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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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in
Picture

Rain season doesn't want to say goodbye

Rainy season may officially be over, but a brief thunderstorm flooded the entrance to Ngar Htat Kyee Pagoda in Bahan Township yesterday afternoon as well as many other streets across Yangon. **PHOTO: MARK ANGELES**

MEB to lend Ks700 billion for revitalisation of Myanmar's economy

The Union Government held 11th meeting with entrepreneurs yesterday in Yangon, disclosing its plan to lend Ks700 billion through Myanma Economic Bank.

Speaking at the meeting, Vice President U Myint Swe highlighted the role of the private business sector in the development of the country, noting that the private sector made up 83 per cent of the import and export trade volume up to 30 September of the current fiscal year, which started on 1st April.

Export volume of the private sector made up 65 per cent of the country's export volume and 94 per cent of the import volume last month, he added.

"To encourage the private business sector, the government is working on enacting the Myanmar Companies Act this year," said the Vice President.

U Kyaw Win, Union Minister for Planning and Finance, said, "With a view to revitalising national economy, the Ministry is making arrangements for calculating facts and figures on finance to lend Ks700 billion through Myanma Economic Bank."

SEE PAGE-3

Investment in fish farms demands security

Authorities in Maungtau stressed the need to provide security for fish and prawn farms in northern Rakhine following the recent government invitation for investors.

The fish farms would fulfill the urgent need for the food

sufficiency for local people.

"Maungtau's climate and land is favourable to fish and prawn farming. To develop the fish and prawn farming here, we need not only investment and labourers, but also security," said U Tun Tin of the Maungtau

District Fisheries Department.

Potential investors expressed interest in the Maungtau fish farms, but said they would need assurances of adequate security to protect the fish farms from terrorist attack, officials said.

The Maungtau District has prospects for fish exporting to Bangladesh and Arab countries, he added.

Currently, Maungtau has more than 15,300 acres of fish and prawn ponds.

SEE PAGE-6

BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

Awarded by EUROMONEY 2017

2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 6th regular session 6th day meeting

By Aye Aye Thant
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

The 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 6th regular session held its 6th day meeting yesterday at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

Responding to a question by U Myo Zaw Aung of Kawlin constituency on plans to strengthen the e-banking system that would give equal opportunity to all banks, Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) Deputy Governor U Bo Bo Nge said an e-banking system mainly includes internet banking and mobile banking systems and banks need to have a core banking system that is connected with all bank branches to implement an e-banking system. Internet banking and mobile banking services were now being provided in 26 banks in Myanmar that had a core banking system installed. The remaining banks were arranging to install core banking systems, said U Bo Bo Nge.

In addition to internet banking and mobile banking, banks were permitted to issue international credit cards such as Visa, Master, UPI and JCB. These credit cards that can make payment internationally like previously issued prepaid and debit cards by putting dollars into the respective bank accounts. With these international credit cards, international payment can be made and products ordered through e-commerce system. By connecting with mobile banking



Pyithu Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

via mobile phones, bank services are within reach 24 hours a day to people who lived in places where banks are far away and people who didn't have bank accounts. U Bo Bo Nge added that Central Bank of Myanmar is striving for the successful implementation of an e-banking system and will continue to develop electronic payment systems.

In response to a question by U Khin Cho of Hlaingbwe constituency on CBM monitoring liquidity, capital cash outflow, inflow of private banks and financial institutions and protecting citizens from losing saving and transfer money, CBM Deputy Governor U Bo Bo Nge said CBM had set the liquidity ratio to 20 per cent, capital adequacy ratio to 10 per cent and the private banks' combined liquidity ratio and capital adequacy ratio were seen to be at the firm level of 39.72 per cent and 18.12 per cent respectively.

CBM's calculation methods for liquidity ratio and capital adequacy ratio were different from international methods and technical assistance from International Monetary Fund and World Bank were obtained to review (CBM's) directives.

According to financial institution law, for capital adequacy, CBM had issued a directive for total capital adequacy ratio at 8 per cent and for minimum category 1, a capital adequacy ratio of 4 per cent. If the capital adequacy ratio falls below the set level, a plan to increase the capital must be submitted within 30 days and during this period, CBM does not allow any activity such as making loans and opening new branches that would further affect the capital. Failure to raise the capital to set level within the set time will result in administrative action being taken in accordance to the financial institution law.

In line with CBM's main aim to maintain and stabilize local prices, guidelines were set for monetary stability, financial system stability, development and implementation of an effective payment and account clearance systems. Instructions were made to banks for security of saving, transaction and transfer of money. Advance deterrent measures were put in place to prevent losses to the nationals' saving and transfer monies explained the CBM Deputy Governor.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw replied to questions raised by Daw Khin Sandi of Launglon constituency, U Thein Tan of Hlegu constituency, Dr U Min Thein of YeU constituency and U Lama Naw Aung of Injangyan constituency.

U Aung Khin Win of Myaing constituency then tabled a motion urging the government to

issue bank notes with pictures of Bogyoke Aung San in future to which the Central Bank of Myanmar had responded that if new bank notes were to be printed, an amount nearly equal to the bank note in circulation would have to be ordered and printed while the money currently in circulation would have to be collected and destroyed. The cost will be from Ks 100 to 300 billion and people's trust in the bank notes will be reduced if different type of bank notes were printed.

However, U Aung Khin Win discussed further and added that bank notes with Bogyoke Aung San images were out of circulation for more than three decades and it is needless to say that people prefer bank notes of Bogyoke Aung San images over those with images of elephant and lion and urges the CBM to print bank notes with Bogyoke Aung San images in future.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker then decided to accept the motion for debate and announced for hluttaw representatives to register their name if they want to discuss the motion.

Next Hluttaw Speaker informed the hluttaw of receiving a bill amending the farmland law sent by Amyotha Hluttaw with amendments and bill committee member U Pa Htan of Matupi constituency submit and read a report after which Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced for representative who want to table the bill to register their names.

2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 6th Regular Session Holds its 6th Day Meeting

By Mi Mi Phyo
MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

At the 6th day meeting of the 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 6th regular session held yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw, Major General Than Htut, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs, replied to the question raised by U Kyaw Ni Naing of constituency 11, Shan State, "If Shan State Cabinet has submitted to the Ministry plans to build paths linking villages—Manchin-Nankyaukpha-Shomonite-Tarwantee-Tarmunaing in Lauk Kai district of Kokang Self-administered Zone into gravel roads with scrutiny certificate and recommendation attached, it will be targeted to be implemented under a 5-year-project of border area

development."

Regarding the question raised by U Man Law Maung of constituency 8, Chin State, the Deputy Minister added, "In carrying out the tasks of tender bidding process, tender committee, tender accepting committee, reserve price calculation committee, tender scrutiny committee and quality examination committee made open tender sales of building bridges and roads, water irrigation and installment of electricity wiring in the townships in Chin State, under the township development committee of rural department, the Ministry of Border Affairs transparently in the presence of tender bidders, Hluttaw representatives, town elders, in accord with rules and regulations. And, contracts were

made with tender winning companies in accordance with the regulations, and in the respective job-sites as well sign-boards with financial year of the job, company name, budget allotment, contact phone numbers written on, were ordered to be posted.

Afterward, Major General Than Htut replied to the questions raised by U Larl Min Htan of constituency in Kayin State, concerning the construction of bridges.

Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw announced that Hluttaw representatives desirous of discussing Amyotha Hluttaw-approved "Bill on Statistics" with the amendment of Pyithu Hluttaw attached.

Following that, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and



U Kyaw Ni Naing of constituency 11, Shan State. PHOTO: MNA



U Larl Min Htan of constituency in Kayin State. PHOTO: MNA

Population U Thein Swe submitted the "Bill on Withdrawal of Employment Acts of Port Labourers, 1948" while Brigadier General Khin Maung Aye, member of drafting committee

read out the report of the drafting committee.

Finally, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw announced that parliamentarians desirous of discussing the bill be enlisted.

President and delegation return from Thailand

U Htin Kyaw, the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin arrived at the Embassy of the Union of Myanmar in Bangkok, yesterday at 11:35 am.

At the Embassy, the President met with Myanmar ambassador to Thailand U Myo Myint Than, Military Attache' Brig-Gen Khin Zaw, officials and their families from the Embassy and the Military Attache's office.

During the meeting, the Myanmar ambassador to Thailand, U Myo Myint Than, reported to the President on the embassy's performance. The President and the First Lady then took photos together with embassy officials and their families and toured the embassy compound.

The President and the First Lady were then hosted for lunch by the Myanmar ambassador to

Thailand.

After lunch at the embassy, the President and the First Lady returned to the Okura Prestige Hotel in Bangkok, where they stayed during their visit. The delegation led by the President departed for Myanmar from Don Mueang International Airport in Bangkok and arrived in Nay Pyi Taw at 4:45 pm yesterday.

