

NATIONAL

President U Htin Kyaw receives Japanese PM's Special Advisor

PAGE-3**NATIONAL**

State Counsellor attends 72nd Anniversary of the United Nations Day

PAGE-3**NATIONAL**

VP U Henry Van Thio receives Japanese PM's Special Advisor

PAGE-9

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Wednesday, 25 October 2017



Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe (Left) gives thumbs up to his Bangladeshi counterpart Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan following a signing in Nay Pyi Taw agreeing to 10 points of bilateral cooperation between the two neighbouring countries. **PHOTO: AUNG SHINE OO**

Myanmar, Bangladesh to cooperate on border security

THE Ministerial Meeting on Border Security and Law Enforcement Cooperation between the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Ministry of Home Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was held at the Horizon Lake View Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. After the ministerial meeting from 9am to noon, the Pre-Coordination Bilateral Meeting on the Senior Official Level was held.

Discussed at the meeting were strengthening border security, law enforcement cooperation, counter-terrorism, establishing border liaison offices, identification for entry and exit, illegal border crossing, verification of citizenship, narcotic drugs control and repatriation after the verification process for refugees in Bangladesh. Both countries agreed to adopt 10 points of bilateral cooperation between the two ministries.

The meeting was attended by H.E. Lieutenant General Kyaw Swe, Union Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs, Major General Aung Soe, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs, Police Major General Aung Win Oo, Chief of Myanmar Police Force, the Permanent Secretary and Directors General from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office of the State Counsellor, Ministry

of Labour, Immigration and Population, Ministry of Planning and Finance. From the Bangladesh side, H.E. Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan, Minister for the Ministry of Home Affairs, Permanent Secretaries, Director General from the Bangladesh Police, Major General Abul Hossain, Director General of the Bangladesh Border Guard Police and the Senior Officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

SEE PAGE-9

Peace is at hand: UNFC

PEACE in Myanmar is "an arm's length away", a member of the group representing armed ethnic groups that have yet to sign the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement said yesterday.

The Delegation for Political Negotiation (DPN), an association representing armed ethnic groups formed by the United Nationalities Federation Council (UNFC), held its seventh meeting the Peace Commission at the National Reconciliation and Peace Center (NRPC) on Shweli Road in Yangon yesterday morning, after which participants said they are close to an agreement on a comprehensive ceasefire. The revelation was made when representatives from the two sides met with local and foreign media immediately after yesterday's meeting.

The following are the essence of the answers provided by U Zaw Htay of the Peace Commission and Nai Aung Ma Ngay and U Tun Zaw of the DPN. The meeting is centred around an eight-point agenda that specifies certain negotiating points.

The eight-points of the UNFC amendment proposal are:

1. Bilateral ceasefire agreement between the government-military and the UNFC;

SEE PAGE-7

BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

Awarded by FinanceAsia 2017

2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 6th session 3rd day meeting

Aung Ye Thwin,
Aye Aye Thant
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

THE 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 6th Regular Session held its 3rd day meeting at the meeting hall of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

On the matter of using Ks28.14 billion from the emergency fund of the 2017 Union Budget Law sent by the President, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr Tun Naing said the Ministry of Electricity and Energy is implementing works to provide electrical power to meet increasing usage as well as to deliver electrical power to far-off places where ethnic nationals live.

These works includes the 230 KV and 66 KV transmission line and substation projects that will support the socio economic development of ethnic Rakhine nationals. Starting from December 2014, 155 villages in 11 townships of Sittway, Ponnagyun, MraukU, Kyauktaw, Kyaukpyu, An, Yanbye, Thandwe, Ngapale, Taungup and Maei were provided with electricity.

As for now, with an aim for regional security and development in Rakhine State, there is a requirement for 65.03 miles of power line along Ponnagyun, Yathedaung, Buthidaung and Maungtaung and three 66 KV substations to provide 24 hours electricity to the remaining townships of Yathedaung, Buthidaung and Maungtaung townships. The plan is to supply electricity by completing 22.6 miles of 66 KV Ponnagyun-Yathedaung power line and Yathedaung substation on March 2018, 33.5 miles of 66 KV Yathedaung-Buthidaung power line and Buthidaung substation on June 2018 and 8.93 miles of 66 KV Buthidaung-Maungtaung power line and Maungtaung 66 KV substation before end 2018.

An estimated Ks30.35 billion



Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye. **PHOTO: MNA**

will be used for the 66 KV power lines and substations projects. Ks4 billion for the 66 KV power line and substation to be constructed in this fiscal year were being applied to be included in the emergency fund. Once the hluttaw approves the request for emergency funds, construction work will be implemented quickly, said the Deputy Minister.

Once these 66 KV power line reach Buthidaung and Maungtaung, Ks5.75 billion had been requested from the emergency fund to connect 17 villages in Yathedaung Township, 11 villages in Buthidaung Township, 15 villages in Maungtaung Township totalling 43 villages with 107 miles of 11 KV power line, 45 miles of 400 volt line and construct 53 units of 11/0.4 KV 100 KV transformer as well as to transport and install a 300 KVA diesel generator in Zedipyin Village, Yathedaung Township.

A maximum of about nine months is required for tendering, material collection and construction of these works. A request for emergency funds was made as these works are to be completed by March 2018. Once these works are completed Yathedaung, Buthidaung and Maungtaung towns as well as 44 nearby villages will have 24 hours electricity and will support the regional security and develop-



Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr Tun Naing. **PHOTO: MNA**

ment and thus the request for an emergency fund was made said the Deputy Minister.

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye and Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin then explained further about using Ks281.36 billion from the emergency fund.

Next, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced Hluttaw putting on record the allocation of Ks281.36 billion for four works: one for Ministry of Electricity and Energy; two for Ministry of Construction and one for Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

Refilling the deficit of the State Budget

U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance said, "Refilling the deficit of the State Budget with local and foreign loans is a procedure exercised by global countries. In Myanmar also, successive governments refilled additional budget deficits with local loans after calculating foreign loans and subsidies. Previously as well, annual loans were received from the Central Bank of Myanmar, but it was decided and managed by the Government only. Now, if the the Central Bank of Myanmar wants to lend money to the



U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance. **PHOTO: MNA**

Government, the Central Bank of Myanmar has to lend the money with the approval of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw under section 91 of the Central Bank of Myanmar Law, hence the submission to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for the Central Bank of Myanmar to get the approval of the Hluttaw."

He added, "Borrowing money from the Central Bank of Myanmar will not affect directly making the monetary volume and national circulation money amount increase directly, but rather indirectly. However, getting loans from external institutions can directly affect making monetary volume and national circulation money amount reduce. For this, to refill the deficits of the Union Government's Allocation Account for FY 2017-2018, the programme to borrow Ks1.2 trillion from the Central Bank of Myanmar was put forward so that it can be approved."

In regard to the submission, U Soe Thein, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar continued to discuss.

Following that, the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw got the decision of the Hluttaw by the use of buttons for voting, announcing that Hluttaw approved the matter with 568 votes in favor, 5 votes against and 5 failures to vote. Afterward, U Soe Thein clarified concerning the report of

implementation of monetary policy, FY 2015-2016 and the report of stability of monetary system, followed by the announcement that Hluttaw put on records, discussions of Hluttaw representatives and clarifications of the CBM including the reports.

In addition, U Hset Aung, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance explained about the report of performances of Myanmar Investment Commission from 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017.

After that Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw announced the approval of clarifications of the respective Union-level organization member and discussions of parliamentarians including the report of the performances. Then parliamentarians discussed concerning Myanmar's signing BIM-STEAC Convention sent by the President of the State.

Concerning for Myanmar to sign the third multi-lateral investment treaty's amendment, Daw Htu May of Rakhine State constituency 1 said: "The treaty was signed in February 2009 and approved on 29th March 2012, with a view to creating a free, frank, smooth, transparent and competition-accessible environment in ASEAN region and strengthening the benefits of investors based on ASEAN region. ASEAN Multi-lateral Investment Agreements are of great importance for ASEAN circle, and Myanmar. As the ASEAN Economic Community, different types of South East Asia was designed to become a Single Market, become a strong competitive economic zone, upgrade fair economic development in the region and to take part in global economy. Multilateral Investment Treaty should be assessed in comparison with economic policies of ASEAN countries."

Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw announced the approval after taking the decision of Hluttaw. ■

Speaker U Win Myint receives outgoing UN Resident Coordinator

SPEAKER of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint received UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Renata Dessallien who had completed her tour of duty at the guest room of Pyithu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw on 24 October at 2:30 pm.

During the meeting, matters on promoting cooperation between UN organizations and Myanmar, democracy transition in Myanmar including development process for Hluttaw, regional peace and stability and works

on socio-economic development were discussed. Also present at the meeting were Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat and officials from the office of Pyithu Hluttaw. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint holds talks with UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Renata Dessallien in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



President U Htin Kyaw receives Japanese Prime Minister's Special Advisor Mr. Hiroto Izumi in Nay Pyi Taw on 24 October 2017. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

President U Htin Kyaw receives Japanese PM's Special Advisor

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw received Japanese delegation led by Mr. Hiroto IZUMI, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Japan at the diplomatic hall of the Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw on 24 October at 11:00 am.

During the meeting, matters on bilateral relation and co-operation and projects which will be undertaken in Myanmar with the assistance of Japan were discussed.

Also present at the meeting

were Union Ministers U Thant Sin Maung, Dr. Myint Htwe, U Kyaw Win, U Kyaw Tin, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, U Min Thu, Deputy Minister for the President's Office and officials. —Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi shakes hands with Japanese Prime Minister's Special Advisor Mr. Hiroto Izumi in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Japanese Prime Minister's Special Advisor

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar received His Excellency Mr. Hiroto IZUMI, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Japan on 24th October

2017 at 9:30 am at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed matters on bilateral relations and cooperation. —Myanmar News Agency ■

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attends 72nd Anniversary of the United Nations Day

A RECEPTION to commemorate the Seventy-Second Anniversary of the United Nations Day was held in the evening of 24 October 2017 at Thingaha Hotel Grand Ballroom in Nay Pyi Taw.

