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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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in
Picture

Hot-air balloons in the shape of animals hover over the crowd assembled in Taunggyi, Shan State, for the annual balloon festival. Balloons in the shape of animals, cartoon characters and historic figures were among the dozens of entries into the festival, which attracts thousands of spectators. The festival will continue until 3 November. **PHOTO: KO KO SOE NYUNT**

Entrepreneurs to develop Rakhine

ENTREPRENEURS gathered in Maungtaw, Rakhine State, yesterday to explore business opportunities in their attempts to revitalise the border region's economy, which has stalled since terrorist attacks in late August.

The businessmen from the

Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) arrived in Maungtaw yesterday to seek development opportunities for the whole region.

Soon after their arrival, the businessmen met with repre-

sentatives of the Rakhine State Government.

"Can we establish a textile factory in Maungtaw Region? We have to think about production and business development since it's an economic zone. If we can boost the market, then it

will simultaneously increase job opportunities," said U Aung Kyi Soe, General-Secretary of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

The Union Government urged the businessmen to op-

erate in a new economic mechanism, pledging that the administration would encourage competition among the businesses in Rakhine in implementing rehabilitation, resettlement and development.

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Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than at stake-driving ceremony for main building of the region Hluttaw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than visits Bogoyoke Aung San Museum

AFTER a meeting with MPs of Magway Region parliament, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than yesterday drove stakes at the place where the main building of the region Hluttaw will be built.

Accompanied of MPs of Amyotha Hluttaw and officials,

the Speaker held meeting with region Hluttaw representative at the Hluttaw at 11 am.

The ceremony to drive in stakes for the building was held at noon. The Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw, the speaker and the deputy speaker of region Hluttaw and officials

drove stakes at an auspicious time.

The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker and party visited Bogoyoke Aung San Museum in Natmauk at 2 pm. They also presented cash donations for the museum. —Than Naing Oo (Ngaphe) ■

Markets start doing normal business in Maungtaw

MARKETS in Maungtaw region have started doing business as usual after a brief closure due to the terrorist attacks occurred on 25 August this year.

The Four-Mile market which has over 100 shops and Kanyintan market, mainly for vendors are busy as usual thanks to the gradual prevalence of peace and stability in the region. The Maungtaw Myoma Market with over 400 shopping booths will open soon.

“In the past there were private markets. Rakhine State government made an announcement to terminate them before the occurrence of terrorist attacks. After the attacks all markets were closed. But after the establishment of new villages, the markets will be opened in accord with the regional needs. Some private businessmen have opened their shops, but

others have not yet. The Myoma Market will be opened only after the renovation and sanitation work have finished. The Township Development Committee and townselders will fix the opening date after holding a meeting,” said an official of the committee.

Maungtaw has the Myoma Market, the Four-Mile Market, other vendor markets owned by the Development Committee and 26 private markets operating under its permission.

“As there were a number of markets in Maungtaw before the occurrence of terrorist attacks, the price of a chicken is just around K 5000. But now it is about K 10000; a local shop owner said.

After the establishment of new villages in the places of burnt-out villages, all the markets will be upgraded. —Thant Zin Win/Naing Lin Kyi ■



Street vendors selling fresh vegetables and fruits at the market in Maungtaw, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

UEHRD project continues together with Rakhine Gov't



UEHRD Vice Chairman Dr Win Myat Aye meets with members of Rakhine State Cabinet at State guest house meeting room in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

“WORK has started for the emergence of a collective force with the participation of all stake holders to implement the UEHRD Programme,” said vice chairman of UEHRD, Dr. Win Myat Aye.

“In working to achieve the goal of UEHRD (Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine) internal strength is most important. We are working to create a better situation than before. Humanitarian assistance and development works are also being carried out simultaneously,” said Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, vice chairman of UEHRD, Dr. Win Myat Aye at the meeting with members of the Rakhine State Cabinet at the State Guest House meeting room yesterday morning.

He then explained about arrangements being made

by UEHRD to accept donated funds through the Myanmar Economic Bank and Private Banks, arrangements being made for dissemination of news and communications procedures, arrangements being made for implementation of UEHRD projects with the cooperation of businessmen who have been organized into Nine Task Forces, and plans for the implementation of certain recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State which are deemed to be beneficial, and plans for the participation of youths in future projects.

Afterwards, U Nyi Pu, Chief Minister of Rakhine State clarified on rehabilitation plans, the status of donations received and use of donated materials, and arrangements for cooperation and coordination with UEHRD.

Then the State cabinet members discussed about the present and future plans regarding

UEHRD projects after which the Union Minister gave concluding remarks for coordination of efforts. He also discussed the creation of a system for youth volunteers, social organizations and community based organizations to collaborate with the Union government. To be able to implement the above-said system a 3-day course will be conducted from 6-8 November 2017 and the Central Coordination Team, State Coordination Team and youth volunteers will attend the course.

Besides, the team led by the Union Minister went to Myothugyi village of Maungtaw township to see the harvesting of ripened paddy with harvesting machines provided by the Union government. It is learnt that humanitarian assistance will continue to be provided by the Rakhine State government and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.—MNA ■

Farm machinery course for peasants of N. Rakhine State

ANNUAL farm machinery operation courses are being held for the convenience of rice harvesting in Maungtaw region the rice bowl of northern Rakhine State.

“Agricultural Mechanization Department-AMD is conducting both the long-term and short-term courses annually. The short-term course lasts for 14 days.

The courses enable farmers to operate their own farm

machinery. The courses include the use and repair of power-tillers and pumps. Last year the courses were held at two different places,” said head of Rakhine State ADM.

As there is no adequate number of skilled operators in the region yet, skilled staffs of the AMDs of other regions and states were hired for mechanized harvesting and winnowing. “As for operating heavy machinery, farmers can

attend the Central Agricultural Mechanization School in Meiktila. It is a four-month course. The school’s admittance system prioritizes children of peasants. It is accepting nearly 1000 trainees every year. Trainees from Kyauktaw and MraukU are now attending the course. The course enables them to skillfully operate heavy farm machinery,” he said. —Naing Lin Kyi/Thant Zin Win ■

Two townships in Rakhine State get 24-hour power supply



U Myint Maung.



U Win Hlaing.



U Nyi Htwe.



U Aung Myint.



Ma Pan Nu Wai.

Interviewers: Aung Kyaw Oo and Han Lin Naing
PHOTOS: NAY THIT OO

A 33/11 KV5MVA sub-power station in Rakhine State has been supplying electricity to Myebon and Pauktaw round the clock since the first week of this month even before the ceremonial commissioning of the facility that will be in the early November.

The news team interviewed the officials of the Electricity and Energy Ministry.

U Myint Maung, Superintending Engineer Nay Pyi Taw HQ

We face a lot of difficulties in installing power lines to Myebon and Pauktaw townships as they are located on the coastline. We are happy as we could overcome all the difficulties including poor transportation, harsh weather and labour shortage in providing electricity for locals.

In the past there was a diesel power-distribution generator. The government permitted the project for community peace and social progress. Thanks to the cooperation of the locals and officials, we could achieve the goal amidst the many difficulties.

U Win Hlaing, Head of Myebon Township Electricity Department

The national grid is provid-



U Kyaw Myo Win.



Daw Saw Yin Oo.



U Tun Wai.



U Kyaw Win Gyi.

ing power to Myebon beginning 1 October. In the past we used generators that could supply power under time limits. Now we are providing power to over 1100 households of the nine wards in Myebon. Five villages will get power before the fiscal 2017-2018.