The delegation was welcomed at the Nay Pyi Taw international Airport by Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr. Myo Aung and his wife, Commander of the Nay Pyi Taw Command, Major General Myint Maw, the Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar H.E Mr Jukr Boon-Long and wife and other officials.—Myanmar News Agency ■



President U Htin Kyaw and First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin being welcomed back by Vice President U Henry Van Thio and officials at the Nay Pyi Taw international Airport on 27 October 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the meeting with entrepreneurs in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

MEB to lend Ks700 billion for revitalisation of Myanmar's economy

FROM PAGE-1

The Ks700 billion to be lent includes Ks300 billion for the agricultural sector, Ks200 billion for SMEs and Ks200 billion for construction and other sectors.

The Union Minister said, "The acquisition of the loans will be made in easiest and simplest ways. Being an industry that will carry tidy profits in a short period of time, fish and prawn breeding businesses will be lent out in priority. For those who will build modern storage rooms in Regions and States as well, loans are to be disbursed. In our country there are not any modernized and systematic storage systems concerning agricultural produce. These crops are stored in their own ways. So, in exporting the crops, there are

poor quality standards and shortages. In the past, there used to be many brokerage centers in Myanmar. Brokerage centers not only store the crops under the consignment system but also consider when it will fetch good profits for the consignors. Therefore, our country needs modern storage systems and cycloes and we invite entrepreneurs who will invest in storage buildings."

Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho said that it took much time in disbursing loans but now it has been arranged under a format to disburse loans in 30 days, after laying out a policy easily accessible.

In disbursing loans, the government will take into consideration of enterprises which will be greatly beneficial for the

national economy, linking with International Banks—Asia Development Bank (ADB), Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), KfW development bank and JICA with reasonable interest rate, it was learnt.

U Ye Min Aung, Vice-Chairman of UMFCCI said, "It is a good plan to have arranged for enterprises to borrow international loans than depending upon internal loan alone. It will be much better to get loans with less interest rates."

Vice President U Myint Swe also urged local businessmen to disclose their obstacles in the private sector, pledging that the government would assist them by means of the easing of restrictions in the private sector.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Minister U Win Khaing meets US Ambassador

Union Minister for Construction and Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing met with Mr. Scot Marciel, Ambassador of the United States, and party at the meeting room of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, matters relating to the construction of two roads that cross the Mayyu mountains, a roads and bridges project which will be implemented in Rakhine within the 2017-2018 fiscal year, village resettlement that is a part of Rakhine State rehabilitation projects, extended building of electric generators and town and village electrification projects, construction of roads and

bridges to attain smooth and safe transport for local people, job opportunities created for locals and long-term and short-term projects for socio-economic development in Rakhine were discussed. Construction of roads crossing the Mayyu mountains would have the following benefits: road communication will become better in the Buthidaung-Maungdaw region; job opportunities would be created for local people; the fisheries market for internal and external investors will be improved; and more sharing of electricity will be attained by local people, it was learnt. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister U Win Khaing holds talks with Mr. Scot Marciel, Ambassador of the United States in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

CORRECTION

Due to an interpretation error by the Myanmar News Agency, a story in the 26 November issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar incorrectly stated that UN-Habitat had agreed with the Union government to provide technical assistance in building housings for displaced people in northern Rakhine. Union officials say that the issue is still under negotiation. The GNLM regrets the error.

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Government to privatise most state-run enterprises: Finance Minister

By May Thet Hnin

THE government is planning to privatise most state-run enterprises and factories, said U Kyaw Win, Union Minister for Planning and Finance.

The news came out of the regular meeting yesterday between the Private Sector Development Committee led by Vice President U Myint Swe and businesspersons in Yangon.

“We will privatise the majority of the government-run business projects with the aim of empowering private entrepreneurs and boosting local production in order to raise the country’s gross domestic product (GDP). There is no other purpose in the privatisation,” U Kyaw Win added.

A ceramic factory, a garment factory, a plastics factory and a stainless steel factory are included in the government’s list of enterprises to privatise.

Union Industry Minister U Khin Maung Cho said that some state-operated businesses are currently facing difficulties in competing with rivals in the market as well as manufacturing of quality products due to a shortage of skilled workers,



U Kyaw Win, Union Minister for Planning and Finance.

PHOTO: MNA

poor management, a lack of investment and a lack of effective policy and innovative business ideas.

“The private sector is more capable of looking for new markets than the government. Plans are underway to do more business projects in partner-

ship with the private sector in the future. The government will reduce its role gradually so as to encourage privatisation. The movement will increase the country’s GDP as well as production of a wide variety of consumer products and machineries the country needs.

It will also create more job opportunities. We invite all private entrepreneurs, experts and any person concerned to cooperate with us,” he added.

He continued, “Detailed discussions on the handover scheme will be held in late November of this year. We will ask factory staff whether or not they want to continue working there. Some factories have started asking for the desires of staff.”

U Khin Maung Cho said, “We are mainly responsible for laying down policies. And the private sector on its part is to implement these policies. The profits earned will be shared.”

U Ye Min Aung, vice president of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said, “A systematic privatisation is better than centralisation. This will generate many benefits for market penetration with quality products under the better management system. The handover plan will achieve success if it has transparency.”

Currently, about 54 state-run factories out of 115 are privatised. A list of profit-making factories will be announced after securitisation. ■

Consul General Pyi Soe killed in car accident in Jharkhand’s Galagi area

Consul General Pyi Soe died in a car accident while travelling to Kolkata. When the road took a turn, the driver lost his balance and the car crashed into a truck.

Myanmar’s Consul General in Kolkata died in a road accident that took place in Galagi area of Jharkhand, according

to a statement released by the Indian Embassy in Yangon.

Consul General Pyi Soe was travelling with his wife and two others in a Toyota Innova. According to the Superintendent of Police Akhilesh Wariyar, the diplomat was travelling to Kolkata when the road took a turn in Galagi, Jharkhand

where the driver lost his balance and the the car crashed into a truck.

The diplomat succumbed to his injuries. His wife and the other two who also suffered serious injuries were rushed to Meena General Hospital and are undergoing treatment there, according to the India

Today. India Today reported that the ambassador of Myanmar to India and another diplomat have rushed to Kolkata to take stock of the situation. They could travel to Jharkhand as well. The mortal remains of the diplomat would be flown to Myanmar from Kolkata.—GNLM ■

Onion prices increase in Pyay market

THE price of onions are on the rise in Pyay market this month, with the result that the market has started to cool down, wholesalers say.

One of the retailers said onion prices have increased to Ks250 from Ks200 per viss (3.6 pounds) in recent days. The market sees a significant decrease

in trade of this kitchen crop because of low demand. High onion prices cause headaches for local traders to meet their target profit for the season.

Usually, onions produced from the towns of Seikphyu and Kyaukpadaung, in Magway Division and Mandalay Region, respectively, are sent to Pyay

market.

Based on size and freshness, the current prices for onions ranged between Ks2,400-Ks2,600 per viss in wholesale market. In the retail market, a viss of large onions fetched up Ks2,800-Ks2,900 while middle-sized onions have been sold for Ks2,600-Ks2,700. Small onions

sell for Ks2,400 per viss.

In the market, Chinese onion has been sold for Ks1,500-1,700 a viss.

According to traders, the increase in the price of onions is linked to low production, as onion plantations were damaged by heavy rain in some regions.—Khine Khant ■

Write for us

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

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

China, Thailand import over 700 tonnes of Myanmar's rubber in one week

MORE THAN 700 tonnes of rubber were exported to China and Thailand from Myanmar's border points in the second week of this month, an increase of 255 tonnes matched against previous week.

Between 7 and 13 October, the country sent US\$832,000 worth of rubber weighing a total of 716 tonnes through the Muse, Lwejel and Tachilek border trade camps.

According to trade authorities, China imported over 240 tonnes of RSS3 rubber, 336 tonnes of RSS5 rubber and

MSR20 rubber weighing nearly 70 tonnes through the Muse 105th miles trade zone and eight tonnes of RSS3 rubber and 10 tonnes of crepe rubber from the Lwejel border trade station, while 50 tonnes of rubber latex went to neighbouring Thailand via the Tachilek border trade camp.

Neighbouring countries imported over 460 tonnes of rubber from land borders in the previous week before 7 October. In September, Myanmar exported 1,077 tonnes of different classes of rubber last month.

earning \$1.58 million.

The price of rubber at the Muse border gate is Ks2 million for a ton of RSS3 rubber. The price increased to over Ks28,000 per ton when compared to the first week of this month.

There was no rubber exported through sea routes between 7 and 13 October.

According to the Commerce Ministry, Myanmar is exporting rubber to Asian and Southeast Asian countries this year, with most of the exports going to China, Malaysia and Japan.—Shwe Khine ■

Mineral
exports by
gov't sector
decreased by
\$117 mn

MINERAL exports of the Myanmar government decreased by US\$117 million compared with the similar period of last fiscal year, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

From 1 April to 13 October, the export value of mineral products totalled \$698 mn, including \$203 mn from the government sector and \$494 mn from the private sector. This FY, the private



This fiscal year, the private sector export of minerals rose by \$356 mn than that of last year. **PHOTO: MNA**

sector export of minerals rose by \$356 mn than that of last year.

The value of mineral exports was \$897 mn in 2011-12 FY; \$399 mn in 2012-13 FY.