The occasion was graced by the presence of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar; Union Ministers, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Deputy Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, Directors-General, Chairmen and members of the Hluttaw committees on International relations, Ambassadors/Heads of the Diplomatic Missions in Yangon based in Myanmar, the United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator Ms. Renata Nicola Lok-Dessallien and Heads of the United Nations agencies in Yangon, Honourary Consuls, and responsible officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrives to attend 72nd Anniversary of the United Nations Day in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Ms. Renata Nicola Lok-Dessallien, United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, delivered their remarks on the occasion, and

it was followed by the video clip presentation of the United Nations activities and the cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations.—Myanmar News Agency ■

UNFC to sign NCA after breaking last deadlock on November-8

FOLLOWING the second day of the 7th meeting in Yangon yesterday, the Peace Commission and the Delegation for Political Negotiation-DPN of the United Nationalities Federal Council-UNFC are hoping to sign the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement after both breaking a last deadlock on November-8 meeting.

“Most of the eight points we proposed have been agreed by both sides. But, for number 5th-point, we need to negotiate with the Tatmadaw personnel and also in DPN side. After that, we will negotiate again with the PC on November-8 meeting,” said Nai Aung Ma Ngay, deputy leader of the DPN.

Signing the NCA is the ninth-point comes after eight points proposed by the UNFC.

“Current level both sides reach today is not the level of debating, but the level of commitment made by both sides to

overcome the challenge. The best situation,” said U Zaw Htay, representative of the Peace Commission.

Regarding the proposed No. sixth by UNFC to include international observers in Joint Monitoring Committee, both sides agreed to move forward in the form of the JMC Support Platform.

The JMC Support Platform will be implemented following the NCA signing with UNFC.

The peace makers will review strong and weak points of the Joint Monitoring Committee next week at the NRPC in Yangon as a step toward better peace process.

In the first day meeting on Monday, DPN proposed a better way for discussion to UPDJC in order that both sides can move forward with a new way which is believed to be better than current one. —Ye Khaung Nyunt ■

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Harvesting combines arrive in Rakhine State

THE terrorist attacks in Rakhine State that began on 25 August and prompted an exodus have made the harvest of rainy season paddy crops a challenge, which is why the Agriculture Mechanisation Department has arrived to assist with 24 combine harvesters.

These harvesters began to arrive in Sittway on 17th October with 53 drivers and mechanics for the machines from the Agriculture Mechanisation Departments of Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Nay Pyi Taw.

The harvesters, drivers and mechanics continued to Maungdaw on 24 October.

The Agriculture Mech-



Agriculture Mechanisation Departments provide twenty-four combine harvesting machines to harvest paddy crops in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: AGRICULTURE MECHANISATION DEPARTMENT**

anisation Department will open seven stations to harvest the ripe paddy crops of

20 village tracts in Maungdaw Township.

The harvesting process

will start at the beginning of November. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Cash assistance for families of police killed in Buthidaung

PROVISIONS of cash to family members of security officers who were killed in the extremist terrorist attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) on 25 August were made at the community hall of the Lanmadaw Monastery in Buthidaung Township on Monday.

The assistance is to acknowledge those last police forces who sacrificed their lives for their country and its people in the face of terrorist attacks. This provisions are for surviving family members remaining in Buthidaung Township. Provisions will also be made for surviving family members in Maungdaw Township, said Wai Hin Aung from the Wai Hin Aung



Wai Lu Kyaw provides cash assistance for families of police in Buthidaung Township on 23 October 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

philanthropic group.

The Wai Hin Aung and Wai Lu Kyaw philanthropic groups provided Ks300,000 to each family of the nine policemen killed

in Buthidaung Township, and also presented one ambulance to the Anaut Tagar social rescue association in Buthidaung. —Tin Tun (IPRD) ■

Stimulant tablets and opium seized

A combined squad including police from Bhamo Myoma Police Station searched Myint Oo's house in Kanni Village, Kyun Gyi village tract in Bhamo Township and seized 680 stimulant tablets and 5.3 grams of opium from his bag on 21 October.

Similarly, authorities seized 5,000 stimulant pills and Ks33,000 from Zaw Naing Htway, also known as Fatty, Thiha Maung and Sai Thura Naing, also known as Ko Sai, while searching Holly Wood KTV on 35th Street between 60th and 62nd Street in Nagar Ward, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay on the evening of 22 October. On the same evening at about 10pm, a police squad searched a passenger bus at the Thaze combined inspection gate in Kalaw Town and found 20,000 stimulant tablets and a hand phone in Myo Zaw Lwin's luggage.

Police have taken action against them under the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. —Myanmar Police Forces ■



Myo Zaw Lwin. **PHOTO: MPF**

Tourists visit along Chindwin River by Cruise Ship

A luxury cruise ship, R.V Anawrahta was cruising from 19 September to 28 October along Chindwin River carrying 26 foreign tourists who will get the experience of the natural charm and culture of regions along Chindwin River.

The tour was organized by the Ministry of Hotel and Tourism and Trails of Indochina Travels & Tours Co.,Ltd.

During the tour, R.V Anawrahta Cruise will offer fascinat-

ing travel plans including visits to Yangon-Mandalay-Yaysagyo, Amyint Ywa, Monywa, Muhtaw village, Thinhaw village, Mauk Kataw, Kalaywa, Kalay, Kintat, Sitt Thauang, Phaung Pyin, Homlin, Mawlite, Kyitaung Oo, Pho Win Taung, Shwe Ba Taung, Monywa, Bagan, Yangon and Mandalay. The tourists group will depart from Yangon and Mandalay International Air Port on 29 October. Besides, under the arrangement of Trails

of Indochina Travel Company, twenty five New Zealand foreigners toured with Anawrahta Cruise Ship along Chindwin River from 6 October to 15 October. Due to the improving socio-economic conditions and transporting infrastructures more tourists are coming to enjoy the riverine cruise along Ayeyawady, Chindwin rivers and other historical places.—Ministry of Hotels and Tourism ■

MRF to conduct short and long-term projects for development of rice sector in Rakhine State

May Thet Hnin

THE Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) will set up short and long-term projects in an attempt to effectuate the development of the rice sector in Rakhine State, said U Ye Min Aung, the general secretary of MRF.

The paddies in Rakhine State are due to be harvested next month, but many paddy owners fled, were captured or killed following the terrorist attacks of 25 August. For the same reason, the paddies also lack labourers, which would mean damage or destruction of crops due to neglect. Therefore, the MRF has stepped in and will concentrate on dealing with this time-sensitive problem.

"There are 30,000 to 40,000 acres of paddy each in Buthidaung, Maungtau and Yathedaung townships. As a priority activity, we will provide grain machines, tractors and grain dryers. We will sell the fertilizer at a cheap cost. Also, we will purchase the paddy, setting a price," said U Ye Min Aung.



Ethnic women harvesting rice in a paddy field in Maungtau on 23 October 2017. PHOTO: TIN MAUNG LWIN

"We will carry out the activities under the supervision of state government. It is better that the government handles ownerless farms, as this might raise unnecessary accusations when the owners emerge. We will help harvesting activities for farms which have owners", he said.

In a bid to help develop the

agriculture sector, the MRF will open Agribusiness Services centres in the Kyauktaw, Sittway and MraukU areas within three years, providing contract farming and seed production drying storage and processing, fertilizer and agrochemicals and farm mechanisation service.

Additionally, the MRF will

also establish Agri Food Park on 500 acres of land in Buthidaung Township for value-adding to agro products. In addition to the rice sector in Rakhine State, the MRF will study the production of other crops and the livestock sector. Then they will conduct a feasibility study with international organisations that will determine in

which sector investment is best.

To implement those activities, the MRF will organize Rakhine Agribusiness Public Co. (RAPC) by end of this year. About Ks50 billion is allocated to be spent on RAPC, with capital from MRF and local and international loans. Those activities are meant to support the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) led by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. The MRF cooperates in the development of the rice sector, said U Ye Min Aung.

"Dependency culture is good for a brief period. We need to make investments in capital goods and infrastructure in order to effectuate the development in this sector", he added.

Beyond self-sufficiency, Rakhine State's rice is sent to other areas. There are around 1 million acres of rain paddy plantations, whereas only 10,000 acres are found during summer paddy season due to the lack of irrigation projects from dams and rivers. ■

Japan investments in Myanmar: \$717 million and counting

SINCE the 1988-89 fiscal year, Japan has put foreign direct investments of an estimated \$717 million into Myanmar with 96 projects, according to the Myanmar Investment Commission. The fiscal year of 2015-2016 marked the highest amount of investment with \$219 million.

The manufacturing sector at Thilawa Special Economic Zone has drawn Japanese investments totalling \$183 million so far.

The 13th Joint Meeting of the Japan-Myanmar Business Cooperation Committee between the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UM-FCCI) and the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry was held last Monday.

At this meeting, U Zaw Min Win, the chairman of UM-FCCI, invited Japanese businessmen to invest in agriculture,

livestock, offshore fishing and small- and medium sized enterprises.

Moreover, he suggested that investments in electric power generation, transportation, inland and international port construction, and technology are likely to reap the most benefits.

Mr. Yoichi Kobayashi, chairperson of Japan-Myanmar CCI Business Cooperation Committee, said that Japanese entrepreneurs are interested to invest in Myanmar, but Myanmar still lacks adequate economic infrastructure. Union Minister U Kyaw Win for Planning and Finance remarked that FDI statistics showed Japan's investment in Myanmar is still weak.

"We expect this meeting will find a way to promote Japan's investments", U Kyaw Win said.