Because of the terrain that is divided with many natural streams, we are going to provide power to 20 villages within a three-year period.

U Nyi Htwe, Headmaster Myebon Basic Education High School

Life was so hard when there

was no electricity. Even duplicating a copy of a letter needed the ignition of the generator. So it was very difficult to do the office works then. Now we have round-the-clock electricity. It facilitates the office work and the learning process.

Students now can learn their lessons individually or in groups at night. Electricity has improved the social lives of the locals, apart from the progress in health and education sectors.

U Aung Myint, townselder Myebon

The whole town was very

happy when the 24-hour power distribution started. Electricity has ensured convenience for all the families, businesses and students of the town. As there is electricity there is no more depletion of mangrove forest as people do not need to cut woods for fuel. We have never dreamt of it. Now we are happy.

Ma Pan Nu Wai Matriculation student

In the past, we faced difficulties in learning our lessons. We are all happy as there is 24-hour power supply in the town.

U Kyaw Myo Win Head of Pauktaw Township Electricity Department

Power is flowing into Pauktaw from the national grid on 2 October this year. We faced the harsh weather conditions in installing the power line to Pauktaw. As the ground is soft, erection of posts was also a hard job. In the past our department supply power for four hours and the power supply committee over one hours every day. Now we have 24-hour electricity.

Currently we are providing power for 976 households of the five Wards of Pauktaw. The remaining households will get power soon.

Daw Saw Yin Oo Basic education teacher, Pauktaw

The 24-hour power supply facilitates our daily work. Students now can learn their lessons without difficulties. In the past children could learn their lessons only when the power supply was on. Household work has also become easier now. We thank the officials concerned for 24-hour power supply.

U Tun Wai, townselder Pauktaw

Truly, there is social progress due to 24-hour power supply. In the past generators could supply power for only three to four hours daily. The townspeople were facing hardships. Now we don't need to rely on charcoal for cooking. People of the town are also happy.

U Kyaw Win Gyi, secretary of a religious association Pauktaw

There was only part-time power distribution for the town in the past. We are happy as the national grind is supplying power for us round the clock. We feel extremely happy when we know that even the villages will get electricity. We thank officials concerned for the continuous power supply. Power supply has facilitated the health and education sectors.

The dream of the ethnic natives of Pauktaw and Myebon has come true thanks to the 24-hour power supply. ■



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Yangon Region Hluttaw to receive commemorative blue plaque next month

THE Yangon Heritage Trust, a non-governmental heritage body conserving historic buildings around the city, will install a commemorative blue plaque at the Yangon Region Hluttaw building in coming November, said U Thurein Aung, history researcher and project manager of the YHT.

According to the Myawady Daily, the Hluttaw building is one of historic structures in Yangon.

The commercial city Yangon has Asia's largest collection of colonial-era structures.

There are numerous ancient buildings in the city. Under its project, over 100 colo-

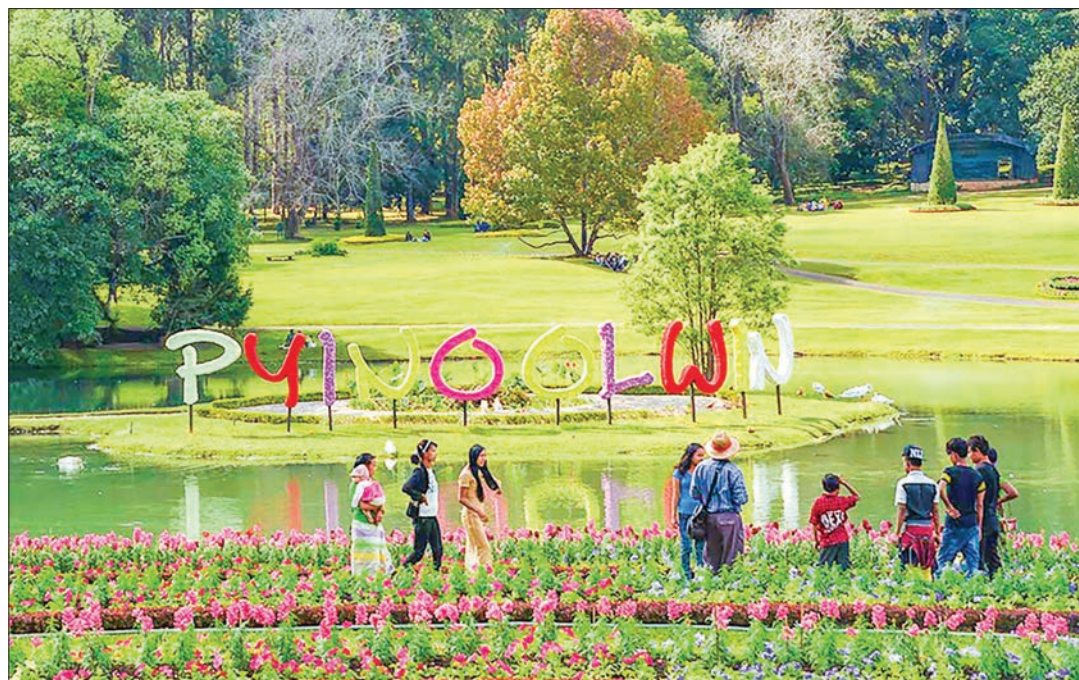
nial-era buildings will receive the YHT's commemorative blue plaque.

The Yangon Heritage Trust was established in 2012 by Historian U Thant Myint-U, the grandson of U Thant, the third Secretary-General of the United Nations, as a centre of excellence in urban buildings

and cultural heritage management.

Since then, the YHT has led the conservation effort in the culturally rich city and set the standard for good heritage practice. The YHT installed its 19th blue plaque on Yangon General Hospital this month.—GNLM ■

PyinOoLwin to be transformed into ASEAN Flower City



People visit Kandawgyi National Garden in PyinOoLwin, also known as the city of flower. **PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE**

IN a bid to export flowers to international markets, FMK Business Support Co Ltd will import quality flower seeds from the Netherlands, said Dr Tin Htut, the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

According to a report of the Myawady Daily, the company will grow quality flower-

ing plants imported from the Netherlands in PyinOoLwin Township in Mandalay Region with the use of natural fertilizers. The Netherlands will provide flower growers with techniques and assist them in exploring international markets.

The Flower Growers Association will be formed as quickly as possible and loans will

be granted to flower growers. The ministry plans to transform PyinOoLwin into ASEAN Flower City, with the use of flower growing techniques of the Netherlands. Growing quality flowers in PyinOoLwin may reduce the inflow of flowers from other countries. Thanks to it, Myanmar may become a top flower-exporting country.—GNLM ■

Htamanthi Wildlife Reserve to be turned into eco-tourism destination

AUTHORITIES are planning to turn Htanmanthi Wildlife Reserve into a nature-based tourism destination, according to a report of the Myawady Daily.

The Htanmanthi Wildlife Sanctuary is planned to be transformed into an eco-tourism destination in the near future, said U Than Lynn, an official of the sanctuary.

Located within the Khamti and Homalin townships in Sagaing Region, Htanmanthi Wildlife Sanctuary is home to a wide variety of biodiversity and rare species of animals including tigers, elephants and bears. Diverse range of cultural, tradition and lifestyle of ethnic people including Shanni, Naga and Chin are also attractions for visitors. That is why the authorities are arranging to implement the new scheme.

More than 530,000-acre wildlife reserve was established in 1974. It is a natural habitat of gaur, wild pigs, mountain goats, deer, monkeys and birds.