\$1.339 bn in 2013-14 FY; \$1.498 bn in 2014-15 FY; \$968 mn in 2015-16 FY and \$1.010 bn in 2016-17 FY, according to the annual figures issued by the commerce ministry.—Kyu Kyu

Import of capital goods up by \$137 mn

THE import of capital goods between Myanmar and foreign countries was valued at over US\$3.488 billion this financial year, which is \$137 million more than that of last year, according to the Commerce Ministry.

As of 13 October this year, the government sector imported over \$360 mn worth of capital goods to international trade partners, while the private sector bought similar goods amounting to more than \$3.127 bn.

When compared to that of

FY2015-2016, the imports by the government sector increased by \$248 mn, while the private sector import of capital goods is \$110 mn less than that of the same period of last year.

This time last year, the country imported capital goods worth \$3.350 bn, including nearly \$112 mn from the government sector and \$3.237 bn from the private sector.

Manufacturing goods and consumer products also include in the country's major import items.

According to the ministry's official statistics, the country's capital goods import was \$3.718 bn in FY2011-12. The number increased to \$3.842 bn in FY2012-13, \$5.691 bn in FY2013-14, \$80.037 bn in FY2014-15 and \$8.253 bn in FY2015-16. The figures decreased to \$6.921 bn in FY2016-17.

The Ministry plans to reduce some imported items such as luxury goods, except for essentials, with the aim of decreasing the country's trade deficit.—Swe Nvein ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း **“Sunday Special”** အချပ်ပို (၈)
မျက်နှာပါဝင်သော The Global New Light of Myanmar
နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကို အောက်ပါမြို့များတွင် ဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

နေပြည်တော်

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ရုံးအမှတ် (၇) နေပြည်တော်၊
သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရုံးချုပ်)၊

စီမံရေးရာဌာန၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇ ၄၁၂၁၀၈

နေပြည်တော်

နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တပ်ကုန်း)
ဧည့်သည်ခန်း၊ ခရစ်လမ်းခွဲ၊ နေပြည်တော်၊

ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇ ၃၆၁၄၈၊ ၀၆၇ ၃၆၁၂၉

ရန်ကုန်

The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊

ငါးထပ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ဗဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊

ဖုန်း - ၀၁ ၀၆၀၄၅၃၂၀၉၇၇၄၄၂၄၁၀၄

မန္တလေး

လမ်း (၂၀ x ၂၁) ကြား၊ (၈၂ x ၈၃) လမ်းကြား၊ ပုလဲဓမ္မ
ရောင်ရမ်း၊ မန္တလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၂၃၂၇၂၉၀၂၃၂၉၅၀

တောင်ကြီး

ရုံးကြီးလမ်း၊ သစ်တောရပ်ကွက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့၊

ဖုန်း - ၀၈၁၂၁၂၁၆၄၊ ၀၉၅၂၁၄၇၇၇

မကွေး

နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ တပ်မ (၈၈) တပ်နယ်ချေးအနီး၊

မကွေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၃၂၇၃၁၂

တနင်္သာရီ

မြို့သစ် (၃ - ၁)၊ အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းသွယ်၊ ပြုတ်လမ်း၊

တနင်္သာရီမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၄၂၂၄၉၂

ကလေး

အောင်ဇေယျရပ်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊
ကလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၂၁၃၃

မြစ်ကြီးနား

အမှတ် (၄၁)၊ ဧရာရပ်ကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊

မြစ်ကြီးနားမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄၂၂၄၆၂

စစ်တွေ

ဓမ္မာဝတီလမ်းနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊

မီးခတ်ကြီးအနီး၊ မန်ကျည်မြို့ရပ်ကွက်၊ စစ်တွေမြို့၊

ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃၂၃၀၆၈

လားရှိုး

ဟူးမွန်ကျေးရွာထိပ်၊ ဟူးမွန်ဆည်ဘယ်ဘက်ခြမ်း၊

(၁၂) ရပ်ကွက်၊ မန်ဆူဘုရားရွာ၊ အထောင်လမ်း၊

လားရှိုးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၂၂၄၀၆၇

ခြံ

မေတ္တာလမ်း၊ ရှမ်းချောင်းရမ်း၊ ကလွင်ကျေးရွာအုပ်စု၊

ခြံမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၉၄၂၁၈၃

မော်လမြိုင်

ကြာအင်းကျေးရွာ၊ မော်လမြိုင်မြို့၊

ဖုန်း - ၀၅၇၂၇၂၅၊ ၀၅၇၂၇၂၆

မုံရွာ

နန္ဒဝန်ရပ်ကွက်၊ ဆက်သွယ်ရေးတောဝါတိုင်အနီး၊

မုံရွာမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၀၂၆၅၃၅၊ ၀၇၀၂၆၅၃၃

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Union Minister and ADB discuss cooperation for Rakhine

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, the vice-chairman of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development (UEHRD) received the Director General of Southeast Asia from Asian Development Bank (ADB), Mr. Ramesh Subramaniam, at May Kha Lar Hall of the Ministry yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed implementation of natural disaster management programmes, urban transportation, education and socio-economic development in Myanmar, getting aid and suggestions from ASEAN countries for rehabilitation process-

es for northern Rakhine, construction of storm-resistant buildings and shelters along with improving village to village connecting road systems, the UEHRD upcoming plans and the ongoing Diversity Management Forum. The Union Minister also discussed technical advice that would be essential for the UEHRD programmes.

For smooth implementation of the UEHRD, officials from UMG Co. donated Ks2.5 million yesterday morning at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye received the donated cash and offered certificates of honour to the donors.—Myanmar News Agency



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye holds talk with the Director General of Southeast Asia from Asian Development Bank (ADB), Mr. Ramesh Subramaniam in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Monsoon paddy in Maungtaw to be harvested on 28 October

It has been learnt that the monsoon paddy grown on 71,000 acres of farmland in Maungtaw Township will be harvested on 28 October by the Agricultural Department and Agricultural Mechanisation Department under the leadership of Rakhine State Government.

U Thein Wai, head of the Maungtaw Township Agricultural Department, said, "Out of over 71,000 acreage of paddy farming area in the Maungtaw region, harvest of nearly 45,000 acres is under negotiation with the agricultural department. Under the current situation, there is labour shortage in the

area, so arrangements are being made to harvesters from the agricultural department starting from October 28. Harvesting will be carried out in cooperation with the agricultural mechanisation department. As for the agriculture sector, drying will be made by reducing moisture up to 13 per cent enough to be stored."

Paddy which has undergone the process of harvesting and winnowing will be stored in 7 designated places in the township, and from there it will be determined what happens with the crop in accord with the instructions of the Rakhine State

Government, it was learnt.

"For the time being, we were only assigned to harvest, dry and store. In Myothagyi village, there will be plantation of paddy seeds on 30 acres with the aim of growing paddy in the next year", U Thein Wai said.

The head of the Rakhine State Agricultural Mechanisation Department said the effort will begin immediately.

"Starting tomorrow, harvesting and winnowing will be started in Nayontaung, Myothagyi and Alei Thankyaw. Depending upon acreage and soil quality—hardness or softness of the soil—a combine harvester

can reap 5 to 10 acres of paddy per day. The whole of 71,000 acres cannot be harvested. As there are shortages of drivers who will drive these harvesters, skilled staff from Magway, Mandalay, Bago, Nay Pyi Taw and Ayeyawady Regions will join in the campaign under the arrangement of headquarter of agricultural mechanisation department in Nay Pyi Taw", said U Tin Maung Gyi, head of the Rakhine State Agricultural Mechanisation Department.

He added, "The Maungtaw region is divided into two parts. The first part is for displaced people (who returned) and those

who remained in their location without abandoning their places. Some of them reap on self-help basis. In some villages, harvest and winnow machines will be used. The second part is those who will never come back after displacing from their locations. Their paddy will be harvested with combine harvesters by the agricultural mechanisation department, under the guidance of the Rakhine State Government."

Fourteen combine harvesters have already arrived. An additional 18 units will arrive very soon, it was learnt.—Naing Lin Kyi, Thant Zin Win



Farmers harvest fish at a privately owned farm in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: THANT ZIN WIN**

Investment in fish farms demands security

FROM PAGE-1

Meanwhile, a hatchery in Alethankyaw Village in Maungtaw Township, which sold fingerlings to private farms four times per year, suspended its operations three years ago due to investment and security problems.

To fulfil the urgent need for food sufficiency of Maungtaw residents following the terrorist attacks of 25 August, the Rakhine State government will fund freshwater fish farms in 82 villages in the township, according to the local fishery department.

In the immediate aftermath of terrorist attacks by the Ara-

kan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), homes and entire villages were destroyed, thousands of residents fled and resources were depleted. For those who stayed and those who returned, there was an immediate need for basic sustenance, as well as jobs.

"The reason is to supply sufficient food to the local people. The surplus from the farming will be exported," U Tun Tin of the Maungtaw District Fishery Department said yesterday.

Digging a pond costs around Ks6.2 million, and one each will be installed in the 82 villages, he added.—Naing Lin Kyi, Thant Zin Win

Announcement new bank accounts to donate to UEHRD

A statement was released on 21 October informing those who would like to make donations to UEHRD committee are kindly requested to make deposits into the following bank accounts -- US\$ account: Myanmar Economic Bank, Bank Branch: Nay Pyi Taw, Account Number: EDU 600002 and Myanmar Kyat Account: Myanmar Economic Bank, Bank Branch: Nay Pyi Taw, Account Number CF-003434.