Bilateral trade between Ja-

pan and Myanmar in the first five months of the current fiscal year has reached over US\$756 million, comprised of exports worth about \$360 million and imports worth \$396 million, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Myanmar's edible oil crops, rubber, green grams, sesame seeds, rice and broken rice, honey, fishery products and apparel from the garment sector using the Cutting-Making-Packaging (CMP) system are exported to Japan, while capital goods such as machinery, intermediate goods such as raw materials and consumer goods from Japan are imported into the country.

Bilateral trade values were about \$2 billion in 2016-2017 FY, \$1.8 billion in 2015-16 FY, \$2.3 billion in 2014-2015 FY, \$1.8 billion in 2013-2014 FY, \$1.5 billion in 2012-2013 FY and \$822 million in 2011-2012 FY. — Ko Htet ■

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သတင်းစာများကို ဤဆိုင်များတွင်ဝယ်ယူဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

- Market Place by City Mart (6.5 Mile)
- Market Place by City Mart (Damasidi Road)
- Market Place by City Mart (Junction City)
- City Mart (Aung San Stadium)
- City Mart (47th street)
- City Mart (Yankin)
- City Mart (China Town)
- City Mart (Myay Ni Gone)
- City Mart (FMI)
- City Mart (Junction Square)
- City Mart (Junction Maw Tin)
- City Mart (Sule Square)
- City Mart (Star City - Thanlyin)
- City Mart (Waizayandar)
- City Mart (Hledan)
- City Mart (Myanmar Plaza)
- City Mart (Junction 8)
- City Mart (St. John)
- Ocean North Point (9 mile)
- Ocean Shwegonedine

Ocean City SUPERCENTER **City Mart** Supermarket

SMEs and Variety of Myanmar Business



ACCORDING to the statistics of the SME Development Department, the Ministry of Industry, SMEs occupied 90 percent of the businesses which are driving Myanmar economy, at a conservative estimate, and its job creations amounted to 99.6 percent.

SME, that is, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises play an important role of the national economy and it is also a major driving force of the development. Moreover, it is occasionally called the industry that can bring about social development of equality.

SMEs include farmers, growers, producers, wholesalers, retailers, those who transport these produce and products and the ones who give services concerning these, for the goods to reach consumers in their respective sectors along with "Supply Chain."

On the nation-wide scale, there are 48,778 privately-owned SMEs registered at the Department of Industrial Supervision and Inspection, the Ministry of Industry, out of which 6,651 exist in Yangon Re-

gion, the top of the totem pole. At the department, enterprises have been categorized into 13 sectors—foodstuff, textile, lodging, house-hold utensils, literature and artistic industry, raw material industry, mineral process and production, agricultural and farming equipments, vehicular manufacturing, electrical equipment production, general industrial workshops. Among them,

ural resources, and hence job opportunities may increase by producing them into high-valued products through the uses of modernized techniques. Now that economic unification among global countries became an opportunity, Myanmar has opportunities for SMEs to develop due to more access to Global Supply Chain, which is the process of global production, trade and services,

them."

Difficulty to acquire monetary capital and technical knowhow, weakness to penetrate into local and international markets, lower standards in skills on production, inability to get news and information with changing times, weakness of departments which will help in servicing for economic development, lack of infrastructures, weakness in creating fundamentals of potential de-

duction so as not to meet supply shortage, poor knowledge and skills in package sector, little knowledge on market economy."

Strengthening Local Market

Exotic imports, especially foodstuffs have advantages as they are produced much under the nature of market competition production cost will be much lower and they can be distributed more broadly than local products.

Local products are being produced only a few numbers, so their production cost will be great. Even though they are equal in quality with exotic imports, local products cannot compete with foreign ones. Nearly it must be said that survival of most of internal SMEs wholly depends upon over 50 million people of the nation.

Moreover, under the current situation while the country is trying to link with global markets, it is a matter of great importance for SMEs in the nation to hold strong places in local markets too.

Some say that the plan must be promptly implemented so that Myanmar consumers use Myanmar products in trust. But they assert that it cannot be performed SMEs alone.

Only if policy-makers use skills on manipulation of the process and simultaneously economic enterprises which are leading in local and foreign markets help by cooperating wholeheartedly, for successful implementation of the process, will local SMEs be able to get strong markets internally and promptly develop as hoped.

SMEs

with the establishment of Myanmar-ASEAN Economic Community.

Challenge for SMEs

Challenges and difficulties coincide with advantages in launching SMEs. U Pyi Nyein, Manager of Business Development, Thuriya Win Company which produces "Flying Dragon Tea Leaves" said, "Acquisition of power supply was a major problem for us in manufacturing dried tea-leaves. Yet, later on we have already had power supply to some extent. As we use oil for power generator and electricity alternately, it costs us much less than ever. But, compared to cost in other countries, we cannot compete them in prices due to our overhead cost. For example, supposing that it will cost K 200 for one kilogram in Vietnam, it will cost in Myanmar K 400 per one kilogram. That is why it is difficult for us to compete with

developing types, voidance of reasonable tax and special privileges and lack of chances for competition of equality are challenges and disadvantages SMEs are now confronting.

Experts on marketing conclude that designation of standardized price of local products is a major necessity for products of local SMEs to get a place in international markets. Currently, so as to deal with the existing problem, the government and civil societies are trying their best. Meanwhile, SMEs are mainly relying upon local markets, confronting challenges of similar goods in quality which are coming from alien markets.

Daw Hnin Le Wai, Assistant Marketing Manager of City Mart Holding Limited which has been working hard to achieve a market place in global markets since 2013 said, "Challenges include weakness in sustainable pro-

foodstuff industry reached the top of the registration. The statistics of the industrial supervision and inspection department, under the Ministry of Industry shows that it outnumbered 58.5 percent of all registered industries.

Opportunity for SMEs

Myanmar is rich in nat-



Peace is at hand: UNFC

FROM PAGE-1

2. To build a federal union with result achieved from 21st Century Panglong Conference (21CPC);
3. Agreement of tripartite dialogue composition;
4. Drafting and promulgation of constitutional law based on the outcome of 21CPC;
5. Advance agreement on Military Codes of Conduct (CoC) and monitoring on Terms of Reference (ToR);
6. Formation of military Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) with representatives from government, EAOs and international figures acceptable to both parties;
7. Formation of a neutral, enforcement tribunal for NCA involving domestic and international law experts and judges that are acceptable to both parties; and
8. Developmental projects to be tackled according to Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), in cooperation with the public and the EAOs. (Source: UNFC Documentation)

Q: Please explain to the people the outcome of today's meeting.

Naing Aung Ma Nge: Number five, the basis for a solution, is achieved. Number six is very close to being agreed upon. For number seven, only a few points are left for it to be concluded. Looking at these eight points, two thirds have been overcome.



U Zaw Htay. PHOTO: MNA

We are within an arm's length away. Discussions with the Peace Commission had reached an encouraging stage for the peace process. We will soon reach the time (destination) we are expecting to reach.

Q: What is the result and status of the meeting?

Naing Aung Ma Nge: Today's meeting is not completed yet. It is hard to estimate how much it will be completed tomorrow. Proposal number five under discussion is still not concluded. It doesn't mean it is far from being concluded. Basic agreements were reached. We only reached number seven now.

Q: What is your view on today's meeting?

U Tun Zaw: We start discussing from number five. One to four was completed in the sixth meeting. Five is about format and JMC (Joint Monitoring Committee). On policy matters and programmes in implementing deployment of forces, some titles (subjects) remain (to be discussed) and a proposal was made to conduct this in a joint



Naing Aung Ma Nge. PHOTO: MNA

session format with the participation of responsible personnel. In the current meeting, the Tatmadaw side is not ready to discuss in a joint session format. On our side, we provided the titles to be discussed. We discussed five. After six, we reached seven. Negotiations will continue tomorrow. In today's meeting, we were able to discuss some parts in detail. It can be said as discussing parts we disagreed on in order to agree. We could not exactly say how many remains from the eight points that are being discussed. There is still a day left to discuss.

Q: Which number is having difficulty?

U Zaw Htay: It could not be said a certain number is have difficulty. We are going along the DPN path. Groups that had signed the NCA are reviewing the implementation. After the second anniversary of signing the NCA on 15 October, the government side discussed with PPST (Peace Process Steering Team) leaders and advisers. Both sides were reviewing the shortcomings in implementing the NCA. On Octo-



U Tun Zaw. PHOTO: MNA

ber 25, 26 and 27, we will discuss with NCA signatory groups. What I mean is there is two parts in our country's peace process. One part is ceasefire and another part is political discussion. It is the first experience for both. There are ToR (terms of reference) and CoC (code of conduct) that were drawn up with (each group's) own ideas. When it is implemented, there are some that will work out but in some, when political discussion is conducted, may not be as ToR. It will have to be adjusted as time goes by. Discussion was made with the DPN on the first eight proposed points. When these are agreed upon, the NCA will be signed as point number nine. We are repeatedly discussing these nine points. We reached a stage of agreeing in principle. After agreeing in principle, we discuss in detail the worries of both side.

This discussion is truly required. Only when everything is completely discussed can there be no problem (when implemented). We are taking time on this.

Q: What is the difficulty of

both sides and what is the policy difficulty?

U Zaw Htay: There are two parts from the government side. There are ethnic armed groups that had signed the NCA. There are groups like UNFC that are still discussing. The opinion of the NCA signatory groups had to be considered. The idea of international participation was under consideration for discussion in JICM. Implementation in review is also included. On policy, Tatmadaw and the government's view is a peace process based on NCA. This was also officially announced. Thus, it could not deviate or go beyond NCA. When exact agreements are wanted, we have to make sure it is not deviating or going beyond the NCA and this is causing some delay. All is going along with the peace process. The main destination is federal democracy and (we believe) it will be achieved.

Q: Is there a plan to be flexible on the eight points proposed by the UNFC?

