different way for my audience.”— Reuters

Ciaran Hinds to play Steppenwolf in ‘Justice League’

LONDON — “Game of Thrones” actor Ciaran Hinds has confirmed that he will play villain Steppenwolf in superhero team-up movie “Justice League.”

In an interview with The Independent, Hinds suggests that his performance as Lot in his 1981 movie “Excalibur” may help him get the role.

“They were great fans of ‘Excalibur’, Zack and his team,” says Hinds, addressing “Justice League” director Zack Snyder.

“Maybe that’s how I got the role (in ‘Justice League’)? Who knows?”

Hinds reveals that he will play Steppenwolf through motion capture, which means that his character will be mostly computer-generated except for his eyes and mouth.

“Basically they’re going to construct something, digitally, and then they will use my eyes and mouth. He’s old, tired, still trying to get out of his own enslavement to Darkseid, but he has to keep on this line to try and take over worlds,” says Hinds.

In DC comics, Steppenwolf is a member of Darkseid’s elite. He once leads an army to conquer the Earth in the name of Darkseid.

“Justice League” is scheduled to be released in US theaters on 17 November.

The movie will feature Ben Affleck as Batman, Henry Cavill as Superman, Gal Gadot as Wonder Woman, Ray Fisher as Cyborg, Amy Adams as Lois Lane, Ezra Miller as The Flash, Jesse Eisenberg as Lex Luthor and Willem Dafoe as Nudis Vulko.— PTI
New York’s Eleven Madison Park voted world’s best restaurant

MELBOURNE — New York’s Eleven Madison Park nabbed the top prize at the World’s 50 Best Restaurants on Wednesday, only the second non-European restaurant to win the gong. The restaurant over-looking Madison Square Park was praised for its sense of fun in blending a creative tasting menu with gracious hospitality. It rose from third place last year, overtaking Italy’s Osteria Francescana and Spain’s El Celler de Can Roca.

“We get to help people celebrate some of the most important moments in their lives or give them the grace to forget something for a moment,” said co-owner Will Guidara on receiving the top gong with Swiss-born chef Daniel Humm. The restaurant, where Humm’s prized dish is celery root cooked in a pig’s bladder, has just extended its lease for another 20 years and will close for three months for an overhaul.

“We’re about to embark on a completely new journey,” Guidara told reporters, calling the prize a fitting end to the first phase of Eleven Madison’s journey. Since the inception of the award in 2002, California’s French Laundry is the only other non-European establishment to claim the top prize. It won in 2003 and 2004.

The top 10 included two Peruvian restaurants, Central, which slipped to no.5 from fourth place last year, and Maido which climbed to no. 8 from 13.

Peru is becoming a dining hot spot as the country has so many terrains at different altitudes for creative chefs to gather ingredients, one of the voters for the award, German food writer Christoph Teuner, told Reuters.

The only Asian restaurant in the top 10 was Bangkok’s Gaggan, where owner-chef Gaggan Anand has created a modern take on his native Indian cuisine by deconstructing favorites like samosas and tikka masala.

Spanish continued to dominate the line-up with three restaurants in the top 10, including Mugartiz, while France had only one restaurant in the top 10 — Mirazur in the southeastern town of Menton.

Rounding out the top 10 was Vienna’s Steirereck, housed in a glass cube, where freshwater mountain fish is cooked at the table in hot beer cans. The list was created by William Reed Business Media, and the gongs are now as coveted as Michelin stars.

Danish restaurant Noma, in the top 10 for nine successive years and winner of the award four-times, dropped out of the list as chef Rene Redzepi has closed the restaurant while moving it to a new venue in Copenhagen.

There are no criteria for putting a restaurant on the list, which is based on a poll of more than 1,000 chefs, food critics and other industry insiders spread across 26 regions. Each member gets 10 votes and at least four of those votes have to be for restaurants outside their region.—Reuters

Rome turns to cost-saving LED lighting but some residents unhappy

ROME — Rome is investing millions of euros in environmentally friendly, cost-saving LED street-lighting, but some residents unhappy.

The city’s electricity company Aecar says the new lighting will improve visibility fully installed by the summer’s end, will cut carbon dioxide production by 350,000 tonnes, will cut petrol consumption by 180,000 tonnes, Paolo Fioroni told Reuters. “This is a great step forward in terms of technological advancement and energy efficiency,” he said. While the conversion is carried out, some central piazzas are now illuminated partly by the older soft light bulbs, encased in romantic glass, and partly by the brighter LED glow.

Not all residents prefer the former, even if it is more aesthetically pleasing.

“I am more than happy, I find there is more light in this area and above all there is a real saving in energy level,” said shop owner Luca Candolo. “It was about time.”—Reuters

Photo exhibition on ‘Peace Ambassador’ students begins in Nagasaki

NAGASAKI — A photo exhibition on a group of Japanese high school students seeking the abolition of nuclear weapons opened Thursday in Nagasaki.