Now, new bank accounts have been opened for donors to be able to easily donate to UEHRD. The new bank accounts are as followed:

No.	Bank Accounts	Myanmar Kyat Account	US \$ Account
1	Kanbawza Bank	034 103 034 017 85901	206 109 206 015 42701
2	CB Bank	009 310 040 000 0183	009 310 120 000 1007
3	AYA Bank	000 110 501 002 2168	000 110 503 000 0135
4	Myanmar Economic Bank, Nay Pyi Taw	CF- 003638	EDU- 400001

Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine State



The drone seized from Singaporean and Malaysian journalists.

Singaporean and Malaysian journalists under interrogation for using drones

Two foreign journalists are under interrogation for flying drone over the Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, according to Ministry of Home Affairs.

Two detainees are identified as Singapore journalist Mr Lau Hon Meng and Malaysian journalist Ms Mok Choy Lin, both are working for the Turkish Radio and Television Corporation-TRT, and from its branch office in Singapore.

According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, the journalists intended to take photos of Nay Pyi Taw parliament buildings and pagodas when security guards spotted them.

Investigations into the incident are ongoing.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has informed the Singapore and Malaysian embassies in Yangon about their detention.— Myanmar News Agency ■



People from Shwezar Village show their National Verification cards. PHOTO: MNA

Authorities step up National Verification process in Maungtaw

The Deputy Director of the Rakhine State Immigration and Population Department led staff members from his department on a site visit to a post primary school compound in Shwezar Village, Maungtaw Township, one of the places where national identification processing work and National Verification card issuing will be performed.

The work of verifying identification and issuing NV cards will be a priority for his department, because it was one of the main suggestions made by an inde-

pendent committee to spur on the development of Rakhine State. Deputy Department Head U San Wei explained to local villagers the merits of having an NV card.

This work was already being conducted in the past, but was delayed due to the ARSA extremist terrorist attack of 25 August and was restarted in Maungtaw Township, Shwezar village tract on 12 October. As of that date, 91 men, 29 women were issued an NV card after biometric records for the National ID process were taken. A total of

23, 15 men and 8 women, were being specially recorded with biometric system for National ID process, it is learnt.

Biometric record collection of local villagers who wish to receive an NV card and for the National ID process will be conducted continuously through site visits, and only those who can be confirmed as nationals in Rakhine State will be recognised. Work programmes were drawn for the National Verification Process to be conducted with promptness. —Myanmar News Agency ■

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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 **City Mart**

SUPERCENTER **Supermarket**

Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement and tasks to be performed

By Khin Maung Oo

On 15th October 2017, a ceremony for the 2nd Anniversary of the signing of the NCA was held in Nay Pyi Taw. At the ceremony, the State Counsellor, C-in-C of Defense Services and Chairman of the Karen National Union respectively made speeches, stressing the fact that the NCA is the only path for building up a peaceful and prosperous Federal Democratic Republic.

Such a firm assertion can be said to be attributed to its characteristics. The NCA is completely different from an ordinary ceasefire agreement, but deeper and broader in meaning. The NCA has a political road map. Having definite time schedules for the peace process, it can assure political guarantees. As a definite goal, NCA is absolutely destined

for building up Future Myanmar into a federal democratic union. If asked which kind of federal union, the answer will be "The Union will be based on democracy with full democratic rights, national equality and self-determination." It can be found in the fundamental principles as the first guarantee.

Inclusion of time schedules in the NCA is its characteristic. Within 60 days after having signed the NCA, it is to start drawing up the framework for political dialogues and within 90 days political dialogues must start. Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong meetings must be held every six months. During the period when the incumbent government had already convened 21st Century Panglong meetings for two times, reaching the stage of having signed 37 fundamental principles as Phase 1 of the Union

Peace Conference. The present goal is to discuss all the fundamental principles to perfection in the 3rd UPC—21st Century Panglong to come.

Looking at the international stage, on 24th May 2017, the 19th Congress of the People's Republic of China was convened. In a Chinese article concerning the Congress, it was definitely described that PRC became strengthened on account of 4 fundamental principles—political stability, never-changing policies, high-level efficiency in administration and management and inclusion of transparency.

As for Myanmar, we can evidently see that our country has less-qualified standards in these fundamental principles, compared to them. Provided that fundamental principles can be laid down at the forthcoming 21st Century Pan-

glong meetings, unswerving policies and principles can be achieved. Only if civil wars cease to exist, can political stability be achieved. Once political stability has been achieved, we can perform the tasks of upgrading capacity-building in administration and management skills by studying international experiences and thence we are to try our best to transparently listen to the people's voices in formulating public policies.

The NCA is the first initiative for stepping forward. It is not the end of the journey, but only the beginning of a process towards Future Myanmar. Accordingly, the NCA is open for all to take part in it. The State leaders and signatories who had already inked the NCA are urging the remaining armed national ethnic leaders to join without hesitation. ■

Now is time to stop child labour

By Harun Yahya

WHILE their peers are in class, they are working While their peers are playing, they are working They are working when they should be with their mothers and fathers

Some are trying to repair a car, some crafting furniture, others selling. There are those who labour in the field with hoes and some forced to work in mines.

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) report there are 168 million child workers, 85 million of whom are in dangerous jobs. Asia-Pacific borderlands and sub-Saharan Africa are the regions with highest number. The sector children work the most is agriculture.

Child labour is not just a problem of underdeveloped countries. There are child labourers in the US and Europe. However, these children are usually responsible for trivial tasks in family businesses helping their parents for a temporary period. They mostly work in simple jobs to earn pocket money during holidays. Experts think that such jobs contribute positively to the development of children and provide them with various skills and experiences.



An under-aged boy sells vegetables on the Soweto highway during peak hour everyday to make some money to help support his families. Picture: ANA Archives

However, this is not the case in sweatshops, in the fields, or in mines to earn a living for themselves and their family. Such environments prevent children from living a life they deserve; require them to comply with unsuitable conditions, and prevent them from enjoying their childhood and going to school.

These conditions, claim experts, undermine children's potential and harm their physical and mental development. They grow up lacking affection since they are often away from their parents for long periods of time; moreover, their social development is incomplete because they do not receive the basic education that would make life easier for them in the future.

Research indicates that the main reason children work is to contribute to the family income. However, the number working to repay family debt is high. There are even cases where children are

sold into modern-day indentured servitude and usually have to work for a small amount of money - if any - under very difficult conditions.

The biggest danger for children is prostitution and drugs. In East Asia and India, children are either sold directly into prostitution or used in the production of pornographic publications. In East Asia, Latin America and some parts of Africa, children are employed as workers in the production of illicit drugs or as couriers in its distribution.

Another area of activity that shouldn't be associated with children is war and military service. About 250 000 girls and boys around the world are given weapons and sent into combat. In the middle of a war zone, they are often subjected to sexual harassment and rape, or die. Children are forced to use weapons in rebel groups and in government forces.

According to a report by the UN, many of the world's armed groups are making children fight. Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Nigeria, Mali and the Democratic Republic of the Congo employ child soldiers the most.

The report also mentions Libya, Palestine, Colombia, the Philippines and Myanmar. Germany is included because it recruited 1 515 17-year-olds for military service in 2015. What is interesting is Germany argues that children under 18 should not be recruited for military service in Myanmar and Colombia.

Even though the ILO reports a significant reduction in the overall number of child workers worldwide, hundreds of millions of children continue to be forced into jobs that are unsuitable for their physical and mental development.

SEE PAGE-9

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe receives Professor Judith Ellis and party

DR MYINT HTWE, Union Minister for Health and Sports received Professor Judith Ellis, Chief Executive Officer of Royal College Physicians and Child Health and party at the guest room of the Union Minister for Health and Sports at 10 am yesterday.

In the meeting, matters on the situation of arrangements for conducting trainings on the emergency treatment of child disease in 18 district hospitals

in Ayeyawady and Sagaing Regions, situations of services from voluntary pediatricians of England and RCPCH's involvement in health care towards children in Myanmar were discussed.

It has been learnt that the Ministry of Health and Sports, Myanmar and Royal College Physicians Child Health Myanmar signed MoU, performing the tasks of medical treatments. —Myanmar News Agency



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe holds talk with Professor Judith Ellis, Chief Executive Officer of Royal College Physicians and Child Health in Nay Pyi Taw on 27 October 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing offers soon (a day meal) to the Members of the Sangha at the 7th Maha Kathina Robe Offering Ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Senior General Donates Kathina Robes

CEREMONY for 7th Maha Kathina Robe Offering donated by families of the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) held at the Anawrahta Hall of the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army) was attended by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defense Services and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, donating Kathina robes and offertories to the monks.

Audience led by Senior Gen-

eral received 9 Precepts from the Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vilasa, Sasanadaja Dhammacariya Maha Ganta Vasaka of Yesin Kan-Oo Buddhist literature Institute in Zeya Siri township, listening to the sermon, "Metta Sutta" from the Sayadaws,

Afterward, Senior General and wife offered robes and offertories to Presiding Sayadaw of Kan-Oo Monastery. Following that, Vice-Senior General Soe

Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe offered robes to Sanghas, followed by donations from Union Minister of Home Affairs and wife, Union Minister of Defense and wife, Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) and wife, C-in-C (Navy) and wife and C-in-C (Air) and wife.