U Tun Zaw: There is nothing that the UNFC is holding on to. In the sixth meeting, one to four was completed. All was not completed in a way the UNFC wanted. We have made many concessions. But concessions need to be made by both sides. It could not be one-sided. In discussion of points five to eight, both sides needed to make concessions and come to an equilibrium point. Once this equilibrium point is reached, we will reach the aimed destination.— Myanmar News Agency ■



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From collective contributions towards national strength

Khin Maung Oo

BY nature, Myanmar people are never reluctant to donate and when they donate they do so lavishly. When they make offerings to the Sangha, they present offertories to the Buddhist monks with three kinds of “cetana” or good will. When Buddhists make donations, they have this feeling of goodwill (Cetana) before the act of donation, during the donation and after the donation. We believe that if the act of donation is done in this way, we will get full benefits of our good deeds in this lifetime and in the lifetimes to come. In addition to making offerings to the Buddhist monks, we also make offering to the Five Infinite Ones (in Burmese language we call them Anandaw Ananda Ngabar). Those who constitute the Five Infinite Ones are the Buddha, the Dhamma, the Sangha (order of Buddhist monks), Parents and Teachers. From early childhood, Buddhists are taught to pay respects to the Five Infinite Ones as well as those who are older than us. When we walk in front of our teachers

or parents, we are all taught to bow our heads and walk with eyes cast downwards. We pay the same kind of respects to our elders who are older than us. That is why in times of natural disasters like hurricanes, typhoons, earthquakes or man-made calamities like what has happened in the Rakhine State, the Myanmar people have never been hesitant to make donations or take part in volunteer services.

To our great delight and pleasure, we saw collective mass contributions. We would like to repeatedly make acclamations, “Well-done, Well-done, Well-done.” (Sadhu, sadhu, sadhu) for the contributions made by the local business leaders and entrepreneurs. Contributions are being provided to be used for providing humanitarian assistance, resettlement, rehabilitation and development in Rakhine State. In supporting regions and those who are greatly in need, under the current situation, Rakhine Region is to be placed in the top of the priority list, as it urgently needs our help and support.

The collective mass donation ceremo-

ny can be said to be not only ordinary donation but also contributions for spiritual, mental and cooperative support which will help national development, progress and peace. In the past people assumed that it was the task of the government alone to work for peace and development; but now people of great wealth have come forward to co-operate with the government. This is the first-ever milestone of co-operation between the government and powerful and wealthy entrepreneurs.

The present contribution is the first one done after the invitation on October 12 to join in the contribution to the project to be launched by the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine State chaired by the State Counsellor.

After making a request to the people, internal NGOs, CSOs and entrepreneurs to take part, such contributions started to come in. State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi invited the people of Myanmar at home and abroad, UN Agencies, financial institutions such as World Bank and

Asian Development Bank, INGOs such as the Nippon Foundation and other friendly countries to help in providing humanitarian assistance and development of Rakhine State in her speech delivered on 12 October 2017.

Myanmar hoped for support moral rather than material support in inviting international donations, that is, hoping to get their sound advice and suggestions plus their professional expertise.

The present contribution is the preliminary launch, and it can be said that a good foundation has already been built for the successful implementation of the Union Enterprise through the concerted efforts of the three main pillars—the people, the government and the private sector. Accordingly, we deeply invite our well-wishers to come forward with good ideas, suggestions and active participation to cooperate with the UEHRD for peace and development in Rakhine State. We know that challenges are great but the genuine and sincere “Cetana” of the Myanmar people is far greater. ■

Create rural jobs for youths to stem flight to cities, says UN

INDUSTRIAL and service sectors in South Asian and African cities have not grown enough to meet the demand, and won't absorb the millions of new job seekers wanting to escape grinding poverty and hunger in their rural homes, says a report.

Young people growing up in rural Africa need jobs where they live, so they are not forced to join the growing ranks of poor seeking work in cities or to make dangerous journeys to reach Europe, the United Nations' food agency said on Monday.

By 2030, there will be about 1.3 billion 15 to 24 year olds on the planet, some 100 million more than in 2015.

Most of that increase will be in rural areas of sub-Saharan Africa, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said at the launch of its annual State of Food and Agriculture report.

Industrial and service sectors in

African and South Asian cities have not grown enough to meet the demand, and won't absorb the millions of new job seekers wanting to escape grinding poverty and hunger in their rural homes, FAO said.

“In Africa, every year 10 to 12 million youths join the labour force, but we have only been providing about 3

million jobs ... So it is not a surprise that they try to cross the desert and the Mediterranean looking for a better opportunity,” said FAO director-general José Graziano da Silva.

Rural areas are not doomed to be poverty traps and could thrive with more invest-

ment in farming and food industries and better infrastructure linking farms and rural businesses to meet the rising demand for food in cities, the report said.

“People can get out of poverty even if they stay in rural areas,” said Marco Sanchez-Cantillo, acting director of

People can get out of poverty even if they stay in rural areas.

Marco Sanchez-Cantillo, acting director, Agricultural Development Economics Division, FAO



Workers dry the paddy grains at a village in Kangyidauk, Ayeyawady Region. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH**

FAO's Agricultural Development Economics Division. “There are parts of the world where rural transformations have lifted hundreds of millions of people out of poverty,” he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Countries in East and Southeast Asia have been able to boost incomes in both cities and the countryside in the past 20 years.

“In Vietnam most of the rural poor have exited poverty while staying in rural areas ... Latin America has many examples too,” he said.

As urban populations grow, so will their demand for food, so farmers need to produce more at a time when climate change is bringing erratic rains and af-

fecting crops in many parts of the world, the U.N. agency said.

Currently 80 percent of food in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia is produced by small-scale farmers, according to FAO. With the right kind of investment in rural infrastructure and farming, young people could find jobs on farms but also in food processing, transport and storage.

In June, several African governments pledged to restore degraded land, invest in agriculture and create “green jobs” for young people in a drive to reduce unemployment, fight radicalisation, and stem the tide of migration to Europe.—Thomson Reuters Foundation ■

Myanmar, Bangladesh to cooperate on border security

FROM PAGE-1

A total of 45 people were in attendance. After the meetings, a Memorandum of Understanding on Security Dialogue and Cooperation was signed by Maj. Gen. Aung Soe, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs, and Mr. Mostafa Kamal Uddin, Permanent Secretary of Home Affairs of Bangladesh.

Police Brig. Gen. Myo Swe Win, Chief of General Staffs, Myanmar Police Force and Maj. Gen. Abul Hossain, Director General of Bangladesh Border Guards also signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Establishment of Border Liaison Offices (BLOs) between Myanmar and Bangladesh. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Voices from meeting between Myanmar and Bangladesh

U Kyaw Zeya, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

“Both sides mainly discussed establishing the border liaison offices, promoting information exchange and understanding between the two countries and formation of joint working groups. Our side mainly discussed going through the process step by step, especial-

ly in the information exchange sector. We also discussed the agreement between Myanmar and Bangladesh signed in 1992 and four agreements between immigration official level meeting between the two countries in 2000.

U Tin Myint, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs

Both sides discussed matters related to solving amicably the issues of the rule of law, security and drug trafficking and border issues. Our meeting also touched on the issue of repatriation of refugees who fled from Myanmar to Bangladesh following the attacks by ARSA terrorists. The meeting also focused on solving the bilateral issues in accordance with international rules and regulations because both are neighbouring countries. The repatriation issue would be discussed by the State-level meeting. I can not say how many people would be repatriated, but that would be carried out based on the National Verification process of the Immigration and Population Ministry.

Both sides also agreed to cooperate in fighting terrorism and opening border liaison offices, especially in Maungdaw and the border areas, fighting illegal migration through borders, and fighting drug trafficking. —Kyaw The Ein, Kyaw Hteik Soe ■



Memorandum of Understanding on Security Dialogue and Cooperation is signed by Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Aung Soe and Mr. Mostafa Kamal Uddin. **PHOTO: MNA**



Vice President U Henry Van Thio holds talks with Mr. Hiroto IZUMI, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Japan in Nay Pyi Taw on 24 October, 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

VP U Henry Van Thio receives Japanese PM's Special Advisor

VICE President U Henry Van Thio received Mr. Hiroto IZUMI, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Japan and party at the diplomatic hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on 24 October at 4:00 pm.

During the meeting, development of Dawei Special Economic Zone which will be cooperated between Myanmar and Japan, and projects on regional development were discussed.

Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint, Tanin-

thayi Region Chief Minister Dr Le Le Maw, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr Tun Naing, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Hset Aung and officials attended the meeting. —Myanmar News Agency ■

19th National Congress of CPC completed

THE closing ceremony of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China was held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday.

President Xi Jinping was re-elected as General Secretary of the Communist Party by the new Central Committee during the ceremony.

The Communist Party elected new central committee candidates and also enacted matters concerning New Silk Road in the constitution.

In the ceremony, President Xi Jinping said that the Party will continue to set up China as a modernised socialist country.

The Congress takes place every five years. The 19th National Congress opened on 18 October. —Myanmar News Agency



The closing ceremony of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China being held in Beijing, China. **PHOTO: MNA**

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their works to the Global New Light of Myanmar at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon or by email to dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Real name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.). — Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar news office

Yangon General Hospital receives YHT Commemorative Blue Plaque

By Ko Moe

THE prominent Yangon General Hospital in downtown Yangon received a commemorative Yangon City Heritage Blue Plaque on Tuesday.

This Blue Plaque marked 19th plaque of the Yangon Heritage Trust.

The city's first General Hospital, located across the street

at the site of Junction City Complex, had become too cramped for the number of patients it was treating, and thus by the early 1890s, the present site of Yangon General Hospital, which was then Agri-Horticultural Gardens and a Phayre Museum, had been scouted for relocation.

With plans drawn up by Henry Hoyne-Fox, Executive Engineer of the Public Works Department,



The Yangon General Hospital in downtown Yangon accepts the commemorative Yangon City Heritage Blue Plaque on 24 October 2017. **PHOTO: YANGON HERITAGE TRUST**



the main building was built in 1904 and completed in 1909, and fitted with all the latest modern medical improvement at that time, including operating theatres with electricity and anesthesia rooms. In the following year, the administrative block and other structures such as the Matron's accommodation and the morgue was added and cost four million rupees overall.