Currently, infrastructure development plan including construction of transport facilities is being implemented in the area to turn the place into an eco-tourism destination. Data collection has also been made in the area ahead of the plan. The area of the sanctuary has enough for camping, canoeing, animal visits and vacations, an official of the sanctuary said.—GNLM ■

Entrepreneurs to develop Rakhine

FROM PAGE-1

The Maungtau Border Merchants Association had been working on the Kanyin Chaung Economic Zone as the UMFCCI facilitates the project, while the UEHRD (Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine) has formed task forces under the leadership of their Director General Dr. Aung Htun Thet.

"The task forces will focus on creating jobs ranging from constructing buildings, agriculture, livestock breeding, developing the economic zone, healthcare, private loans, creating job opportunities and developing tourism. We have to acquire the necessary items from Yangon and Sittway", Dr. Aung Htun Thet said.

With the establishment the Kanyinchang Economic Zone,

cold storage factories should be established to boost the region's fishery export, he said.

The largest export item from Maungtau to Bangladesh are aquatic products like prawns, hilsa and other fish, and the second biggest export item is rice.

The third and fourth most popular items are raw ginger and kitchenware.—Mawsi and MNA ■



Labourers processing fish at a seafood export factory in Yangon. The export incomes were \$328 million from fishery products last fiscal year. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH**

Export income up by \$1.2 billion against last FY

EXPORT to foreign trade partners between 1 April and 20 October this fiscal year hit US\$7.6 billion, which increased by \$1.2 billion compared to similar period of last FY.

The export incomes were \$1.59 million from agricultural products, \$10 million from animal products, \$328 million from fishery products, \$758 million from minerals, \$123 million from forest products, \$3.46 billion from finished industrial goods and \$1.35 billion from other products. Finished

industrial goods topped the export revenue chart with estimated value of \$3.46 billion while animal products were noted at the bottom of the chart with the least earning.

Private sector's export earning is double of income from government sector. Export revenues via sea route were \$5.18 billion whereas border trade saw estimated export value of \$2.44 billion.

The Commerce Ministry is endeavouring to increase the export earnings by laying down the six main objective;

trade promotion, trade facilitation, trade negotiation, trade liberalization, trade education and consumer protection, according to its one-year performance under the incumbent government's period.

Previously, the country was heavily reliant only on extractive industries such as natural gas, timber, minerals. Now, production from those industries is declining and thus, Myanmar is emphasizing on export diversification into agriculture and industrial sectors. —Ko Htet

Bilateral trade between Myanmar and South Korea reaches over US\$341 million as of August

VALUE of bilateral trade between Myanmar and South Korea in first five months of current fiscal year was US\$341 million, comprising estimated export value of \$125 million and import value \$216 million, according to the figures of Commerce Ministry.

Rice and broken rice, coffee, mango, pulses, apparel produced from Myanmar's garment sector on Cutting-Making and Packaging basis, shrimp, sesame oil, etc are exported to South Korea while Myanmar imports capital goods such as machinery, equipments, raw industrial goods such as ferti-

lizer, garment raw materials and consumer products such as cosmetic products.

Bilateral trade values of \$866 million in FY 2016-2017, \$657 million in FY 2015-2016, \$862 million in FY 2014-2015, \$1.57 billion in FY 2013-2014, \$623 million in FY 2012-2013 and \$667 million in FY 2011-2012 were recorded.

As of end of September this FY, foreign direct investments of \$220 million have been brought into Myanmar from South Korea.

Since FY 1988-1989, 144 projects with estimated capital of \$3.77 billion from South

Korea were approved by Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC).

South Korea is ranked at sixth place in foreign investments into Myanmar. Multinational Corporations such as Posco, Daewoo, Samsaung, Hyundai from South Korea has already grasped their market shares in Myanmar.

Additionally, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) provided grant aid for sustainable rural development, capacity building in public service, industrial technology education and infrastructure building. —Mon Mon

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း: **"Sunday Special"** အချုပ်ပို (၈)
မျက်နှာပေါင်သော The Global New Light of Myanmar
နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကိုအောက်ပါမြို့များတွင်ဖုန်းနံပါတ်ဖြင့်

"Sunday Special"
အချုပ်ပို (၈) မျက်နှာ
ပေါင်သည့်

နေပြည်တော်
ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ရုံးအမှတ် (၇) နေပြည်တော်၊
သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရုံးချုပ်)၊
စီမံခန့်ခွဲရေးဌာန၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇ ၄၁၂၁၀၈

နေပြည်တော်
နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တပ်ကုန်း)
ဓလေ့ကျင့်ရေးဌာန၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇ ၄၁၂၁၀၈၊ ၀၆၇ ၄၁၂၁၀၉

ရန်ကုန်
The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊
ဦးထင်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ဗဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊
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မန္တလေး
လမ်း (၂၀ x ၂၁) ကြား၊ (၁၂ x ၁၃) လမ်းကြား၊ မုလ်ဇွေ
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တောင်ကြီး
ရုံးကြီးလမ်း၊ သစ်တောရပ်ကွက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့၊
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မကွေး
နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ တပ်မ (၈၈) တပ်နယ်ချေးအနီး၊
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တချင်းတုံ
မြို့သစ် (၃-၈)၊ အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းသွယ်၊ မြို့နယ်လမ်း၊
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ကလေး
အောင်ဓမ္မရပ်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊
ကလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၂၁၃၃

မြင်ကြီးနား
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စစ်တွေ
ရဲဘော်တပ်လမ်းနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊
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ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃၂၃၀၆၈

လားရှိုး
ဟူးမွန်ကျေးရွာတိုင်း၊ ဟူးမွန်ဆည်ဘယ်ဘက်ခြမ်း၊
(၁၂) ရပ်ကွက်၊ မန်ဆူဘုရားရှေ့၊ အဝေရာလမ်း၊
လားရှိုးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၂၂၄၀၆၇

ခြင်
မေတ္တာလမ်း၊ ရှမ်းရောင်းရမ်း၊ ကလွင်ကျေးရွာအုပ်စု၊
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မော်လမြိုင်
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Entrepreneurs seek business opportunities in Maungtaw

Maw Si and team

“CAN we establish a textile factory in Maungtaw Region? We have to think about the production and business development since it’s an economic zone. If we can boost the market then it will simultaneously increase job opportunities.” – U Aung Kyi Soe (General-Secretary of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry)

“We need to think about what we can export back when ships carrying imports arrive in Maungtaw. Right now I can think about bananas and coconuts. In 2008 the main banana market was in the Ayeyawady Region. In the context of Myanmar, bananas and coconuts are in high demand in the local markets as well.” – U Kyaw Thu (Secretary of Myanmar Agricultural Produce Production and Trade Association)

The following are excerpts from interviews with U Aung Kyi Soe, U Kyaw Thu and U Aung Myint Thein, Chairman of the Maungtaw Region Merchant Association and the Secretary of the Committee for Establishing an Economic Zone in Maungtaw, during their visits to the Maungtaw region on 29 October.

U Aung Kyi Soe (General-Secretary of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry)

Q: Can you tell us about your trip in Maungtaw?

A: There is an upcoming panel discussion about investment opportunities by the Rakhine State Government and I came here to assess development opportunities for the whole region before that discussion.

The Maungtaw Border Merchant Association had been working on the Kanyin Chaung Economic Zone and the UMFCCI (Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry) facilitates the project while the UEHRD (Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assis-



U Kyaw Thu. PHOTO: MNA

tance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine) has formed task forces under the leadership of their Director General Dr. Aung Htun Thet. The task forces jobs range from constructing buildings, agriculture, livestock breeding, developing the economic zone, healthcare, private loans, creating job opportunities and developing tourism. We have to acquire the necessary items from Yangon and Sittway and we had a field inspection by Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye and Dr. Aung Htun Thet in Kanyin Chaung yesterday.