At the Kathina Robe Offering Ceremony, offertories worth of K 100 million were donated. —Myanmar News Agency

Now is time to stop child labour

FROM PAGE-8

The reason child labour is in demand is not the lack of manpower. The wages are very low and they are unlikely to have social insurance, file complaints, or seek their right of redress against difficult working conditions. Children are exposed to all manner of coercion and abuse due to their vulnerability.

Considering these problems, how can we prevent children from being forced into jobs that ultimately harm them?

The first thing is to get as many countries as possible to sign the UN International Labour Organisation's agreement for avoiding child labour. At the same time, the UN would track the violations regarding this issue in the concerned countries.

Families can be provided with the necessary financial support so that the children won't be expected to work and contribute to their economy. Social support mechanisms for housing, health and nutrition can be established in places

where children work as seasonal agricultural labourers. In addition, schools and teachers may take more responsibility for detecting children who work. The communication between teachers and institutions in charge of preventing child labour can be improved.

However, considering that the problem is widespread in poor countries or countries involved in a civil war, it would be difficult to completely prevent, even if sufficient resources are provided and all the necessary measures are taken. More responsibility falls on international organisations such as the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation and the ILO for a solution.

Another way is to make special regulations for its prevention in the related legislation and to make sanctions more severe for violators.

It is important to take all possible actions to make the world a place where children are not forced to work. In a world where wars rage on and the system of ex-

ploitation continues, children will always be the most exploited. To prevent this, it is imperative to first understand the ideological origins of wars and exploitation, and then to undertake serious effort to eliminate them. Then people can see that love and peace are possible, and the world can become a home sufficient for everyone. Until then, every country, every institution and every person is responsible for taking the necessary measures to stop this exploitation.

The government has a policy to reduce the child labour population and to provide opportunities for existing children in labour to take up vocational training and education.

Myanmar government has a plan to implement them with ministries and organisations concerned. The long-term project has been designated to begin from 2018 till 2033 (15 years), and the short term projects will be divided into three phases with the first phase beginning from 2018 to 2023 (5 years), the second phase from

2024 to 2028 (5 years), and the third phase from 2028 to 2033 (5 years).

Vocational trainings are provided in Yankin, Mandalay and North Dagon Myothit with courses in basic welding, basic electric engineering, air-conditioner repair and maintenance, and construction. The Ministry of Education creates opportunities for working or displaced children and youths to have free middle school education, and for adolescents outside of education to receive the necessary certificates validating their skills so as to support them in their workplace.

Union Minister U Thein Swe said their ministry is collaborating with other ministries, region, state and self-administered areas, ILO, UNICEF, INGO, NGO, CSOs to combat and reduce child labour.

(Harun Yahya is an influential Turkish author and opinion shaper who has written 300 books which have been translated into 73 languages)

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

Putin test-fires ballistic missiles in strategic nuclear force command and control drills



Russian President and Supreme Commander-in-Chief of Russia's Armed Forces Vladimir Putin. **PHOTO: TASS**

MOSCOW — Russian President and Supreme Commander-in-Chief of Russia's Armed Forces Vladimir Putin took part on Thursday night in strategic nuclear forces command and control drills, presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Friday.

"The exercise practiced interaction of the Strategic Missile Force, nuclear-powered submarines of the Northern and Pacific Fleets and long-range aviation of Russia's Air-

space Force," the spokesman said.

"The supreme commander-in-chief made launches of four ballistic missiles," Peskov said.

Russia's Defence Ministry reported on Thursday that a planned training exercise was held on that day to practice command and control of the Russian Strategic Nuclear Forces.

During the exercise, three intercontinental ballistic mis-

siles were launched from the nuclear-powered submarines while one missile was test-fired from the Plesetsk cosmodrome in north Russia. All the practice targets were successfully destroyed.

As the Russian Defence Ministry reported, the exercise involved strategic Tupolev Tu-160, Tu-95MS and Tu-22M3 bombers, which took off from their airbases Ukrainka, Engels and Shaikovka, and launched airborne cruise mis-

siles against ground targets at the practice ranges Kura (Kamchatka), Pemboi (the Republic of Komi) and Terekta (Kazakhstan).

"The training assignments were accomplished in full and all the practice targets were successfully destroyed," the Defence Ministry said.

The exercise was held in accordance with the training plan of the Russian Armed Forces, the ministry said. —Tass ■

Norway's wealth fund posts strong Q3, reiterates warning of market volatility

OSLO — Norway's \$1 trillion sovereign wealth fund, the world's largest, reported returns of 3.2 per cent in the third quarter, beating its benchmark by 0.1 percentage points as eq-

uity markets soared, it said on Friday.

"We must be prepared for volatile stock markets, and cannot expect such a return every quarter,"

the fund's Chief Executive Yngve Slyngstad said in a statement, reiterating an earlier warning.

The government withdrew 10 billion crowns during the

third quarter to pay for public expenses.

By comparison, it had taken out 16 billion crowns in the second quarter. —Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Kremlin — Possible new US sanctions against Russia cause for concern

MOSCOW — Possible new US sanctions against Russia are a cause for concern and a reflection of Washington's unfriendly and even hostile attitude towards Moscow, the Kremlin said on Friday.

The US State Department said on Thursday it had belatedly begun informing Congress and others about groups associated with the Russian intelligence and defence sectors as required under a 2017 law tightening sanctions on Russia.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov, in a conference call with reporters, also said that a Twitter ban on adverts from Russian media was motivated by deep prejudice against Russia which he said set a worrying precedent for treatment of the Russian media. —Reuters ■

Germany hopes Spain will use dialogue to defuse Catalonia dispute

BERLIN — Germany said on Friday it supported the Spanish government in its dispute with separatists in Catalonia and hoped both sides would de-escalate the situation through dialogue.

"The government hopes those involved will make use of all opportunities for dialogue and de-escalation" provided by the Spanish constitution, a German government spokeswoman told a regular government news conference in Berlin. —Reuters ■

Catalan secessionists register parliamentary motion to split from Spain — media

MADRID — Catalan secessionists on Friday registered a motion with the regional parliament to proclaim independence from Spain and a Catalan republic though it was unclear whether the text would be put to a vote, newspaper La Vanguardia said.

The motion was presented by lawmakers from Junts pel Si (Together for Yes) and CUP (Popular Unity Candidacy) which together hold a majority in the assembly. —Reuters ■

Saudi industrial city plans jazz festival as reforms take hold

RIYADH — A Saudi Arabian industrial zone plans to host a jazz festival around the end of this year as it moves into tourism and entertainment, a result of economic reforms designed to end the kingdom's reliance on oil exports.

Public entertainment, including music and dancing, is rare in Saudi Arabia because of the kingdom's austere Wahhabi brand of Islam. In January, Jeddah hosted Saudi Arabia's first major public concert in over a decade, featuring Arab music.

But reforms launched by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman are changing the business environment. The 32-year-old prince has identified tourism and entertainment as key industries to develop because of their potential to create jobs.

Fahd Al Rasheed, group chief executive of Emaar the Economic City (EEC), which is developing the King Abdullah Economic City (KAEC) on the Red Sea coast near Jeddah, said he aimed to have foreign musicians perform at the jazz festival.

Rasheed said it was not clear whether current visa rules would permit a large foreign audience at the festival, but predicted heavy demand for tickets among Saudi citizens.

"There is a huge, untapped demand for events and cultural performances like this," he said in an interview on Wednesday on the sidelines of an international conference promoting Saudi Arabia as an investment destination.



Fahd Al Rasheed, Group Chief Executive Officer of Emaar the Economic City (EEC), gestures during an interview with Reuters in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on 25 October 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

The jazz plan underlines a shift of emphasis at KAEC since Prince Mohammed started his reforms last year. The government-backed zone, where about 7,000 people live, was launched in 2005 to host manufacturing plants and a port.

Manufacturing is expanding, Rasheed said. The zone has about 120 industrial tenants, a number that is growing by about 10 a year. Throughput at the port rose 14 per cent from a year earlier to 821,694 twenty-foot equivalent units in the first half of 2017.

But the zone is now focusing heavily on tourism after building facilities such as a golf course and a marina. Visitors to

KAEC total 300,000 year-to-date, up from 170,000 last year and 15,000 in 2015.

KAEC, which has two hotels, plans to have 10 by 2020. Three were being designed and joint-venture agreements have been signed for a further two, Rasheed said.

EEC, an affiliate of Dubai real estate firm Emaar Properties, is one of half a dozen projects in Saudi Arabia that aim to create industrial and urban zones known as "economic cities". Most have had limited success, and development has slowed as low oil prices have hurt the economy in recent years.

Last year, the government

said it was revising plans for some economic cities because of "challenges that threaten their viability". One such project, Jizan Economic City, has been restructured.

Rasheed said the government was on board with EEC's strategy and that the company was cooperating closely with the housing ministry, the government's entertainment commission and other state bodies in its business plans.