In 1911, the new and larger hospital opened its doors for the first time with a total of 342 beds. It also housed the country's first bacteriological laboratory, though which several contributions to global medical science

were made during the early 20th century.

During the Japanese Occupation, the Imperial Japanese Army occupied the building and reserved them for Japanese personnel and the General Hospital had to temporarily relocate to the former Diocesan Girls' School on Signal Pagoda Road. After the World War II, the hospital's capacity was expended to hold 546 beds and in 1962, the total capacity increased to 1500 patients.

"Yangon General Hospital is located in the heart of Yangon as a grandeur of the city. Installation of blue plaques at the heritage buildings in Yangon would en-

courage the people to learn the history of the city, said U Thurein Aung, Project Manager of the YHT. Additionally, Rangoon General Hospital played a huge part in Myanmar's contemporary history, witnessing some of the pivotal moments in the history of the city. The hospital was also the site where the former opposition leader and Noble laureate Aung San Suu Kyi made her first public speech on August 24, 1988.

The commemorative Blue Plaque is a part of Yangon Heritage Trust's efforts to highlight historical buildings and renowned residents who contributed to the narrative of the city. ■

Tatmadaw releases statement on Rakhine terrorist attacks

THE Tatmadaw released a statement yesterday regarding the terrorist attacks of 25 August by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) on police outposts in which dozens were killed and which prompted hundreds of thousands to flee northern Rakhine, saying the attacks were meant to intentionally harm national security and turn global sentiment against the country.

"As regards the terrorist attacks by extremist terrorists who had already been in Rakhine State which took place on 25th August, 2017 in Buthidaung and Maungdaw region, Rakhine State, there had been news releases based on false news and allegations over Myanmar made by some international communities and countries and some foreign media very recently", read the statement released by the Tatmadaw True News

Information Team.

The statement went on to say that the attacks were well-planned by thousands, not hundreds, of terrorists.

"In actuality, some 4,000 ARSA extremist terrorists conspired to violently attack 30 police outposts and a military camp simultaneously, and behind the events there had been very complicated background history, hence the need to be well convinced beforehand.

"On 8th June 2012, a Rakhine national girl named Ma Thida Htwe was raped and killed by four Bengalis in Yanbye township, Rakhine State. It caused conflict and on 9th October 2016, Bengali terrorists made violent surprise attacks on border guard forces and three police outposts simultaneously. On 25 August, as the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services went

abroad, the Deputy C-in-C of the Defence Service called on the President of the State and the State Counsellor to get instructions regarding the Rakhine State affair. On 4 September, the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services met with the State President to receive instructions on Rakhine State affair."

The Tatmadaw statement said security forces were repeatedly reminded to stay within legal bounds when engaging with the terrorists and dealing with civilians.

"In the events of the ARSA extremist terrorists' attacks, security forces who were performing the tasks of defending the national populace living in the region, maintaining the peace and stability of the region and rule of law were instructed, depending upon situations on the ground, to be very mindful of the

rules of engagement concerning armed conflicts and terrorist attacks. They were also instructed to abide by the criminal code in dispersing mobs, and to use self-defense tactics in fighting against terrorists over innocent civilians and security forces. The security forces kept to the rules and regulations.

"At the time of outbreak of the terrorist attacks, local residents and national people who were very frightened were helped in evacuating to safer places, regardless of race and religion. And those displaced people were supported with provisions and they were given medical treatments by mobile health teams. Provisions and humanitarian aid donated by people and communities across the nation were delivered by Tatmadaw helicopters, vessels and motor vehicles.

"Union Government, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the Rakhine State Government are performing the task of delivering humanitarian aid to the people in need, hand in hand with the Tatmadaw".

The Tatmadaw statement said it is important to view the attacks as an intentional disruption of national security and undeserved accusations of rights violations.

"Concerning the events of ARSA extremist terrorist attacks which took place in northern Rakhine State, it is necessary to take special surveillance over potential destructive performances which can intentionally harm national security and interest, on the wrong pretext of human rights and humanitarianism", the statement said.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Maungtau officials conduct field trip to resettle ethnic national villages

CHAIRMAN of Maungtau Township Management Committee U Myint Khaing and party conducted a field survey trip to survey land on which to build ethnic national villages that were burnt and destroyed during the extremist terrorist attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA). They also met and discussed the plans with the local populace.

Next, Maungtau Township Management Committee chairman and members went to Thitone-nar Gwasone village tract,

Natchaung village tract, Ngayantchaung village tract to meet and discuss with local populace about resettlement.

Afterwards, they provided 96 households from Yaynaukngathar village and Thet Kaing Nyar village with solar lighting from the border area and national races development department and clothing from the relief and resettlement department and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, it is learnt.—Thant Lin Kyi ■

Ownerless cattle cared by veterinary department

TO keep and care for cattle in Maungtau Township whose owners fled after the 25 August terrorist attacks, three animal camps had been built in Pantaw Pyin, Khonetine and Ngakhura.

Working committee and township veterinary teams had already been organised to systematically give the ownerless cattle, cows and goats from

nearby villages medical treatment, it was learnt.

In Maungtau township, there are 67 cows and 298 goats. In Pantaw Pyin, there are 27 cows and 135 goats. In Khontine, there are 17 cows and 95 goats. And in Ngakhura, there are 23 cows and 68 goats. All are being fed and are receiving medical care, it was learnt.—Myanmar News Agency ■



People of different faiths pray for peace in Myanmar at the 3rd interfaith rally. PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAH

People hold 3rd interfaith rally in Yangon

By Zaw Gyi (Panita)

THOUSANDS of people turned out in Yangon to participate in a third interfaith rally on Tuesday in Yangon, praying for peace and harmony in Myanmar.

More than five thousands of people gathered in the Thuwunnabumi Event Park in Thingang-

yun, showing a unity of people from different faiths.

Buddhists, Christians, Hindus and Muslims, holding candlelit lights, prayed for peace in display of support for State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's handling of the crisis in Rakhine.

"We all are here with

equal willingness and equal loving kindness. With our joined hands, let's build a Federal Union. Let's struggle with unity under the leadership of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi for building our Union," said Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein.

The prayer service

kicked off with women representatives from different faiths lighting candles at 6 pm.

"We see our brethren from different faiths here and I hope that this kind of interfaith prayers would assist in building peace in the country," said Ma Htet Yadana Kyaw, an Islamic from Mayangon Township. ■

Public talk on drug dangers to be hosted in Myintkyina

MYITKYINA will host a Public Talk on the increasing drug threat against youth at the community centre co-run by the Information and Public Relations Department in Myintkyina, Kachin

State and the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation on 28 October at 1:00 pm. In the public talk, State Chief Judge U De Sin Ram, member of Kachin State government, U Zaw Win, Kachin State hluttaw rep-

resentative of Tanai constituency 2, IPRD Deputy Director-General U Aye Kywe, Police Colonel Lwin Maung Thein, Acting Head of State Police Forces, Dr Hwe Hla (Psychiatrist), Specialist of Kachin State

Drug Dependency Treatment Health Hospital, author Pone Nya Khin and U Aung Ngwe Soe, youth representative from Myintkyina will participate. Anyone who is interested can attend. —MNA ■

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CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BANDA VOY. NO (069)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BANDA VOY. NO (069) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT 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.

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ENZ

Reg. No.4/10224/2017 (20.9.2017)

In respect of "Pharmaceutical preparations for the treatment of cancers" included in **International Class 05**.

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

Daw Khin Myo Myo Aye, H.G.P

For Astellas Pharma Inc.,

C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,

Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),

Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,

Botataung Township, Yangon,

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated 25th October 2017

kmma@kcyangon.com

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT
Invitation for Bids**

Date: 23rd October, 2017

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

IDA Credit No. : 5727-MM

Contract Title: Surge Arrester, Fuse, Transformer Accessories, Medium Voltage Cable & Low Voltage Cable (Accessories) for National Electrification Project

Reference No. : C1-G6

1. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the National Electrification Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for Accessories for National Electrification Project.

2. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for supply of Accessories for MV overhead lines & Distribution Transformers, to be delivered in 2018 to multiple destinations in all Regions and States of Myanmar. Domestic preference with the margin of 15% will apply. The goods will be grouped into 7 lots and bidders may submit bid for any one or more lots.

3. For quick reference, some of the key qualification requirements include:

- The minimum average annual turnover of the last three years shall be as follows:

Lot no. and description	Amount in USD (million)
Lot 1 – Accessories package for Yangon	0.5
Lot 2 – Accessories package for Mandalay	1.0
Lot 3 – Accessories package for Kayin, Mon	0.3
Lot 4 – Accessories package for Kachin, Kayah, Chin, Sagaing, Naypyitaw	2.5
Lot 5 – Accessories package for Bago(E)	1.5
Lot 6 – Accessories package for Ayeyarwaddy	1.5
Lot 7 – Accessories package for Rakhine, Shan(E), Shan(N), Shan (S), Magwe, Bago(W)	6.0

- The bidder should have past experience of having satisfactorily completed during the last 5 years at least **two contracts** for supply of similar value for similar goods.

More information is included in the bidding documents.

4. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's [Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers](#) [edition of January 2011 revised in July 2014] ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to the paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting for the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Manager, Project Management Office, Office No.(27), Ministry of Electricity and Energy, nep.pmomoep@gmail.com and inspect the bidding documents during office hours 10:00 to 16:00 hours Myanmar time at the address given below.

6. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The Bidding Documents will be issued through email only.