Q: What are your views on the current situation in Kanyin Chaung economic zone?

A: About 500-800 tons of supply by the Myanmar Red Cross Association arrived in the port during my visit. The main export here is fish and the sellers can immediately cross the border to sell their product over there. If we can establish the economic zone here then we can build freezer factories to store the fish and sell them when we get the price we want.

Q: How do you think the Kanyin Chaung economic zone should proceed?

A: If the economic zone is established then we need to set up border lines for potential buyers to come in and do business in the designated areas. There are also other business opportunities. Can we establish a textile factory in Maungtaw region? We have to think about the production and



U Aung Kyi Soe. PHOTO: MNA

business development since it’s an economic zone. If we can boost the market then it will simultaneously increase job opportunities.

I believe if we press forward with vigor, we can quickly and effectively develop the region.

U Aung Myint Thein (Chairman of the Maungtaw Region Merchant Association and the Secretary of the Committee for Establishing an Economic Zone in Maungtaw)

Q: Can you tell us about the history of the Kanyin Chaung Economic Zone?

A: It started as a trading zone before it was an economic zone. The trading zone started with business deals with Bangladesh. The population of Bangladesh is triple the population of Myanmar and they have a scarcity of farmland so their demand for basic foodstuff is high. This area also has 90 per cent of the export market in all of Myanmar’s nine border gates.

Q: Can you tell if there were any repercussions to business in the area after the recent attacks?

A: The US Dollar has been the main form of currency used in business transactions in Maungtaw since 1991. After the incidents in June 2012, trade went down by 60 per cent in the area.

Q: How long did it take to establish the economic zone?

A: The plans for the trade



U Aung Myint Thein. PHOTO: MNA

zone was submitted to the then Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Hla Maung Tin with four points to it but it only materialized in October 2015 by which time we started establishing the Kanyin Chaung trade zone.

The benefits of the trade zone were the increased number of vessels transporting goods. There are currently 500 to 1000 vessels in operation. Another benefit is that people from Chittagong and Dacca can directly come and purchase in Kanyin Chaung and after the incidents in Maungtaw in 2012 I hope we can offer more job opportunities.

Terrorists can arrive during times of poverty and if there are good job opportunities then it will be easy for them to penetrate into the area.

Q: Can you tell us how you acquired and managed the budget for the economic zone?

A: In the 2015-2016 fiscal year the regional government invested Ks 600 million and the private sector invested Ks 400 million into the project but it was halted due to terrorist attacks. Now in the 2017-2018 fiscal years a new budget plan of Ks 2.2 billion was planned out and submitted at a recent meeting in UMFCCI.

Q: What is the main export product for the area?

A: The largest export item are aquatic products like prawns, hilsa and other fish. Our second biggest export item is rice and third is raw ginger and kitchenware.

Q: Can you briefly explain the job and business opportunities in the area?

A: Maungtaw region alone produces at least 450 tons of prawn and the entire northern region of Rakhine produces about 900 tons of prawn. These are exported to Bangladesh which in turn exports to Singapore. We need to build a freezer factory for quality control if they do not purchase the intended amount.

Secondly, if we can build a textile industry here then we can offer jobs to the huge unemployment pool of women in Myanmar.

U Kyaw Thu (Secretary of Myanmar Agricultural Produce Production and Trade Association)

Myanmar produces between 1 million to 2 million viss of ginger annually and 80 per cent of that is exported to Bangladesh. Ginger is mainly produced in Southern Shan State and travels via Yangon to Singapore. Ginger has a shelf life of 8 months and if we can create facilities for turning ginger into high-end products then we can get better prices and income.

The Kanyin Chaung economic zone now has ports for cargo vessels. We need to think about what we can export back when ships carrying imports arrive in Maungtaw. Right now I can think about bananas and coconuts. In 2008 the main banana market was in the Ayeyawady Region. In the context of Myanmar, bananas and coconuts are in high demand in the local markets as well.

Q: What is the situation for agriculture in the area?

A: We can supply the high demand for ginger to Bangladesh by planting them here so that instead of carrying them from Shan State we can cut costs if we can supply it directly from here.

The main advantage of this area is that it is in proximity to the nearby countries so we have a control of the trade market. ■

University Scouts to entertain at the Tazaungdaing lighting festival Eve

UNIVERSITY Scouts will entertain with Messenger of Peace songs near the Independence Monument in the Mahabandoola Park, Yangon on 2 November evening, Tazaungdaing lighting

festival Eve. As “Myanmar Scout Music Festival” will be held in the evening of 12 November at Thuwanna Stadium (1), University Scouts will entertain at the Tazaungdaing lighting festival

Eve with the “Messenger of Peace” songs to bring the public’s interest to the peace.

The university scouts were in dress rehearsal yesterday evening at the Sabai Hall of No

(2) BEHS, Sanchaung Township so that to entertain at the Tazaungdaing lighting festival Eve.

The university scouts were taught by associate secretary

of Myanmar Scout Federation U Aye Kyaing and senior scouts and circus committees’ members at the dress rehearsal of yesterday evening. —Myanmar Scout Federation ■

Strong winds batter central Europe, killing at least four

PRAGUE/BERLIN—Strong winds battered central Europe on Sunday, killing two people in Poland and two in the Czech Republic, where the gales reached. All four people were killed by falling trees. The storm also knocked out power to thousands of Czechs and Poles. Winds reached more than 100 km an hour in several parts of the Czech Republic and topped out at 180 km on Snezka, at 1,602 metres the country's highest mountain, Czech Television reported.

In Germany, railway operator Deutsche Bahn closed many routes in

northern and central Germany, cutting rail access to cities such as Bremen, Hamburg, Berlin, Dresden and Leipzig. A soccer match between Dynamo Dresden and Eintracht Braunschweig scheduled in Dresden was delayed by two and a half hours because of winds. The winds felled trees in the Czech Republic, with one man dying after being hit on a sidewalk in a town in the north of the country and one woman killed by a tree in a wooded area, media reported. The weather delayed or halted traffic on several railway corridors

and slowed road traffic, with a fallen tree blocking one highway just outside of the capital, Prague, the website of newspaper Mlada Fronta Dnes reported. Prague Zoo closed because of the winds, but Prague Airport was running without problems, newspaper Lidove Noviny's website reported. The winds also hit Poland, damaging a pipeline at Poland's liquefied natural gas terminal in the port of Swinoujscie. They caused a small leak but no greater damage, according to a spokesman for the state gas pipeline operator, Gaz-System. —Reuters ■



Firefighters are pictured next to a car damaged by a tree during stormy weather caused by storm called "Herwart" in Berlin, Germany on 29 October 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Catalan independence parties seen losing parliamentary majority in election — poll

MADRID — Catalan independence parties are seen as losing their parliamentary majority in an election, according to a poll published on Sunday, though the wafer-thin margin between the two sides predicts a hard-fought campaign to Decem-

ber's ballot.

The poll was taken from last Monday to Thursday, just as Spain's central government was preparing to take control of the restive region, which then made a unilateral declaration of independence on Friday.