"If you're a private sector company and you're waiting for oil prices to go up back up so you can have normal times again, you're wrong," he said of EEC's move into entertainment. "This is the new normal."—Reuters ■

Blast hits train in southwestern Pakistan; at least 6 hurt

QUETTA, (Pakistan) — At least six people were wounded on Friday when a bomb went off along railway tracks in southwestern Pakistan, halting train service in the region, security and railways officials said.

The train was travelling from Baluchistan's capital of Quetta to the eastern metropolis of Lahore when a blast on the main railway track damaged one of its cars.

"One train bogie was damaged in the blast and a portion of the tracks blown up," said railways official Aamir Baloch, adding that Quetta's train services had been suspended.

Security officials said six passengers were injured in the blast. The Taliban, Sunni Islam militants and sectarian groups linked to al Qaeda and the Islamic State group also operate in the strategically important region, which borders Iran and Afghanistan.

Baluchistan is at the centre of infrastructure projects that form part of China's 'Belt and Road' initiative, which has brought \$57 billion of investment to Pakistan.

Violence in the southwestern region has fuelled concern about security for a transport and energy link planned to run from western China to Pakistan's southern deepwater port of Gwadar. Separatists in Baluchistan, who have long battled the state for a greater share of the resources of the gas- and mineral-rich region, also accuse the central government of discrimination.

Separately, two workers of a prominent political party were killed on Friday in a landmine blast in the district of Harnai near Quetta as they travelled to a party meeting.

"The victims were brothers and belonged to the Awami National Party," regional official Abdul Salam Achakzai told Reuters.

"The explosive device was planted by the road," he added.—Reuters ■

Iraqi forces, Kurdish Peshmerga agree on ceasefire, US-led coalition says

BAGHDAD — Iraqi forces and Kurdish Peshmerga fighters reached an agreement on Friday to stop fighting in northern Iraq, the media office of the US-led anti-Islamic State coalition said.

A spokesman for the coalition in Baghdad told Reuters the ceasefire agreement covered

all fronts.

Iraqi government forces and the Iranian-backed Popular Mobilisation launched a surprise offensive on 16 October in retaliation to a 25 September referendum on independence organised by the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) in northern Iraq.

The offensive aims to capture so-called disputed territories, claimed by both the KRG and the Iraqi central government, as well as border crossings and key oil facilities.

The oil-rich city of Kirkuk fell to Iraqi forces without much resistance on 16 October but the

Peshmerga began to fight back forcefully as they withdrew closer to the core KRG territory. The most violent clashes happened in the northwestern corner where Peshmerga are defending land crossings to Turkey and Syria and an oil hub that controls KRG crude exports.—Reuters ■

Egypt forces kill 13 militants in western desert clashes — state news agency

CAIRO — Egyptian security forces have killed 13 armed militants in the country's western desert, in an operation carried out after a deadly attack on a police convoy last week, MENA state news

agency said on Friday. "Security forces dealt a severe blow to the terrorist elements in revenge for the blood of the men who were martyred last week in the oasis," MENA said citing a high-level

security source. "Twelve terrorist elements were killed this morning in violent clashes." Authorities say the attack last week hit a police operation in a remote area in Giza governorate, 135 km

outside Cairo. Friday's operation was in New Valley governorate, further south, which shares a long border with Libya. MENA did not say to which group the militants belonged. Egyptian

forces have been battling several insurgencies, mostly focused on an Islamic State affiliate that has killed hundreds of police and troops in the northern Sinai since 2013.—Reuters ■

Trump releases some JFK files, blocks others under pressure

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump on Thursday ordered the unveiling of 2,800 documents related to the 1963 assassination of President John F Kennedy but yielded to pressure from the FBI and CIA to block the release of other records to be reviewed further.

Congress had ordered in 1992 that all remaining sealed files pertaining to the investigation into Kennedy's death should be fully opened to the public through the National Archives in 25 years, by 26 October, 2017, except for those the president authorized for further withholding.

Trump had confirmed on Saturday that he would allow for the release of the final batch of once-classified records, amounting to tens of thousands of pages, "subject to the receipt of further information."

But as the deadline neared, the administration decided at the last minute to stagger the final release over the next 180 days while government agencies studied whether any documents should stay sealed or redacted.

The law allows the president to keep material under wraps if it is determined that harm to in-



US President John F Kennedy and first lady Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy arrive at Love Field in Dallas, Texas less than an hour before his assassination in this 22 November, 1963 photo by White House photographer Cecil Stoughton obtained from the John F Kennedy Presidential Library in Boston. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

telligence operations, national defence, law enforcement or the conduct of foreign relations would outweigh the public's interest in full disclosure.

More than 2,800 uncensored documents were posted immediately to the National Archives

website on Thursday evening — a staggering, disparate cache that news outlets began poring through seeking new insights into a tragedy that has been endlessly dissected for decades by investigators, scholars and conspiracy theorists.

The rest will be released "on a rolling basis," with "redactions in only the rarest of circumstances," by the end of the review on 26 April, 2018, the White House said in a statement.

In a memo to government agency heads, Trump said the

American people deserved as much access as possible to the records. "Therefore, I am ordering today that the veil finally be lifted," he wrote, adding that he had no choice but to accept the requested redactions for now.

A Central Intelligence Agency spokesman told Reuters that every single one of approximately 18,000 remaining CIA records in the collection would ultimately be released, with just 1 per cent of the material left redacted.

CIA Director Mike Pompeo was a lead advocate in arguing to the White House for keeping some materials secret, one senior administration official said.

While Kennedy was killed over half a century ago, the document file included material from investigations during the 1970s through the 1990s. Intelligence and law enforcement officials argued their release could thus put at risk some more recent "law enforcement equities" and other materials that still have relevance, the official said. Trump was resistant but "acceded to it with deep insistence that this stuff is going to be reviewed and released in the next six months," the official added.—Reuters ■

May concerned by reports of sexual harassment in parliament — spokeswoman

LONDON — British Prime Minister Theresa May is concerned by a newspaper report describing a culture of sexual harassment among members of parliament and their staff working in parliament, her spokeswoman said on Friday. The report in the Sun newspaper follows dozens of allegations against Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein which have prompted hundreds of thousands of women around the world to share their own experiences.

The Sun said on Friday that female staff working in London's Westminster political district had created a WhatsApp instant messaging group to discuss their experiences of harassment and warn others about potential perpetrators.

It did not name anyone in connection with allegations but cited unnamed members of the group when describing its contents and purpose.

"The reports are very con-

cerning, but I can't pre-empt allegations or investigations that haven't come to light yet," May's spokeswoman said when asked about the Sun story.

"The prime minister was very clear when we responded to the reports about Harvey Weinstein in the last few weeks that any unwanted sexual behaviour is completely unacceptable, and that is true in any walk of life including politics."

Separately, a group of women members of Britain's opposition Labour Party have set up a website calling on fellow members who have experienced sexual harassment within party ranks to tell their stories anonymously to try and improve Labour's culture.

"Any allegations that may come to light would be taken extremely seriously and we would advise people to contact the police if there is such an allegation," May's spokeswoman said.—Reuters ■



People enjoy a sunny day at the Esplanade in Helsinki, Finland on 3 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Finland wants EU to give up daylight saving time

HELSINKI — Finnish government should actively push the European Union to abolish its directive on daylight saving time, a parliament committee said on Thursday. The parliamentary transport and communications committee gave its recommendation to the government after more than 70,000 Finns signed a citizens petition asking the state

to give up the practice. Under daylight saving time clocks move forward by one hour during summer months so that daylight lasts longer into evening. Most of North America and Europe follows the custom, while the majority of countries elsewhere do not. The committee said that after hearing several experts, it concluded that people do not

adapt smoothly to the changes. It added that turning the clocks caused short-term sleeping disorders, reduced performance at work and could also lead to serious health problems. "The primary objective should be to abolish the clock movements on uniform basis throughout the European Union," the committee said in a statement.—Reuters ■

Cambodian PM says sanctions wouldn't hurt him

PHNOM PENH — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen told his cabinet on Friday he had no fear of Western sanctions after some US senators threatened to push for travel restrictions over his arrest of the main opposition leader, the government spokesman said.

Hun Sen's critics accuse him of destroying democracy in Cambodia to ensure that he wins re-election next year to extend more than 32 years in power. US Senator Ted Cruz said he would push for a travel ban on top officials if opposition leader Kem Sokha is not freed by 9 November. Senators John McCain and Dick Durbin have also called for travel restrictions if the crackdown continues. Hun Sen told a weekly cabinet meeting that sanctions by Western donors don't wor-



Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen attends a plenary session at the National Assembly of Cambodia in central Phnom Penh on 16 October, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

ry him, the government spokesman said.

"Samdech said he doesn't have wealth abroad and there is no necessity for him to step on US soil,"

Phay Siphan told Reuters, using Hun Sen's official title. Kem Sokha was arrested on 3 September and charged with treason. He is accused of plotting to take

power with the help of unspecified Americans — an accusation he denies.

The government has also asked the courts to dissolve Kem Sokha's Cambo-

dia National Rescue Party (CNRP) and Hun Sen has called on its members of parliament and other elected officials to defect to his Cambodian People's Party (CPP). Pro-government media said one parliamentarian and some local councillors had defected.