In case of any difficulty in obtaining the bidding documents, interested parties may contact in writing:

Director General, Department of Electric Power Planning

Office No(27), Ministry of Electricity and Energy

City : Nay Pyi Taw

Country : The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Telephone : +95 67 410203

Facsimile : +95 67 410077

E-mail : nep.pmomoep@gmail.com

Web site : <http://www.moep.gov.mm>

7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **12th December 2017**, 10:00 hrs (10:00 am) Myanmar time. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives at the address below on **12th December 2017**, 10:00 hrs (10:00 am) Myanmar time.

8. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security as stated in ITB 19.1 Bid Data Sheet of the bidding document.

9. The address referred to above is:

Attention : Director General Office, Department of Electric Power Planning

Office No (27), Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Nay Pyi Taw

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Place : Office no. 27, Ground Floor, Meeting Room, Ministry of Electricity and Energy



Boiky corvette. **PHOTO: TASS**

Baltic Fleet corvettes on long-distance voyage pass through English Channel

KALININGRAD — The Russian Baltic Fleet's corvettes Boiky and Soobrazitelny currently on a long-distance voyage have passed through the Dover Strait and the English Channel and entered the Atlantic Ocean, Fleet spokesman Roman Martov told TASS.

"The Baltic Fleet's warships have successfully passed through the Strait of Dover and the English Channel, which

are uneasy for passage in fall, and have entered the Atlantic Ocean," the spokesman said.

The corvettes' crews replenished fuel stocks in the north Atlantic and held the warships' planned inspection. For this purpose, the sea tanker Kola making part of the naval group was involved.

In addition, the corvettes' combat teams practiced joint search for notional enemy's subma-

rines as part of the drills to organize anti-submarine warfare defense while on the move in the Atlantic.

As was reported earlier, the corvettes Boiky and Soobrazitelny, and also the tanker Kola left the naval harbor of Baltiysk on 14 October. Kamov Ka-27PS anti-submarine warfare helicopters are aboard the corvettes along with marine infantry units that have undergone special training.—Tass ■

Apple, Samsung face new iPhone damages trial — US judge

LOS ANGELES — A US judge has ordered a new trial to determine how much Samsung Electronics Co should pay Apple Inc for copying the look of the iPhone.

US District Judge Lucy Koh in San Jose, California issued her order late on Sunday, 10 months after the US Supreme Court set aside a \$399 million (£302.3 million) award against Samsung, whose devices include the Galaxy.

The three Apple patents covered design elements of the iPhone such as its black rectangular front face, rounded corners, and colourful grid of icons for programmes and apps.

Koh's order is a setback for Apple, which called a retrial unneces-

sary and said the award should be confirmed. The Cupertino, California-based company did not immediately respond on Monday to requests for comment.

Silicon Valley has closely followed the 6-1/2-year-old case.

Companies such as Facebook Inc and Alphabet Inc's Google have said an Apple win would encourage owners of design patents to sue for huge, unfair awards on products containing hundreds of features that are costly to develop.

The \$399 million represented profit from Samsung's sales of infringing smartphones, though the South Korean company has said it deserved reimbursement if it prevailed in the litigation.

It was part of a \$548 million payment that Samsung made to Apple in December 2015.

The legal dispute concerned whether the "article of manufacture" for which Samsung owed damages included its entire smartphones, or only parts that infringed Apple patents.

Without deciding that question, Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote for the Supreme Court last 6 December that "the term 'article of manufacture' is broad enough to embrace both a product sold to a consumer and a component of that product."

In Sunday's order, Koh said the jury instructions at the original 2012 trial inaccurately stated the law on that issue.—Reuters ■

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Mugabe would have rejected WHO role, says spokesman after its U-turn

HARARE — Robert Mugabe would have rejected the role of World Health Organization goodwill envoy had he been formally asked, his spokesman said on Tuesday, days after state media cheered the Zimbabwean president's appointment.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus named Mugabe

as a goodwill ambassador on Wednesday at a conference in Uruguay that both men were attending.

But the appointment was rescinded on Sunday following a backlash from Western donors, rights groups and opposition parties. Last Friday, the state-owned Herald celebrated the largely ceremonial appointment as a

'New feather in President's cap', adding that Mugabe, 93, had accepted the role.

His spokesman told the same newspaper on Tuesday that Zimbabwe's sole leader since independence from Britain in 1980 had only heard about the appointment via the media.

"Had anything been put to the President ... (he) would have found

such a request to be an awkward one," Charamba was quoted as saying. "The WHO cannot take back what it never gave in the first place, and as far as he is concerned, all this hullabaloo over a non-appointment is in fact a non-event." Charamba did not respond to calls seeking further comment. Mugabe's critics were outraged

by Tedros' announcement, saying he was rewarding a man whose government had presided over the collapse of Zimbabwe's health system. Charamba said the fact that Zimbabwe was a producer and exporter of tobacco, mostly to China, would have meant Mugabe campaigning against a crop that underpins the economy. Tobacco is Zimbabwe's

single largest foreign currency earner, bringing in an average \$800 million annually in the last four years, according to official data. "To be seen to be playing goodwill ambassador in respect of an agency which has a well-defined stance on tobacco growing and tobacco selling, that would have been a contradiction," Charamba said. —Reuters

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Ajinomoto Co., Inc., a company incorporated in Japan and having its registered office at 15-1, Kyobashi 1-chome, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademark:



Reg. No.4/9585/2017 (4.9.2017)

All in respect of "Bouillon; bouillon concentrates; preparations for making bouillon; preparations for making soup; soups; soup stocks; preparations for making stews; instant soup mixes; noodle soup; instant soup mixes with noodles; soups with pastas; instant soup mixes with pastas; instant soup mixes with rice; broth; meat, preserved; fish, preserved; vegetables, preserved; fruit, preserved; beans, preserved; berries, preserved; frozen meat; frozen fishes; frozen vegetables; frozen fruits; processed meat products; processed seafood products; processed vegetables; processed fruits; vegetable salads; meat; meat extracts; meat jellies; pork; poultry, not live; compotes; cranberry sauce [compote]; croquettes; eggs; flavored nuts; processes nuts; game, not live; ham; jams; jellies for food; lard; liver; butter; margarine; marmalade; milk; milk products; milk substitutes; almond milk; almond milk-based beverages; curd; yogurt; edible fats; oils for food; olive oil for food; tomato paste; whey" included in **International Class 29**;

"Seasonings; seasonings having monosodium glutamate as its principal ingredients; flavor enhancers; mixed seasonings; condiments; cooking salt; ketchup [sauce]; tomato sauce; mayonnaise; dressings for salad; sauces [condiments]; premixed sauces; oyster sauces; marinade sauce; teriyaki sauce; chilli sauce; seaweed [condiment]; soya sauce; malt extract for food; meat gravies; meat tenderizers for household purposes; pasta sauce; processed seeds for use as a seasoning; sugar; natural sweeteners; golden syrup; spices; vinegar; mustard; pepper; coffee; coffee-based beverages; coffee beverages with milk; coffee flavorings; preparations for making coffee beverages; artificial coffee; cocoa; cocoa-based beverages; cocoa beverages with milk; preparations for making cocoa; tea; tea-based beverages; preparations for making tea; confectionery; cakes; cereal bars; cereal-based snack food; cereal preparations; crackers; bread; sandwiches; breadcrumbs; ready mixed breading for deep fry use; buns; corn, roasted; custard; honey; flavorings, other than essential oils, for beverages; food flavorings, other than essential oils; ice cream; ice, natural or artificial; bean meal; macaroni; noodles; instant noodles; noodles with soup; noodle-based prepared meals; ramen [Japanese noodle-based dish]; fried noodles; oatmeal; pasta; spaghetti; pizzas; pies; ravioli; rice; processed rice products; rice-based snack food; rice balls; risotto; congee; spring rolls; sushi; baozi [stuffed buns]; dumplings; Chinese steamed dumplings [shumai, cooked]; wonton; samosa; tacos; tapioca; pancake mixes; flour; wheat flour; vanillin [vanilla substitute]; baking powder; baking soda [bicarbonate of soda for cooking purposes]; yeast" included in **International Class 30**; and

"Non-alcoholic beverages; non-alcoholic beverages flavored with coffee; non-alcoholic beverages flavored with tea; non-alcoholic fruit extracts; preparations for making non-alcoholic beverages; non-alcoholic beverages in the form of jellies; protein-enriched sports beverages; sports drinks; sports drinks in the form of jellies; preparations for making sports drinks; energy drinks; isotonic beverages; fruit juices; preparations for making fruits juice; lemonades; smoothies; mineral water [beverages]; syrups for non-alcoholic beverages; vegetable juices [beverages]; whey beverages; powdered drink mix" included in **International Class 32**.

Notice is hereby given that the Registrant claims the colors in respect of and as represented in the abovementioned trademark at Registration No. 4/9585/2017 (4.9.2017).