Pro-independence

parties were seen as taking 42.5 per cent of the vote while anti-independence parties would win 43.4 per cent, according to the poll of some 1,000 people surveyed by Sigma Dos and published in the anti-independence newspaper El Mundo. —Reuters ■

'Margaret Thatcher is my role model' — German far-right AfD leader

BERLIN — Alice Weidel, a leader of Germany's far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party, said the late British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is her political role model, saying Thatcher got Britain back on its feet when it was facing economic ruin.

Weidel told the German newspaper Bild am Sonntag newspaper that her party, which stormed into parliament for the first time after capturing nearly 13 per cent of the vote, aimed to be ready to join a coalition government by 2021.

That could be a long shot since all mainstream parties have rejected working with the AfD. Weidel said the party was content serving in opposition now, but its long-

term goal was to shape policy, and Thatcher's experience in Britain was a helpful guide.

"Margaret Thatcher is my political role model," Weidel told the newspaper, lauding the UK leader's willingness to swim against the current when necessary. "Thatcher took over Great Britain when the country was economically in the dumps and built it up again."

Weidel, a lesbian, said her partner and two adopted sons would move to Berlin from Switzerland when the partner's current film project was completed.

She said only 18 per cent of the AfD's voters were women which was "way too few" and the par-

ty needed to attract more women voters.

She said she favoured free child care and kindergartens because that would help families.

Weidel also urged former AfD leader Frauke Petry to give up her seat in parliament after quitting the party the day after the election and vowing to sit as an independent.

"I don't have any animosity," Weidel said. "I think it's a shame that she left the AfD. I consider it the wrong decision."

Petry this month kicked off a new "Blue Party", promising a "reasonable conservative" agenda and berating AfD leaders for holding views too far outside the mainstream. —Reuters ■

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Dated: 30th October 2017

From economic development to regional peace and stability

By Khin Maung Oo

UNDENIABLY, poverty and naivety can easily cause unnecessary evil effects, being the causes which create the increasing growth of social problems and conflicts in northern Rakhine State. It can be said that the local people in Rakhine State were mainly displaced to other places by severe shortages of employment opportunities in the region. Displaced persons include not only those who fled in large numbers into the neighboring country due to attacks of extremist terrorists but also the local nationals who went away in search of greener pastures.

Now that the region has started to regain some measure of peace and stability, all have been found to be making concerted efforts for the successful implementation of projects and initiatives to alleviate the suffering of the people in Rakhine State regardless of race or

religion. Yet, success cannot emerge all of a sudden as if being thrown into a magic lake. We will achieve success only if we all collectively implement under short-and-long-term plans effectively and in a timely manner. Recently, local entrepreneurs energetically offered tidy amounts of contributions to the UEHRD (Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine State) for the provision of humanitarian assistance, resettlement efforts and the economic development of Rakhine State. However, more investments are needed from other companies and business leaders for the socio-economic development of Rakhine State. Once we have a successful working model in Rakhine State, this process can be replicated in other States and Regions.

Being a coastal region, Rakhine State is a fertile land. Looking at towns,

villages and the coastal areas, it has a large number of rivers, creeks, lakes and the flat coastal plain which abounds with fish, prawns and other marine life. Paddy and other crops may be cultivated successfully in the rich soil. Natural resources and labor are abundant. But, due to lack of capitals for investment in regional businesses and a lack of peace and stability, the region still remains trapped in a quagmire of endless poverty in spite of plentiful resources.

It has been learnt that more and more investments will be made step by step for the development of agriculture and rice sectors in northern Rakhine State—Buthidaung, Maungtau and Rathedaung townships within a 3 year period in combination with the Myanmar Agri-business Public Corporation Ltd, (MAPCO) and Myanmar Rice Federation's member associations, by using K 50 billion.

For the development of the rice sector, "A Garden of Food, Fruits and Crops" of 500 acreages will be established in Buthidaung. Job opportunities will be created and vocational training courses will be conducted so that rice and other agricultural produce can be used as raw materials for the manufacture of foodstuff. And, installation of paddy dryer plants, transformation of conventional mills into modern rice mills and investments in storage buildings and high-quality steam boiler rice mills will be launched in other regions.

Now that such investments are being started for the regional development of northern Rakhine State while the Union Government and the Rakhine State government is taking responsibilities for regional security, we deeply urge our entrepreneurs to invest in other economic enterprises in confidence for the development of Rakhine State. ■

As To Whether Local Housemaids Got Full Rights---

Khin Yadanar

PROUDLY a housemaid had ever said, "Our jobs are to help others not to be worried about their household chores in their absence," with regard to her job. Quite right in saying so! In the living ways of modern society, most people depend upon care or help assistants so as to reduce stress and tension, so that they can move toward their destination. Each and every one of the helps cannot be completely relied upon, but they can fulfill needs of families to some extent, presently.

It is a part of the project of changing all-inclusive economic, legal and social sectors to draw the amendment of labor protection law in Myanmar. There is nothing special in the country, concerning laws on the helps. The prescriptions of the national labor law as regards salary or wage and freedom of forming labor unions include home help's rights. Forced labor, debt-related labor bondage and child laborers are legally protected. Regarding dangerous employments, housemaids are granted legal protections such as social securities.

Local housemaids are now seen to have been being employed from employment agencies. Their salaries are said to be round about K 100000 per month. But, on the nationwide scale, the salary is learnt to be K 20000 to K 100000 only.

Least-paid helps

Presently, the minimum wage is designated to be K 3600, but most of in-house helps find it difficult to get that amount. The major problem is that they

lack knowledge and academic learning, according to a responsible Myanmar official of ILO. The worst thing is that most of landlords in Myanmar who hire helps have no acknowledgements as relations between employer and employee, he added.

Remuneration of a housemaid

With effect from January 2016, home helps are included in the Wage Paying Act, but little was known about it. In section 9, chapter 3 of the Act, it is

There is no specific age limitation of housemaids in Myanmar. But most people employ those between 16 and 40. As of January 2016 age limitation for children was changed from 13 to 14. Hence, children under 14 cannot be employed as housemaids.

described that an employer must pay in cash, half of the wages due to be paid in the situation of deducting for accommodation from the wages. Under the current situation, it can be designated that helps must get at least K 1800, half of the minimum pay as one-day-earning. Moreover, as those under 16 must be regarded to be child laborers, they should get K 3600 as one-day-minimum wage as prescribed in section 10, sub-section E of the Act. Those who hire house maids should notice that the Act has been enacted so as not to be able to deduct from child laborers in any way.

Social security and Housemaids

Housemaids cannot be excluded from rights of social security act. In section 20 of the social security act, helps

desirous of social security benefits can give contributions of their own accords and enjoy benefits in accord with the prescriptions. Housemaids should have noted that registration for social security is up to their desires.

Though not having social security registration, most of local housemaids are required to be given medical treatment by landlords as far as they can when they become ill. Practically, most landlords are being found to have fulfilled social and health needs of their

helps.

Anti-human trafficking and home helps

Human-trafficking Protection Law forbids any forced labors to adults and minors. As regard exploitation, there are some designations in the law. If and when housemaids are kept as the possession of landlords due to failure to pay off debt or housemaids are paid less and made work without time limitation, the landlord can be sued under human trafficking protection law.

Age limitation and skills

There is no specific age limitation of housemaids in Myanmar. But most people employ those between 16 and 40. As of January 2016 age limitation

for children was changed from 13 to 14. Hence, children under 14 cannot be employed as housemaids. Fundamental needs for housemaids include skills in managing house works, tolerance and being ready and willing to help. Skills in managing house works are the major problem for helps. Most belong to bottom-level class so it takes time landlords to teach them how to manage house works systematically and to be well-convinced of application of electric equipment and hygienic knowledge. With the development of their skills, housemaids will get favored and more paid by landlords. But, sorrowfully designations for housemaids were not included in the law on employment skill development, but laying stress on economic businesses.