The High School Student Peace Ambassadors will mark the 20th anniversary of their foundation next year. They have given speeches and submitted petitions in support of their goal at UN offices.

The exhibition at the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum will last until 23 April. Admission is free.

The student group was formed by civic groups in Nagasaki and Hiroshima in 1998 when India and Pakistan conducted nuclear tests. The students traveled to the UN headquarters in New York at that time. They have since visited the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva every August to deliver signatures for nuclear disarmament. Some 200 students had assumed the post of ambassador by last year.

Around 30 pictures are displayed at the museum including those showing the students collecting signatures in the street and their representative delivering a speech at the UN Conference on Disarmament in Geneva in 2014.

“Survivors of the atomic bombings (in Nagasaki and Hiroshima) will disappear someday,” Sakae Shimohira, an 82-year-old A-bomb survivor in Nagasaki, said at the opening of the museum, “I hope the (ambassadors) will continue to deliver messages on the cruelty of atomic bombs and wars in place of us.”—Kyodo News

A series of stuffed animals stolen by Jason Hopwood during a burglary in Wimbledon are seen after they were recovered, in an undated Metropolitan Police photograph handed out in London, Britain, on 5 April 2017.

A series of stuffed animals stolen by Jason Hopwood during a burglary in Wimbledon are seen after they were recovered, in an undated Metropolitan Police photograph handed out in London, Britain, on 5 April 2017. Photo: Reuters

Stuffed menagerie, complete with lions, recovered from UK burglar

LONDON — A British burglar who stole 18 stuffed animals including lions, a giraffe and a snarling chimpanzee in a top hat and tie has received a suspended jail sentence, police said on Wednesday.

The joey, which also included a stuffed rhinoceros, a crocodile, a sloth, a zebra, a penguin and a pink flamingo, belonged to a licensed taxidermy company and was worth about 100,000 pounds ($124,850) in total, police said.

Jason Hopwood, 47, had pleaded guilty to burglary and fraudulent use of a registration plate. He was sentenced to 21 months in jail, suspended for two years, and ordered to do 200 hours of community service work.

The animals were stolen in March last year from a warehouse in Wimbledon, southwest London. After receiving an anonymous tip-off, police found an abandoned van in Essex, east of London, with all 18 animals inside and sticky patches where fake number plates had been attached.

Hopwood’s van was subsequently identified as the van’s owner.

“Cataloguing and exhuming the stolen items was a truly unique and memorable experience, and this is certainly an investigation which will stay with me for years to come,” said Detective Constable Stuart Goss of London’s Metropolitan Police.—Reuters
BRISBANE — A barrage of aces can be expected in the second rubber of Australia’s Davis Cup quarter-final against the United States in Brisbane on Friday after Nick Kyrgios was drawn to play John Isner in singles.

Australian Kyrgios, who has beaten Novak Djokovic twice and taken Roger Federer closer over the last month on the back of some brilliant serving, is tied for third place with the tall American on the ATP leaderboard with 218 aces this season.

The clash between world number 16 Kyrgios and the 23rd ranked Isner will follow Jack Sock’s first meeting with 22-year-old Australian Jordan Thompson on the hardcourt of the Pat Rafter Arena.

“I’m looking forward to getting back here and having some home support,” said Kyrgios, who had to deal with a hostile crowd when he lost to Federer in March last week. “I feel comfortable playing second. I’ll be out there for some of Thommo’s match and I think it’s a good match up with him against Sock.”

Another Australian big server, Sam Groth, will team up with John Peers to take on Sam Querrey, who is no slouch in the service department, and Steve John- son in Saturday’s doubles before the reverse singles on Sunday.

The two countries have 60 Davis Cup titles between them but Australia have not won since they bagged their 28th crown in 2003, while the U.S. snared their 32nd a decade ago. Isner has a 2-1 record against Kyrgios after beating the 21-year-old in their first two meetings at the Canadian and Madrid Masters tournaments in 2015 before losing in two tight sets in Paris last year.

“Right now, a lot of people could argue he’s playing maybe the best tennis he’s ever played,” Isner said of Kyrgios. “I think he’s got to deal with a hostile crowd to five sets I think it would make for a pretty cool atmosphere out there at the very least.” —In form Sock, the highest ranked player in the tie at world number 15, will be going into the unknown all week-end as he has never previously faced Kyrgios either.