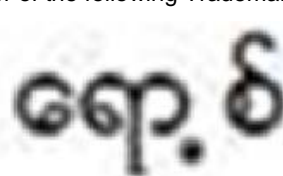
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Daw Khin Myo Myo Aye, H.G.P
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Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,
Botataung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
kmma@kcyangon.com

Dated 25th October 2017

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All in respect of "Meat, fish, poultry and game; meat extracts; preserved, frozen, dried and cooked fruits and vegetables; jellies, jams, compotes; eggs, milk and milk products; edible oils and fats; soups; soup stocks; preparations for making soups; preparations for making stews; instant soup mixes; bouillon; concentrated bouillon; broth; concentrated broth; noodle soup; instant soup mixes with noodles; soups with pastas; instant soup mixes with pastas; instant soup mixes with rice; dried meat; frozen meat; cooked meat; dried fish; frozen fish; cooked fish; dried shellfish; frozen shellfish; cooked shellfish; dried seafood; frozen seafood; cooked seafood; dried poultry; frozen poultry; cooked poultry; canned meat; canned vegetables; canned fish; yoghurt; cheese; butter; margarine; lactic acid drinks; vegetable salads; processed nuts; seasoned nuts; tofu; food products made from fish; food products made from poultry; food products made from meat; food products made from seafood; food products made from shellfish; food products made from vegetables" included in **International Class 29**; and

"Coffee, tea, cocoa, sugar, rice, tapioca, sago, artificial coffee; flour and preparations made from cereals, bread, pastry and confectionery, sorbets; ice creams; frozen yoghurt (confectionery ices); ices; nutrient dense snack bars; chocolate bars; honey, treacle; yeast, baking-powder; salt, mustard; vinegar, sauces (condiments); spices; ice; tea based beverages; coffee beverages; coffee beverages with milk; preparations for making coffee beverages; seasoned salt; mixed seasonings; preparations made from flour; soy sauce; seasonings; flavorings; flavor enhancers; pepper; dressings; mayonnaise; meat gravies; sugar; natural sweeteners; low calorie sweeteners; hydrolyzed protein for seasoning purposes; rice; noodles; instant noodles; noodles with soup; cereals; pastas; porridge; risotto; meals consisting primarily of rice; meals consisting primarily of pastas; meals consisting primarily of noodles; frozen foods consisting primarily of rice, noodles, dumplings and pasta; processed rice products; cooked rice products; meat tenderizers; seasoned breading mixes for use on meat, poultry, seafood and vegetables; seasoned batter mixes for use on meat, poultry, seafood and vegetables; seasoned coating mixes for use on meat, poultry, seafood and vegetables; ready mixed breading for deep fry use; seasonings having monosodium glutamate as its principal ingredients; candy; chocolate; fruit jellies; peanut butter confectionery chips; Chinese fortune cookies; cooked or frozen noodles with soup; cooked, chilled and frozen sweet rice cake; cooked and frozen dumplings; cooked and frozen shaomai, namely, a steamed meat, seafood, fish and vegetable mixture wrapped with rice pastry wrappers; curry; oyster sauce; curry sauce and paste; marinade sauce; teriyaki sauce; chili sauce; cooked and frozen rice balls; cooked and frozen spring rolls; cooked and frozen wonton; cooked and frozen samosa; cooked, frozen and instant congee or porridge; cooked, frozen, cooked and instant fried noodle; cooked and frozen Chinese dim sum; cooked and frozen bread and buns; cooked and frozen bread and buns with fillings; cooked and frozen stir fried rice; cooked and frozen transparent rice pastry wrappers with fillings; steamed and pan fried fish dumplings; cooked and frozen rice bowls with various toppings; sushi; ravioli; Ice cream mix powder; Milk flavored ice cream mix powder; Chocolate flavored ice cream mix powder; Strawberry flavored ice cream mix powder; hot cake mixes; preparations for making hot cakes; pancake mixes" included in **International Class 30**.

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Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road, Botataung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
kmma@kcyangon.com

Dated 25th October 2017

Harry Styles groped on stage



Harry Styles. Photo: PTI

LOS ANGELES — Harry Styles was inappropriately touched while he was performing at Hollywood Bowl's charity event.

The 23-year-old singer got groped when he got close to the audience members rooting for him at the 'We Can Survive' show, an all-star benefit concert for breast cancer awareness.

Several videos are doing the rounds of social media wherein one can see Styles engrossed in his performance when a hand charges right at "The Sign of The Times" hitmaker's nether region. The singer immediately turns his back and walks farther to the stage joining the band.

Styles is yet to comment on the incident. —PTI ■

Rajkummar Rao suffers leg fracture

MUMBAI — Actor Rajkummar Rao has suffered a fracture in his leg while shooting on the sets of reality TV show "Lip Sing Battle".

The 33-year-old actor, who was facing off against his "Bareilly Ki Barfi" co-star Kriti Sanon in the show, has had two fractures in his left leg and has undergone a surgery.

Rajkummar took to social media where he posted a photo with host of the show Farah Khan, laying in a hospital bed with his leg covered in a cast.

"Everyone was asking me to break a leg specially @farahkhankunder and see I've literally done that.

Two fractures, one surgery but not that bad.

"Got to learn some amazing dance moves.

Thank you team Lip Sing Battle and my apologies @kritisanon couldnt shoot today. Apologies everyone couldnt finish it today but very soon hopefully," he wrote.

Farah also shared another funny picture, saying the actor took the phrase of Break a leg a little too seriously.

"Break a leg doesnt mean literally! My poor @rajkummar_rao fractures his ankle but retains his sense of humour on Lip Sing Battle... Pic credit @patralekhaa," she wrote. —PTI ■

Justice League sequel already in works: J K Simmons



Oscar-winning actor JK Simmons. PHOTO: PTI

LOS ANGELES — Actor J K Simmons has revealed that the sequel of "Justice League" is already in development.

The 62-year-old actor, who plays Commissioner Gordon in the upcoming film, said he believes his character has a long

way to go in the film franchise.

"But this is the first Justice League movie — we hope — of a few. They're working on scripts for The Batman and for the next Justice League movie. "It introduces my incarnation of Commissioner Gordon. I don't have a lot to

do. I feel like I just dipped my toe in the water of who Commissioner Gordon will be," Simmons told Total Film magazine. The actor added he feels a certain kind of pressure as he is up for a role that has been essayed by artistes such as Gary Oldman, Pat Hingle and Neil Hamilton.

"That's an iconic thing, and obviously there are some very big shoes that I'm attempting to step into. Some really, really wonderful actors have played that part before. It's like all of a sudden everyone in London is doing Hamlet. Now it's my turn to be Gordon," he said. The sequel will be directed by Zack Snyder.

"Justice League" opes in theatres on 17 November. —PTI ■



Rajkummar Rao. PHOTO: PTI

David Letterman, celebrated late-night TV host, receives US humour prize

WASHINGTON — David Letterman, a pioneering entertainer who was the longest-running host of late-night TV in US history, was honoured on Sunday for his contributions to American culture.

After-hours television was built around the set-piece interview and guest appearance when Letterman's "Late Night" broke the mould in 1982 with absurd pranks and send-ups.

Everyday viewers went on his show to present "stupid pet tricks." Behind his desk, Letterman could be serious, dry and cerebral. But he often volunteered for oddball pranks. In one well-known stunt, he worked

a shift at a Taco Bell in suburban New Jersey, taking pickup orders.

In another sketch, Letterman was dunked in water while covered in Alka Seltzer tablets.

Receiving the Mark Twain Prize for American Humour at the Kennedy Center, the national showcase for arts, Letterman, 70, was praised for his imagination, comic daring and heart.

Many younger comedians, including current late-night host Jimmy Kimmel, have described Letterman as a major influence.

Before Kimmel's on-stage tribute to Letterman, the entertainer recalled one of his favourite, offbeat moments. "Dave



Comedian David Letterman speaks to the media as he arrives for a gala where he is receiving the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor at Kennedy Center in Washington, US on 22 October, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

brought this doorknob out. And he put it on a table. And he said 'It's just plain big.' That was it."

Letterman hosted more

than 6,000 episodes of his original "Late Night with David Letterman" on NBC and its successor on CBS, "Late Show with David Letterman," which ended its run in May 2015.

He won multiple Emmy Awards, US television's highest honour, for his work as a writer, performer and producer.

The Indiana native made his first of 22 appearances on "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson" in 1978. After hosting "Late Night" for 11 years, he moved to CBS in 1993 after losing out to longtime rival Jay Leno to succeed Carson at "The Tonight Show". On Sunday, comic friends

teased Letterman about his late-night wars with Leno and retirement but the honouree struck a poignant note in his acceptance speech. "Mark Twain's definition of patriotism is this: Patriotism is supporting your country all the time and your government when it deserves it."

In 2012, Letterman was recognised for his contributions to the arts and American culture at the Kennedy Centre Honours, a lifetime achievement awards for performing artists.

The Letterman tribute will be aired on public television stations on 20 November. —Reuters ■



Italian designer Giorgio Armani arrives at the "Green carpet Fashion Awards" event during the Milan Fashion Week in Milan, Italy on 24 September, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Armani plans transfer of stake in fashion firm to his foundation

MILAN — Giorgio Armani's succession plans include a transfer of part of his high-end fashion empire to his charitable foundation in a bid to prevent any takeovers or a break-up of the group, the designer told a newspaper.

Last year, Armani, 83, created a foundation in his name which said he planned to lead for the rest of his life.

With an estimated fortune of close to \$6 billion, he is still active in what is Italy's second-largest fashion group, but has not named a successor.

"What has been created is a mechanism that will encourage my heirs to maintain harmony and will avoid the group being bought or broken up," Armani told *Corriere della Sera* daily in an interview published on Monday.

Armani's does not have children of his own. His nieces Roberta and Silvana both work at the group while their cousin, Andrea Camerana, recently left but is still a board member. Long-time assistant Pantaleo Dell'Orco heads the men's lines and sits on the foundation's board.

"Believe me it is horrendous having to decide what to leave, whether it's fair or not, and every five minutes having to confront the reality of a man to whom something could suddenly happen," he said.

Under his succession plan, the foundation, which already owns 0.1 per cent of the Giorgio Armani holding company, will take a bigger stake, Armani said, without giving further details.

The remaining shares will be held by his heirs, who can only sell their holdings to the foundation.

Management will not be given shares in the group, Armani said.

The veteran fashion designer said last months that the image of his brand might benefit if he picked a successor, who did not necessarily have to be Italian.

But although he said that he would designate three people to succeed him at the foundation, it still remains unclear who will replace him at the helm of the Armani group.

Armani said the foundation, which will also be investing in charity, will have the final say in case of hung decisions by the company's board.

After a 5 per cent fall in revenues in 2016, Armani said he expected sales to fall by the same amount both this year and next, but to start growing again from 2019.

The group's cash position will improve to 1 billion euros at the end of this year, up from 880 million euros in 2016. —Reuters ■

Enthused by Wi-Fi hotspots, Cubans clamor for more Internet access

HAVANA — At dusk, when the worst of the Caribbean heat has subsided, parks around Cuba fill with families video chatting with loved ones abroad or scrolling through social media, their animated faces lit by telephone and tablet screens.