Void of Regular Inspections

In Myanmar, the government is regularly inspecting labor affairs. On-job inspections in various sectors as in included the framework of national labor affairs were found to have regularly been inspected. According to labor affair experts, there are several differences in the law. It was found out that entertainment places, restaurants, tea shops and families where housemaids are employed and workplace where employees less than 5 are employed were excluded. In fact, there are laws and acts for workers and workplaces but weakness is visible in exercise of laws and acts. It was concluded that responsible persons from small-scale businesses and homes who hire housemaids are violating in paying wages as well as in limiting working hours.

SEE PAGE 9

Chin State Chief Minister U Salai Lian Lwal attends Chin New Year Festival

CHIN New Year Festival also known as Tho Festival was held on Saturday morning at Cousin Hall, Haka Town, Chin State and attended by Chin State Chief Minister U Salai Lian Lwal, State Hluttaw speaker U Zobwe, ministers of the State Cabinet, departmental officials and local residents.

The ceremony was opened singing the traditional song, Vaahla and by firing the gun. Sayadaw Naw Kyone Htlan said the opening prayers and U Ngun San Aung explained the reason of holding festival.

Then, Chin State Chief Minister U Salai Lian Lwal delivered the opening speech. State Chief Minister, State

Hluttaw speaker U Zobwe and officials gave the certificates of honors and awards to the students who passed the matriculation examination outstandingly at the academic year of 2016-2017.

Then, Chin cultural troupes entertained with the Chin traditional songs and dances. —Chin State (IPRD) ■

Indawgyi Biosphere Reserve Inauguration to be held tomorrow

AN inauguration ceremony of Indawgyi Biosphere Reserve will be held tomorrow at Daw Pale congregation hall near Indaw-



gyi Lake, according to Project Manager U Ngwe Lwin, Fauna and Floral International.

The project manager also said on 27 October that Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win and Kachin State Chief Minister will attend the ceremony.

UNESCO has designated Indawgyi Lake in Kachin State—the largest freshwater lake in the country and the third largest in Southeast Asia—as a Biosphere Reserve. The recognition is the second of its kind for Myanmar. In 2015, Inle Lake in Shan State was granted UNESCO Biosphere Reserve status for its ecological importance.

Spanning over an area

of 133,715 hectares, the Biosphere Reserve of Indawgyi Lake includes the lake and the surrounding wetlands and forest to a distance of about 15 kilometres. Indawgyi Lake is also home to more than 160 bird species—some of which are globally threatened water birds—as well as turtle species, endemic fish, mammals, reptiles and primates. Every year in the fall, migratory birds from as far as Siberia find solace around the area within Indawgyi Lake Wildlife Sanctuary.

Indawgyi is also designated as ASEAN Heritage Park in 2003, as Ramsar site Wet Land on 2 February in 2016 and Indawgyi Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO on 14 June 2017.—Salai Mang Ngai ■

AICHR Workshop on Rights-based approach to Regional Management Strategy for EIA held in Yangon



The opening ceremony of AICHR workshop held in Yangon. **PHOTO: MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

THE Opening Ceremony of AICHR Workshop on Rights-based Approach to Regional Management Strategy for an Effective Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) hosted by Myanmar was convened at 8:00 am, 29th October, 2017 in Melia Hotel, Yangon.

U Hla Myint, Ambassador (Rtd), Representative of AICHR Myanmar, H.E. Leo M Herrera-Lim, Chair of the AICHR, H.E. Mr. John Knox, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment, U Sein Tun Lin, Deputy Director General of Environmental Conservation Department, Ministry of

Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and Mr. Jung-han Kim, Charge d' Affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Myanmar delivered their remarks respectively.

The Representatives from ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), representatives from Environmental Institutions and Human Rights Institution from ASEAN Member States, representatives from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and government officials from Ministries concerned attended the Workshop.—Ministry of Foreign Affairs ■

As To Whether Local Housemaids Got Full Rights---

FROM PAGE 8

Are workplaces free from dangers?

The State has arranged to be workplaces free from accidents and dangers and to promote health care. Currently the draft is under compilation and we must wait and see whether designations and prescriptions included in the law can specifically solve the problems for housemaids or not. Yet, section 65 of juvenile act describes that children are to be protected from jobs prone to accidents and dangers. According to research

findings on international child labor affairs, living far away from families, working for hours at jobs, lacking recreation hours and failure to acquire privacy may greatly harm health of children. The international program for eradication of child laborers is presenting that babysitting, laundry works, sanitation, working nearby fireplaces, handling with chemicals used in sanitation works, utilization of sharpened things, frequent illness and malnutrition.

Working hours and holidays

Currently, most of local

housemaids have to work day in day out. It is too much for them. They seldom have holidays. It is tantamount that they are not concerned with the prescriptions—section 2/4 (A) and (C) of leaves and holidays act, 1951 no-58. According to the juvenile act, every child is entitled to enjoy designated working hours, holidays and other reliefs. But it was not found out that these have not been designated specifically. Generally child laborers between 14-15 years of age are forbidden not to employ more than 4 hours a day during 6 am to 6 pm., with

children between 16 and 17 are granted to work 16 hours per week. Normal average working hours for a person is 8 hours a day. Presently housemaids are being seen working 12 to 15 hours a day.

Help housemaids

In the Juvenile Act, 1993 it is prescribed that children living far away from parents, who are currently under the protection of an organization, must be provided with social securities. Employers seldom, include housemaids in the family list. So, as accurate amounts of them cannot be

known protection cannot be strictly made.

For housemaids to be legally included as a category, it is urgently needed to implement the promulgation of national law, provision of social securities, acquisition of salary, wages and rights so that they can enjoy likewise other employees. It is necessary for the public, landlords and their families to be well convinced of labor affairs by giving educational knowledge, with a view to bringing about the effectiveness of the law.

Translated by
Khin Maung Oo (Tada-U)

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

Over 2500 watch International Police Band Concert

THE 22nd International Police Band Concert (2017) was held at Myanmar Convention Centre in Yangon at 7 pm yesterday.

After explaining the salient points of the Japan, Singapore, Viet Nam and Myanmar police bands, there were country-wise and four-nation performances.

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe and wife, Japanese Ambassador Mr Tateshi Higuchi, Singaporean Ambassador Mr Robert Chua, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe and

wife, Deputy Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Lin Naing Myint, officials, MPs, the Myanmar Police Force-MPF chief and over 2500 people enjoyed the performances.

This is the first time, I have seen this type of occasion. Apart from Myanmar Police Force foreigner counterparts also took part in it.

This kind of concert will enhance trust in the Myanmar Police Force, said U Myint Wai of Mayangon.—Myanmar News Agency



Members of International Police Music Band performing at Myanmar Convention Centre in Yangon on Sunday night. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Roundtable discussion on emergence of federal state held in Mandalay

PEN Myanmar which is taking part in the works of sharing knowledge to gain more knowledge to the people on peace process improvement and emergence of federal state held a roundtable discussion at a church in 26th street, between 74th and 75th road in Chanayetharzan Township, Mandalay on 28 October.

The discussion made in 21st Century Panglong Conference generated improvement and good potential.

The people are also participating in peace process and program for emerging of federal state. In the discussion which conducted by PEN Myanmar, Writer Myo Myint Nye-

in, Khin Mya Zin and Khine Ma Ma Myo and Ko Jimmy from 88 Generation Peace and Open Society participated, following by discussing that the races or nations who have rights to stay as a separate entity come united into a Union at their free will without establishing the state separately.