Thompson gets his chance to represent his country for a second time in the absence of Bernard Tomic, who declined to play the tie. Australia captain Lleyton He- witt was confident the world num- ber 79 would be able to cope after winning both his singles matches in the first round tie against the Czech Republic.—Reuters

Brazil top FIFA rankings for first time in seven years

ZURICH — Five-times world champions Brazil have returned to what they will consider their right- full place at the top of the FIFA rankings for the first time in seven years. Brazil have enjoyed a impres- sive revival since Tite replaced Luiz Felipe Scolari as their national team coach last year, winning all nine matches they have played under his lead- ership including eight World Cup qualifiers.They continued their run in March with a 4-1 win in Urugu- uay and 3-0 win over Paraguay in March.

The 2014 World Cup winners have returned to the top place in Russia with four games to spare.

Brazil, who replaced arch-rivals Argentina at the top, previously led the rankings going into the 2010 World Cup where they were elimi- nated by the Netherlands in the quarter-finals.

Since then, they have suf- fered a string of embarrassments, with elimination by Paraguay at successive Copa America tourna- ments in 2011 and 2015 and their

inafamous 7-1 loss to Germany in the 2014 World Cup semi-final. Argentina lost their place after last week’s 2-0 defeat in Bolivia which has left them struggling to qualify for the 2018 World Cup. Four of the top five teams in the rankings announcement by FIFA on Thursday, are from South America.

Chile are fourth, Colombia fifth and Germany sandwiched in be- tween in third. Egypt are Africa’s best-placed team in 19th while

Asia’s top side are 28th-placed Iran.

Top ten rankings (previous month’s places in brackets)

1. Brazil (2)
2. Argentina (1)
3. Germany (3)
4. Chile (4)
5. Colombia (7)
6. France (6)
7. Belgium (5)
8. Portugal (8)
9. Switzerland (11)
10. Spain (10)—Reuters

Kompany pleased with City display despite Chelsea defeat

LONDON — Manchester City captain Vincent Kompany believes his side put up a dominant display in their Premier League clash against leaders Chelsea despite losing 2-1 at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday.

Fourth-placed City con- trolled possession and had more shots on target than their oppo- nents. However, a first-half brace from Eden Hazard helped Chel- sea retain a seven-point lead at the top of the standings.

“Obviously, we are not happy but I can’t say I’m disappointed with the performance,” Kompany told reporters. “We are disappointed we couldn’t win the game.

“Other than that, it was a good performance. Physically, we stood up to the challenge and we dominated the game.”

Kompany, who played 90 minutes in a league game for the first time in a year, said City were ready to fight for a top-four finish to qualify for Champions League next season.

City will also face Arsenal in an FA Cup semi-final on April 23, which is their only hope for a silverware in manager Pep Guar- dial’s first season at the club.

“Regarding our position, it will be a fight until the end for us,” Kompany added.

“Our target (now) is Cham- pions League and hopefully, getting to the final of the FA Cup,” —Reuters

Manchester City’s Vincent Kompany in action with Chelsea’s Diego Costa during Premier League at Stamford Bridge, on 5 April 2017.

Photo: Reuters

Pacquiao to fight Australia’s Horn in July

BRISBANE — Filipino great Manny Pacquiao will defend his WBO welterweight title against unbeaten Australian Jeff Horn in Brisbane in July after a bout with Amir Khan fell through, local media re- ported.

“We’re not able to fight Amir Khan because of Ram- adan, so we decided to take this fight in the interim,” Pacquiao’s adviser Michael Koncz said in comments pub- lished by News Corp media.

“We signed it, so yeah, we’re excited about it. But again, my preference was to fight Amir Khan. That didn’t work out. We had this on the table so we decided to take it.”

Eight-division world champion Pacquiao agreed to an April fight against Brit- on Khan in the United Arab Emirates but his promoter Bob Arum said last month it had been postponed after the $38 million offer for the bout failed to materialise.

Manchester Pacquiao of the Philip- pines gets ready for the start of a round during his title fight against WBO welterweight champion Jessie Vargas at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas, Nevada, US, on 5 No- vember 2016.

Photo: Reuters

The 2 July fight against Horn will be the 38-year- old Pacquiao’s first since his unanimous decision victory for the title over American Jessie Vargas in Las Vegas last November.

“Manny will train and do the best he can and hopefully we get the fight over with very quickly, we get out of there, we say ‘hi’ to the Australi- an fans and media and come home,” Koncz said.

“Frankly and honestly, Jeff Horn is not that good — I’ve never met the kid, I don’t know him personally — but the name recognition is I guess why the fans picked Amir Khan.” —Reuters

Nick Kyrgios of Australia hits a forehand against Roger Federer of Switzerland (not pictured) during a men’s singles semi-final in the 2017 Miami Open at Brandon Park Tennis Center Miami, FL, USA, on 31 March 2017.

Photo: Reuters

John Peers to take on Sam Quer- ry in round of 16 at Rome Open.

Photo: Reuters

Thommo fans could get a rubber of a round during his title fight against WBO welterweight champion Jessie Vargas at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas, Nevada, US, on 5 No- vember 2016.