The introduction of Wi-Fi hotspots in Cuban public spaces two years ago has transformed the Communist-run island that had been mostly offline. Nearly half the population of 11 million connected at least once last year.

That has whet Cubans' appetite for better and cheaper access to the internet.

"A lot has changed," said Maribel Sosa, 54, after standing for an hour with her daughter at the corner of a park in Havana, video chatting with her family in the United States, laughing and gesticulating at her phone's screen.

She recalled how she used to queue all night to use a public telephone to speak with her brother for a few minutes after he emigrated to Florida in the 1980s.

Given the relative expense of connecting to the internet, Cubans use it mostly to stay in touch with relatives and friends. Although prices have dropped, the \$1.50 hourly tariff represents 5 per cent of the average month-

ly state salary of \$30.

"A lot more could change still," said Sosa. "Why shouldn't we be able to have internet at home?"

A tiny share of homes has had broadband access until now, subject to government permission granted to some professionals such as academics and journalists.

The state telecoms monopoly has vowed to hook up the whole island and connected several hundred Havana homes late last year as a pilot project. In September, it said it would roll that service out nationwide by the end of 2017.

Cubans say previous promises for such access have not been fulfilled, so their expectations are not high. They also say the cost is prohibitive, with the cheapest monthly subscription priced at \$15.

Havana says it has been slow to develop network infrastructure because of high costs, attributed partly to the US trade embargo. Critics say the government fears losing control.

Cubans who can afford it flock to Internet cafes and 432 outdoor hotspots where they brave ants, mosquitoes and the elements.

Here they laugh, cry, shout, and whisper. Black market vendors weave in and out among

them, trying to hawk pre-paid scratchcards allowing Wi-Fi access.

The ping of incoming messages and ring of calls fill the air.

"There's absolutely no privacy here," said Daniel Hernandez, 26, a tourist guide, after video chatting with his girlfriend in Britain.

"When I have sensitive things to talk about, I try shutting myself into my car and talking quietly."

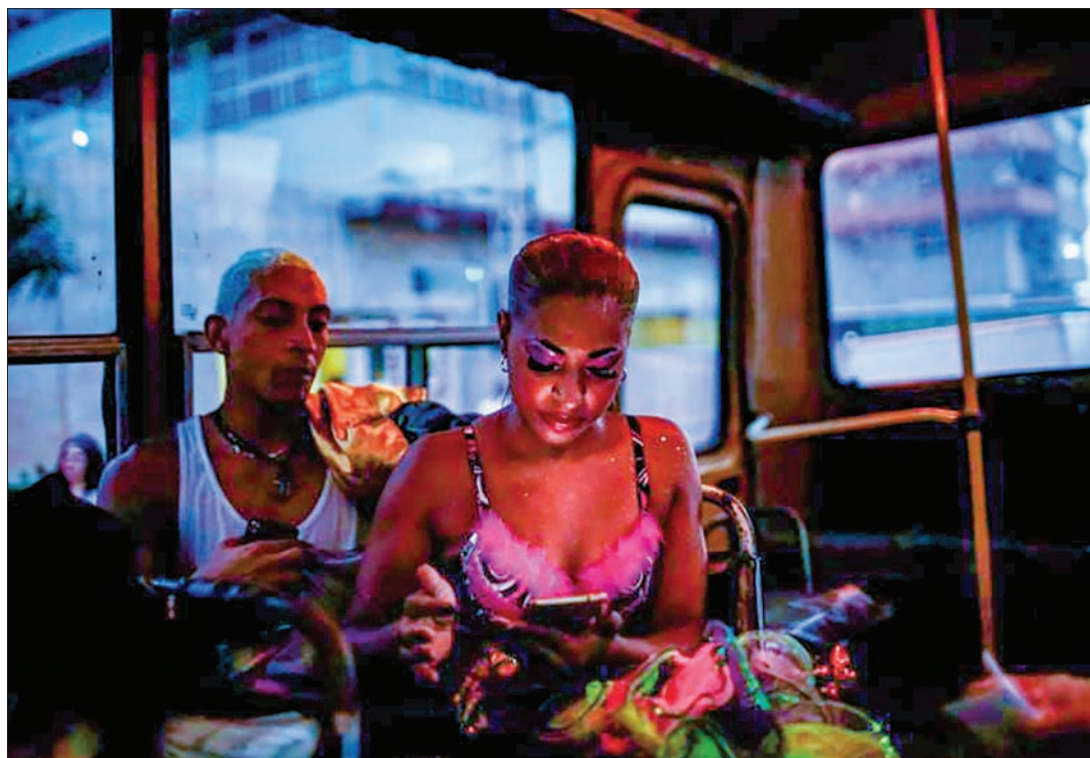
The quality of connections is often good only at specific spots, he said, and when fewer users are connected. Otherwise, the screen tends to freeze mid-chat.

Hernandez said he also uses the internet to search for news. In Cuba, the state has the monopoly on print and broadcast media.

A few meters further on, Rene Almeida, 62, sat in his taxi checking email. He said he felt lucky that his two children had moved to the United States where communications are better than ever. It was only in 2008 that the government first allowed Cubans to own cell phones.

He, too, complained of the lack of privacy and the expense.

"It's better than nothing," he said. "But it should improve. It will." —Reuters ■



A dancer uses an internet hotspot from inside a bus before performing at the Carnival of Havana, Cuba on 19 August, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Myanmar blanks Philippines 6-0 in AFC U-19 Championship qualification match

Kyaw Zin Tun

THE Myanmar national U-19 football team beat the Philippines by a score of 6-0 yesterday in an evening match of the 2018 AFC U-19 Championship held at National Olympic Stadium in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

The Myanmar team lined up with goalkeeper Htet Wai Yan Soe and players Than Hteik Zin, Soe Moe Kyaw, Si Thu Moe Khat, Lwin Moe Aung, Win Naing Tun, Myat Kaung Khat, Hein Htet Aung, Pyae Sone Naing, Htet Pyone Wai and Aung Wunna Soe.

The Philippines lined up with goalkeeper Quincy Julian Kammeraad and players Le-mark Unabia, Rezfernado Dahan, Robert Lawrence Wilson, Elljhone Clyde Rasonable, Keir John Napolitano, Joshua Broce,

Fidel Victor Tacardon, Beejay Gonzales, Daniel John Sijub and Alimar Job Ambong.

The opening goal for Myanmar was scored by Soe Moe Kyaw at the nine-minute mark and the second goal was scored by Myat Kaung Khat at 40 minutes, which accounted for all the scoring in the first half.

In the second half, Myat Khant Khat scored the third goal for Myanmar at 40 minutes and the last goal for Myanmar at 86 minutes. In between, Lwin Moe Aung scored at 55 minutes and Soe Moe Kyaw scored his second goal at 69 minutes.

Myanmar dominated the team from the Philippines, seemingly scoring at will. Upcoming matches for Myanmar are against Cambodia on 26 October and China PR on 28 October. ■



Myanmar U-19 football players enjoy after scoring goal at yesterday match against the Philippines. **PHOTO: MFF**



MFF chairman U Zaw Zaw meets with FIFA president Gianni Infantino at the May Fair Hotel, London. **PHOTO: MFF**

MFF chairman meets with FIFA president

THE chairman of the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) U Zaw Zaw met with Mr. Gianni Infantino, president of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) at the May Fair Hotel in London on Monday evening.

During the meeting, they discussed Myanmar's football development, the status of youth development and the ability to host World Cups in Myanmar.

FIFA will allow 48 national teams to participate in the World Cup starting in 2026.

With FIFA allowing more national teams to participate in the U-20 and U-17 World Cup, the possibility of Myanmar being a host country in partnership with neighbouring countries was also discussed. Myanmar youth development work in cooperation with FIFA was also discussed.

After his meeting with Mr. Infantino, U Zaw Zaw attended The Best FIFA Football Awards 2017 held at the London Palladium and hosted by British actor Idris Elba.—GNLM ■

Myanmar team at AFF Futsal Championship in Viet Nam

Kyaw Zin Tun

THE Myanmar national futsal team left for Ho Chi Minh City yesterday morning to take part in the 2017 ASEAN Football Federation (AFF) Futsal Championship. Myanmar's national team is led by U Kyi Min Thein, chairman of the futsal committee, and includes seven coaches and 16 players.

The 2017 AFF Futsal Championship is the 14th edition of the tournament. A total of nine teams from one sub-confederation take part and are divided into two groups, A and B.

Group A includes Viet Nam, Myanmar, Brunei, the Philippines and Indonesia, while Group B includes Thailand, Malaysia, Timor-Leste and Laos.

All group matches will be held from 26 to 30 October, and



Myanmar national futsal team and coaches poses for documentary photo at the Yangon International Airport before they leave for Ho Chi Minh. **PHOTO: MFF**

the best two teams from each group will advance to the semifinals. The semifinal matches will be on 1st November and the final and third-place matches will be on 3rd November. All the matches will be held at Phu Tho Indoor

Stadium, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam from 26 October to 3 November. The group stage matches for Myanmar are against Brunei on 26 October, the Philippines on 28 October, Indonesia on 29 October and Viet Nam on 30 October. ■

North Korea, Malaysia to play Asian Cup ties in Thailand

KUALA LUMPUR — North Korea and Malaysia will play their Asian Cup qualifying matches in neutral Thailand, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said on Tuesday, after earlier attempts to stage the matches fell victim to political tensions. Diplomatic relations between the countries

have been strained following the assassination of Kim Jong Nam, the estranged elder half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, at Kuala Lumpur International Airport in February. In the wake of the killing, Malaysia barred its citizens from travelling to North Korea, which prevented

the national team from playing a qualifier originally scheduled for 28 March in Pyongyang.

While the exact venue and time of the fixtures has not yet been fixed, North Korea's 'home' match will take place on 10 November and the return tie three days later.—Reuters ■