Kem Sokha's daughter Monovithya Kem said that if he were not released and the pressure ended on the CNRP, it would mean that next year's election would lack legitimacy.

"Hun Sen's government cannot survive without that legitimacy," she told Reuters. "Cambodia would become a pariah state if the government doesn't reverse course soon." Western countries have called for the release of Kem Sokha and have intensified lobbying.

In an unusually direct

statement from Japan, visiting vice minister for foreign affairs Iwao Horii called on Thursday for a free and fair election next year. Japan is Cambodia's biggest aid donor after China.

"He expressed the expectation that Cambodia's next national election will be conducted in a free and fair manner," Hironori Suzuki, Counsellor at the Japanese Embassy, said in an email to Reuters. "He expected that the general election would be held in a way that the international community will welcome."

Hun Sen has been increasingly isolated from Western donor pressure by his strong relationship with China, which has become by far the biggest giver of foreign aid as well as the biggest investor in Cambodia.—Reuters ■

Japan to launch climate research satellite in December

TOKYO — Japan will launch a climate research satellite in December to analyze and forecast global warming-linked environmental changes, the science ministry said on Friday.

The satellite, named Shikisai, will be placed in orbit 800 kilometres above the ground from where it will conduct long-term monitoring of cloud cover, levels of dust and aerosols in the atmosphere as well as ocean colour, vegetation, snow and ice cover on the earth's surface.

Its launch, planned for 23 December, is intended to improve the accuracy of global warming forecasting and to help tackle associated problems, according to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

The Shikisai satellite will be carried by an H-2A rocket from the Tanegashima Space Centre

in southwestern Japan together with a low-altitude test satellite, which will travel in an orbit with an altitude lower than 300 kilometres, it said.

The Super Low Altitude Test Satellite, named Tsubame, is equipped with an ion engine which will be assessed for its ability to maintain speed and altitude in low orbit. The lower orbit has been undeveloped and is yet to be fully utilized by satellites, according to the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency.

While traveling in a low orbit brings benefits such as the ability to capture high resolution observations for optical images, the Tsubame will be exposed to atmospheric drag approximately 1,000 times greater than that of most earth observation satellites at an altitude of 600 km to 800 km, the space agency said. —Kyodo News ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV HUNSA BHUM VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HUNSA BHUM VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/ALP.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT
(S'PORE) PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BALI VOY. NO (040)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BALI VOY. NO (040) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SILKAGO LOGISTICS
PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.10.2017 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.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GLODEN SEA LINES**
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV BANGSAKAO VOY. NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSAKAO VOY. NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AIPT-3 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN
SHIPPING CO LTD.**

Phone No: 2301928

Comedy films will never be appreciated: Rohit Shetty

MUMBAI — Critics may not have been kind to “Golmaal Again” but director Rohit Shetty is happy that the movie, his costliest so far, is doing well at the box office.

The film, which reportedly released in 3,500 screens, opened at over Rs 30 crore.

The 44-year-old filmmaker says, “‘Golmaal...’ has got the highest opening and minted the fastest Rs 100 crore of this year. After watching the film, we were sure enough it will work but to what extent we did not know. We did not think we would get such an overwhelming response. But we were sure that family audience will come to see the film.”

The five-day domestic business of the comedy stands at Rs 116.89 crore, since its release on 20 October.

Shetty says he is never demotivated by reviews as focuses on audiences’ reaction.

“This is my 10th film and it has been 27 years as a director. I know it (negative reviews) happens. (But) I don’t read reviews. From the audiences’ reaction and box office collections, you come to know how much the film has

been loved.

“Comedy films are often looked down upon and they will never be appreciated, so you can’t get depressed about it and take it seriously,” he says in an interview with PTI.

With the fourth “Golmaal” installment, Rohit experimented by clubbing humour with the element of horror.

“I did not want it to be an all-comedy film. We did not want to make it as any other comedy film. It is the costliest film of mine. We had to take this brand a notch higher. Even with ‘Chennai Express’, we added dramatic scenes in the second half,” he says.

The film clashed with Aamir Khan’s “Secret Superstar” and Rohit says since the Diwali slot is often seen as a face-off among big releases, it was obvious that the number of screens would be divided.

“When two films release together you don’t know what will work. Nobody can predict what is going to happen on a Friday.

The opening numbers of ‘Golmaal Again’ are the highest for this year.—PTI ■



Actress Mia Wasikowska and actor Johnny Depp arrive at the European Premiere of Alice Through the Looking Glass at a cinema in London, Britain on 10 May, 2016. PHOTO: PTI

Mia Wasikowska to star in Judy and Punch

LOS ANGELES — Actress Mia Wasikowska has been roped in to star in the live-action retelling of the Hollywood classic “Judy and Punch”.

To be directed by Mirrah Foulkes, the film follows

two puppeteers, the vain but charismatic Punch and his resilient and talented wife Judy (Wasikowska) as they attempt to resurrect their show to escape their decrepit town of Seaside.

Film is “a crazy mix of fantasy, feminism and fanaticism”, says Foulkes, according to the Hollywood Reporter.

The film will be produced by Vice Media Australia and Blue Tongue Films.—PTI ■

‘Stranger Things 2’ gets darker in aftermath of death and Demogorgon

LOS ANGELES — A year has passed since a supernatural demon terrorized the town of Hawkins, Indiana, but as Netflix’s hit 1980s science fiction series “Stranger Things” returns for a second season on Friday, life has not returned to normal for the unlikely heroes.

The adults and teenagers of “Stranger Things 2” wrestle emotionally with the events of the first season: a town boy’s disappearance, a death, a mysterious girl with superpowers and a decaying parallel universe called the Upside Down.

“We wanted that trauma to really run through the entire season so it’s about these characters confronting the horrors,” said Matt Duffer, one half of the Duffer Brothers, the twins who created the show.

All nine episodes of “Stranger Things 2” will be released on Friday.

At the centre of the show are its young teenage breakout stars. Will Byers (Noah Schnapp) suffers worsening visions of the Upside Down after being res-



Cast members (L-R) Caleb McLaughlin, Finn Wolfhard, Noah Schnapp and Gaten Matarazzo pose at the premiere for the second season of the television series “Stranger Things” in Los Angeles, California, US on 26 October, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

cued, forcing his friends to try to find a way to defeat the demon known as Demogorgon.

Eleven, the innocent, tormented young girl with superpowers played by Emmy-nominated 13-year-old Millie Bobby

Brown, is believed dead and is in hiding, staying with the town’s police chief, Jim Hopper. Frustrated at being kept away from her friends, Eleven clashes with Hopper (David Harbour) and embarks on a mission to find her

mother and finally find a home.

“We wanted (Eleven) to go through her own journey in a way that was much more personal to her and wasn’t tied to the boys,” Matt Duffer said. “We wanted her to go through a jour-

ney of self-discovery without the help of anyone else.”

“Stranger Things” has become a phenomenon for Netflix Inc, landing Emmy wins and drawing a cadre of obsessed fans who launched a viral online campaign, #JusticeForBarb, sparked by the gruesome demise of supporting character Barb Holland.

The second season ramps up the quest to bring closure to her death while introducing new characters and expanding the story geographically.

The Duffers said they anticipate five seasons to bring “Stranger Things” to a conclusion.

“It was important to us this season to start to move out of Hawkins and to introduce this world,” said Ross Duffer.

“It’s such a fine line and it’s difficult and obviously sequels always feel this way because people want some of the same — that’s why they liked it in the first place — but you don’t want to just go in circles,” he added.—Reuters ■

'Bloodhound' car kicks off bid to speed into record books

NEWQUAY, England — The Bloodhound Supersonic Car, effectively a fighter jet on wheels, on Thursday kicked off a bid to roar into the record books by eventually reaching 1,000 mph (1,610 kmh).

Before a crowd of spectators, the blue and orange, space-craft-like vehicle with a high tail and long, rocket-shaped nose made two test runs down a 1.7-mile (2.7 km) track, attaining 200 mph (320 kmh) in about nine seconds.

It was the first public trial of the vehicle, powered by an EJ200 jet engine from a Eurofighter Typhoon fighter jet, ahead of a world record bid in South Africa in the next few years.

Twenty years after setting the current world land speed record of 763 mph in the Bloodhound's predecessor, Andy Green, a British air force pilot,



The Bloodhound SuperSonic Car, which is attempting to break the 1,000mph barrier in 2019, does its first public test run at Newquay airport, Newquay, Britain on 26 October, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

will aim to surpass his achievement.

"We came here to say Blood-

hound is Go! And that's exactly what we managed to demonstrate today," Green said after

the test run in Newquay in the southwest of England.

"The performance, the han-

dling, the stability of it — I can't fault the car at all, it just worked brilliantly."

The Bloodhound project was launched in 2008 in London with the objective of designing a car able to reach speeds of 1,000 mph. About 30 million pounds (\$39.49 million) has been invested in the project thanks to support from the public and sponsors including Chinese auto group Geely and Rolls Royce among others.

The overall price tag could reach 60 million pounds.