Then, writers and other participants continuously and actively held roundtable discussions and literary talk.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung, Region Hluttaw deputy speaker, townselders, the populace and students attended these events. — Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay) ■

Fire destroys four houses, one shop in Maungtaw

A fire broke out in Myo Oo village, north Myoma ward, Maungtaw on 28 October, destroying four houses where no people stayed and one shop.

The fire was put under control by township firemen, police forces and military forces after

10 minutes.

Four houses with thatched roofs and wooden walls and a shop were engulfed in the fire.

Police are taking action to file charges causing the fire in accord with the law. — Myanmar News Agency ■

40 hand-made Mines found near a bridge in Maungtaw

A pack of 40 Hand-made mines made of plastic pipes found near the bridge of MyoU village in Myoma Myauk quarter, Maungtaw yesterday morning 10:30

am.

U Tin Nyunt, a local people of Maungtaw was found 1 inch radius and 6 inches long 40 mines near the bridge and

he sent the information to the MyoU village police outpost.

The investigation is ongoing for the suspect.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Tatmadaw, good service personnel honoured



Thousands of participants supporting the Myanmar Tatmadaw and the good service personnel take part in downtown Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

A ceremony to support the Myanmar Tatmadaw and the good service personnel was sponsored by Tatmadaw Lovers Association (Yangon) in front of Maha Bandoola Park near the City hall in Yangon yesterday.

Participants gathered at a bus stop near the eastern archway of Shwedagon Pagoda in

Bahan at noon.

They marched to the park through Kaba Aye Pagoda Road and Signal Pagoda Road waving the flags of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the flags of the Tatmadaw and singing military songs and patriotic songs.

After staging the ethnic cultural dances, they commenced

the ceremony by saluting the State Flag and singing the National Anthem.

They observed a one-minute silence in honour of the security forces and service personnel discharging duties in Rakhine State.

Speakers explained the purpose of the ceremony. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Palestinian PM says Britain must apologize for Balfour declaration

NABLUS — Palestinian Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah called on Britain on Sunday to apologize for the Balfour declaration that has aided the cornerstone for the establishment of Israel on the lands of Palestine, instead of celebrating it.

Hamdallah, who spoke to reporters at the opening ceremony of 12 new schools in Nablus area, north of the West Bank, said that Britain “should undertake its responsibility and apologize for the historic injustice that it has caused for the Palestinian people and rectify it instead of celebrating it.”

He described Britain’s centennial celebration of the declaration as a “defiance of international public supporters of

the Palestinian cause and supporters of justice, freedom and human rights.”

November 2 marks 100 years since the Balfour declaration, which is the name given to the letter dated in 1917 from the United Kingdom’s Foreign Secretary back then Arthur James Balfour to Lord Lionel Walter Rothschild, who was then a leader of the British Jewish community, announcing the British support for the Jewish people to build their state on the lands of Palestine.

Theresa May, the British Prime Minister announced last Wednesday that her country “will certainly mark the centenary with pride.”

“We must also be conscious



Palestinian Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah receives an exclusive interview by Xinhua in Ramallah on 6 March 2016. PHOTO: XINHUA

of the sensitivities that some people do have about the Balfour declaration and we recognize that there is more to be done.

We remain committed to

the two state solution in relation to Israeli and the Palestinians,” she added.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas demanded during his UN General Assem-

bly speech last September that Britain apologize for the Balfour declaration and compensate Palestinians for the occupation of their lands after that letter paved the way for it.— Xinhua ■

Islamist attack on hotel in Somali capital kills 25 — police

MOGADISHU — An Islamist attack on a hotel in the Somali capital ended on Sunday after 25 people had been killed in a near 12-hour siege, police said, underlining the insurgents’ ability to carry out deadly attacks in the heart of the city.

“The death toll rises to 25 people including police, hotel guards and residents. The death toll may rise. We suspect some other militants disguised themselves and escaped with the

residents who were rescued,” police officer Major Mohamed Hussein told Reuters.

“Three militants were captured alive and two others blew up themselves after they were shot,” he added.

The attack began around at 5 pm on Saturday with a car bomb. Gunmen then stormed the building after the bomb had destroyed its defences. The siege ended on Sunday morning.

A Reuters witness saw sev-

en bodies lying inside the hotel.

The explosion destroyed the front of the three-storey hotel and a next door hotel was also damaged. Many Somali officials live in fortified hotels because they offer better security from attack.

Islamist group al Shabaab claimed the attack on Saturday. They want to overthrow the weak, UN-backed government and impose a strict form of Islamic law. — Reuters ■



Somali security officers secure the scene of a suicide car bomb explosion, at the gate of Naso Hablod Two Hotel in Hamarweyne district of Mogadishu, Somalia on 28 October 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Rouhani says Iran will continue to produce missiles — TV

DUBAI — Iran will continue to produce missiles for its defence and does not consider that a violation of international accords, President Hassan Rouhani said on Sunday in a speech broadcast on state television.

Rouhani spoke days after the US House of Representatives voted for new sanctions on Iran’s ballistic missile programme, part of an effort to clamp down on Tehran without immediately moving to undermine an international nuclear agreement.

“We have built, are building and will continue to build missiles, and this violates no international agreements,” Rouhani said in a speech in parliament.

“We will produce any weapons of any kind that we need and stockpile it and use it at anytime to defend ourselves,” Rouhani said.

The United States has already imposed unilateral sanctions on Iran, saying its missile tests violate a UN resolution, which calls on Tehran not to undertake activities related to missiles capable of delivering

nuclear weapons.

Iran denies seeking nuclear weapons and says it has no plans to build nuclear-capable missiles. Rouhani also criticised the United States over President Donald Trump’s refusal earlier this month to formally certify that Tehran is complying with the 2015 accord on Iran’s nuclear programme, even though international inspectors say it is.

“You are disregarding past negotiations and agreements approved by the UN Security council and expect others to negotiate with you?” Rouhani said. “Because of the behaviour it has adopted, America should forget any future talks and agreement with other countries,” Rouhani added, referring to unnamed countries in East Asia, an apparent reference to North Korea.

US Defence Secretary Jim Mattis said on Saturday that he could not imagine the United States ever accepting a nuclear North Korea, and stressed during a week-long trip to Asia that diplomacy was America’s preferred course.— Reuters ■

New cargo route links Xinjiang with Ukraine



A China-Europe freight train X9081 leaves Urumqi, capital of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, for Poltava, Ukraine on 29 October, 2017. The train, carrying oil drilling equipment, left Urumqi Sunday noon and is bound for Poltava, Ukraine, via Kazakhstan and Russia. This is the first cargo train linking Xinjiang with Ukraine. The new route will cut the transportation time from more than two months by sea to just 15 days. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

URUMQI — A new China-Europe freight train route was launched on Sunday in Urumqi, capital of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

The first train, carrying oil drilling equipment, left Urumqi

Sunday noon and is bound for Poltava, Ukraine, via Kazakhstan and Russia. This is the first cargo train linking Xinjiang with Ukraine.

The new route will cut the transportation time from more than two months by sea to just 15

days, said Cheng Jingmin, deputy manager of Xinjiang Beiken Energy Engineering.

The company sent the equipment for a drilling project in Ukraine.

According to Cui Yumiao, deputy mayor of Karamay, the

new route will serve as an important channel for enterprises in the city to expand their presence in overseas market along the Belt and Road.