If the roughly 13-metre (39-foot)-long vehicle achieves its target 1,000 mph, that would surpass the low-altitude speed record for aircraft of 994 mph, according to the Bloodhound project website.

At 1,000 mph, it would cover a distance equivalent to over four football pitches every second. —Reuters ■

Scrappy Cuban clothing line exemplifies ingenuity with US online store opening

HAVANA — Hip Cuban clothing brand Clandestina is not waiting to see how tighter US restrictions on travel to the Caribbean island affect visits of Americans shoppers. Instead, the line is taking its apparel to the United States through e-commerce.

Its site, clandestina.co/, went live on Thursday with an initial selection of T-shirts with Cuban slogans like "resistir y vencer" (resist and conquer), no small feat in a country with minimal internet access.

While the designs will remain Cuban, US-based manufacturers will produce the apparel and ship them to US buyers, Clandestina said. The US trade embargo and supply restrictions in Cuba make it virtually impossible to ship from there. The Spanish citizenship of a Clandestina co-owner gave the brand the ability to set up in the United States.

Clandestina's move highlights the ingenuity of Cuba's fledgling private sector in overcoming obstacles on the communist-run island and abroad.

The clothing brand is one of the success stories among the private stores, restaurants and bed-and-breakfasts that have emerged under President Raul Castro, who has implemented



US tourists look at products inside the Cuban private design store Clandestina in Havana, Cuba on 23 October, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

market reforms to modernize Cuba's Soviet-style command economy.

"The Clandestina brand has always been one about succeeding against the odds and overcoming the seemingly impossible," said co-founder and creative director Idania del Rio, 36.

She and her Spanish business partner Leire Fernandez, 42, created Clandestina in 2015, opening a flagship store in Old Havana selling clothes, bags, posters and trinkets that have quirky Cuban designs and slogans reflecting local humour.

"Actually I'm in Havana" reads one T-shirt, while another

says "I'm a mamey (fruit), you can make a milkshake out of me".

A lack of wholesale stores and restrictions on importing for the private sector in Cuba meant they had to get creative to acquire textiles and keep up stock.

Friends brought batches of raw T-shirts in their suitcases from abroad that they print their designs on, and Clandestina became even better known for its "upcycling" of second-hand clothing to make unique pieces.

They say they now have 27 employees and their shop attracted more than 20,000 visitors last year.

Like many private Cuban

businesses in Havana, Clandestina benefited from a boom in US travelers since a thawing of US-Cuban relations in 2014. Some 70 per cent of its shoppers are foreigners, half from the United States.

But US President Donald Trump in June ordered tighter restrictions on travel to Cuba from the United States. Washington also issued a travel warning to the island last month after allegations of health attacks on US diplomats.

A likely drop in US customers in Cuba and the desire to expand their business made it the perfect time for them to open up the first Cuban online fashion store in the United States, the Clandestina duo said.

"If the Americans don't come to Cuba, well, we will go to the United States," said Del Rio.

As a Spaniard, Fernandez was able to register a company in the United States, and a loophole in the embargo allows her firm to hire Cuban designers. The aim, eventually, is to build Cuba's first global fashion brand.

"Not a lot of people know what's going on in Cuba," said US visitor Kasha Trogak, perusing their Havana store. "Curiosity can definitely help to sell the product." —Reuters ■

Britain's Merlin to open \$350 million Legoland in New York state

NEW YORK — A third North American Legoland theme park celebrating the distinctive multi-coloured toy bricks is to be built in New York state in a \$350 million investment by Britain's Merlin Entertainments, the company said on Thursday.

A symbolic 50 millionth Lego brick was snapped in place on Friday on a giant red octopus at Legoland Florida, as the theme park — the fifth and largest Legoland in the world — prepares to open to the public this weekend southwest of Orlando.

The park dedicated to the children's toy favourite will be built in Goshen, Orange County, 60 miles northwest of New York City and serving a catchment area of 23 million people.

Merlin, which operates attractions such as London's Madame Tussauds waxworks museum, said the new Legoland was planned to open in 2020 and would welcome customers between April and November.

It will be built along with a 250-room Legoland hotel, open all year and decorated with hundreds of Lego models made from its toy building blocks. —Reuters ■

Man United's Shaw optimistic of Pochettino reunion

LONDON — Manchester United defender Luke Shaw has praised his former manager Mauricio Pochettino and is hopeful of reuniting with the Tottenham Hotspur coach in the future.

Shaw played under Pochettino at Southampton during the latter half of the 2012-13 season as the Saints finished eighth in the Premier League. The England International moved to United at the end of the season.

In the epilogue of Spanish pundit Guillem Balague's new book "Brave New World: Inside Pochettino's Spurs", the 22-year-old hailed his fantastic relationship with the Argentine and reckoned Pochettino would like to work with him again as well.

"I think with Southampton he achieved the impossible. We were one of the best footballing teams in the league...I do hope that I can play for him again one day. And I think he really wants me to play under him again," Shaw wrote.

"He used to call me his son, that's how good our relationship was. I've had lots of ups



Manchester United's Luke Shaw in action with Swansea City's Wayne Routledge at Liberty Stadium, Swansea, Britain on 24 October, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

and downs, but when I was with Pochettino it was only ever up, up, up.

"He made me feel that I was the best. He'd show me clips of my games and say, 'You should

do this better'. Not in a horrible way. Not I could have done better, but I should have done better, because he knows I can be better."

Shaw is struggling to get

playing time at United after falling out with manager Jose Mourinho and could meet Pochettino when second-placed United host third-placed Tottenham in the league on Saturday.—Reuters ■

New youth football referee course to be launched

Under the supervision of the Myanmar Football Federation's Football Referee Committee, a new youth football referee course (2/2017) will be launched from 10 to 16 November; according to the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) website.

The MFF has been recognised for the qualification into the course. Those qualified to take the course should be physically healthy, should not require the wearing of eyeglasses and be very interested in becoming a referee. The educational requirement is at least on the high school level. Those over the age of 30 age will not be allowed to take the course. All qualified referees that result from the successful completion of this course will be registered official referees in Myanmar and must be responsible to act as a referee in MFF referee committees and other States and Regions referee duties.

The outstanding referee of the course will be also later sent to a foreign country to study the FIFA Referee courses, it is learnt.

All those interested can contact and register for the course at Myanmar Football Federation or call the Referee Committee at Thuwunna Stadium at 09-421143684, 09-450007448, 09-420128064 and 09-8623621 no later than November 2, according to MFF.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Lethwei competition to be held tomorrow in Yangon

Under the supervision of the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Myanmar Traditional Boxing (Lethwei) Federation, a new generation of lethwei competition will be held at Thein Phyu Lethwei Stadium in Min-

glataung Nyunt Township in Yangon tomorrow at 1pm.

The competition was cosponsored by AH.GA Fighter Group, Modern Myanmar Synergy Group and H&S Group.

In the competition, there

will be 14 fights, with five 51 kg fights, two 54kg fights and one fight each in the 52 kg, 53kg, 57kg 58kg 60 kg 63 kg and 67 kg classes.

Young Myanmar lethwei fighters in the competition are

from the 10 Myanmar lethwei clubs across Myanmar.

All those interested can watch the matches at no charge, according to the Myanmar Traditional Boxing Federation.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Manchester City are best team in Europe — Pulis

LONDON — West Bromwich Albion, who have not won a Premier League game since the middle of August, will be facing the best team in Europe when they take on Manchester City on Saturday, manager Tony Pulis said.

Albion won their opening two league games, but four draws and three defeats since then have left them two points above the relegation places ahead of the league leaders' visit. "Playing the best team in Europe at the Hawthorns is something to relish," Pulis told reporters. "People coming to the stadium will watch a very, very good team. "The lads

should go out there and give it a really good go. We know what we're up against.

"They're one of those teams I think are really special."

Albion will adapt their game, he added, without offering any clues as to how they hoped to cope. "We'll approach it a little bit different to normal. They've been special this year."

Pulis agreed his own team have been disappointing in some recent games and "fallen down on things in games that we haven't before". Now he says it is important to "continue to believe in what you're doing", adding,

"You're only one or two results away from it clicking. "You've got to point yourself into the wind and get on with it. That breeze is blowing a bit stronger so you have to lift your head and keep walking.

"The players are as disappointed as anybody. There are areas we have to improve on."

Albion have a number of injury problems with the manager confirming that defender Craig Dawson is out for "a couple of months", while there has been a new setback for James Morrison, who has been missing with an Achilles problem for the past month.—Reuters ■

Wenger says Walcott will get his Premier League chance

LONDON — Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has said he wants Theo Walcott to remain at the club and suggests the winger will get more playing time in the Premier League after being mostly restricted to cup competitions this season.

Arsenal great Ian Wright said earlier this week that the 28-year-old must bring his 11 years at the club to an end for the good of his career.

England international Walcott has made just three substitute appearances in the

league this season and only scored in the Europa League and League Cup, netting three times in five matches.

"I do not want Theo to move on," Wenger told reporters on Thursday. "His time in the Premier League will come.

"At the moment he has got less minutes in the Premier League than other competitions."

Fifth-placed Arsenal host Swansea City (15th) in the league on Saturday.—Reuters ■