With trade volume increasing between China and European countries in recent years,

Urumqi has started to offer "point-to-point" customized services to cut transportation costs and time.

A total of 700 China-Europe freight trains are expected to depart from Xinjiang by the end of 2017.—Xinhua ■

Abe, Trump to agree on technology cooperation in Tokyo meeting

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and US President Donald Trump will agree on their countries' cooperation toward the development of next-generation mobile communication and other new technologies when they meet in Tokyo next month, a source close to Japan-US relations said on Saturday.

Such an accord will be in line with Tokyo's pursuit of mutually agreeable economic cooperation with Washington when the world's biggest and third-largest

economies are at odds over the US drive to promote bilateral free trade deals to address trade imbalance.

Abe is also expected to make a renewed push for exporting Japan's high-speed rail and other infrastructure technologies as Trump visits Tokyo as part of his first official trip to Asia, the source said. Areas of cooperation will include autonomous driving and next-generation computers for developing artificial intelligence, the source said.

In the second round of the

high-level economic dialogue between the two countries in Washington earlier in the month, US Vice President Mike Pence expressed the Trump administration's interest in commencing talks for a Japan-US free trade agreement and stressed the need to reduce the US goods trade deficit. Pence and Japanese Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso agreed then to simplify procedures for exporting US automobiles to Japan and lift restrictions on some farm trade.—Kyodo News ■

China hands over high-tech equipment for rescue and relief operations to Bangladesh

DHAKA — The Chinese government handed over a batch of high-tech equipment for rescue and relief operations to Bangladesh's Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief on Sunday.

Ma Mingqiang, Chinese ambassador to Bangladesh, handed over the equipment to Shah Kamal, Bangladeshi secretary of disaster manager and relief, in a ceremony in Dhaka.

As a token of friendship of the Chinese people toward Bangladesh, China donated hy-

draulic wheel excavator, forklift, air compressor, generator set, cutting machine, and many other calamity rescue equipment to the ministry.

Upon request from the Bangladeshi government, the Chinese government agreed to provide the batch of disaster and relief equipment, a Chinese embassy official told Xinhua.

A 10-day training for Bangladeshi operators of the equipment was conducted by the Chinese side last month, said the official.—Xinhua ■

US Viet Nam War deserter helped by Japan pacifists back for speeches

TOKYO — A former US seaman who deserted during the Viet Nam War with the help of a Japanese pacifist group and fled to Sweden is visiting Japan for the first time in 50 years to deliver speeches nationwide.

During a recent lecture at Rikkyo University in Tokyo, Craig Anderson expressed concerns over what he called Japan's "remilitarization" as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pushes to revise the war-renouncing clause of the Constitution to establish the legal status of the Self-Defence Forces.

In Kyoto, Anderson, 70, also told the audience of around 50 to take actions in accordance with their consciences to secure peace.

Anderson deserted



Craig Anderson, a former US seaman who deserted during the Viet Nam War with the help of a Japanese pacifist group, gives a speech at Rikkyo University in Tokyo on 28 October, 2017, on his first visit to Japan in 50 years. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

from the US aircraft carrier Intrepid when it docked at Yokosuka, near Tokyo,

in October 1967, together with three other young seamen. They eventually

smuggled themselves out of Japan to reach Stockholm via Moscow with

help of the Japan "Peace for Viet Nam! Committee," known by its Japanese acronym "Beheiren."

The four deserters, who became known as the "Intrepid Four," considered themselves "patriotic deserters" acting out of their belief that the Viet Nam War was against the interests of their country, according to Anderson.

Anderson was arrested after returning to the United States in 1971 and was detained for several months before being released with a bad conduct discharge.

Around 200 people gathered for his speech at Rikkyo, among whom was Shinobu Yoshioka, who chairs the Japan PEN Club.

Yoshioka was actively

involved in Beheiren activities from the late 1960s to 1970s to shelter US deserters.

"I was around 20 years old at that time, and the deserters were young people of my age," Yoshioka said. "I left a college without a diploma, but I learned a lot in establishing a relationship with the deserters, who opened my eyes to the outside world. The experiences gave me the opportunity to receive the best 'college education' I could."

Conscientious objectors from South Korea, which has a system of mandatory military service, and their supporters also joined the Rikkyo session.

Anderson will stay in Japan until early November.—Kyodo News ■

Airport opens near traditional ice-fishing lake

CHANGCHUN — A new airport began service on Sunday in Songyuan, a city well known for a centuries-old tradition of ice-fishing, in northeast China's Jilin Province. New air routes linking Songyuan with Beijing, Shanghai and Qingdao were launched the same day, with more destinations to be added soon. Preparations for the airport began in 2008, and construction officially started in July 2015. Covering an area of 190 hectares, the airport is designed to handle 400,000 passengers and 2,000 tonnes of cargo and mails annually by 2020. The airport, only 27 kilometres from Chagan Lake Nature Reserve, is expected to help boost the local tourism industry. Every winter, tens of thousands of tourists come to the ice-covered lake, one of the biggest freshwater lakes in the country, to watch fishermen use traditional ice-fishing techniques dating back nearly 2,000 years.—Xinhua ■

Australian former governor-general and peacemaker Ninian Stephen dies at 94

SYDNEY — Former Australian Governor-General Sir Ninian Stephen, who worked on the Northern Ireland peace talks and served on the International Court of Justice, died on Sunday. He was 94.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull announced plans for a state funeral, saying there were very few

honours that Stephen, who held five separate knighthoods, didn't have to his name. "Australia will remember Sir Ninian for his humility, his intellect, and his lifelong commitment to justice and the rule of law," Turnbull said.

Stephen served as governor-general from 1982 to 1989 when he became

the first Australian Ambassador for the Environment, working hard to ban mining in Antarctica.

He was born in Britain and moved to Australia in his late teens where he studied law before serving as an infantryman during World War Two, serving in New Guinea and Borneo.

Both the British and

Irish governments chose Stephen to chair the second phase of the Northern Ireland peace talks in 1992. He was also a judge for the International Criminal Tribunal investigating war crimes in the former Yugoslavia.

In his later years, he advised on South Africa's constitution, worked for

the International Labour Organisation in Burma and was involved in setting up a tribunal to hear cases involving atrocities committed by the genocidal Khmer Rouge "killing fields" regime of 1975-79. He also helped draft a constitution for Afghanistan after the 2001 ouster of the Taliban.—Reuters ■

Aerospace engineer develops solar reactor to make water, oxygen from lunar soil

LOS ANGELES — An aerospace engineer has designed and built a device powered by a thermal solar reactor, which could allow up to eight astronauts to make their own water and oxygen on the Moon.

"From the beginning people were thinking this

probably has to be done with a solar furnace, because on the Moon there is not very much to heat a system that you can use; photovoltaics with electricity or a nuclear reactor or concentrated solar radiation," Thorsten Denk, who has experience in concentrating solar and

in particles engineering, was quoted as saying in a news release.

The work was detailed in Denk's paper, presented this week at the 23rd Annual SolarPACES Conference in Chile.

The idea is not new. "After the Apollo missions, scientists had a lot of ideas

of how to make oxygen on the Moon, because every material that you bring from Earth costs money. For every kilogram of payload you need hundreds of kilograms of fuel," said Denk, who worked on the device for 10 years at the Plataforma Solar de Almeria (CIEMAT).

The system could chemically split water from lunar soil and electrolysis could then split the water into oxygen and hydrogen. Unlike soil on Earth, lunar soil does not experience weathering, as the Moon does not have an atmosphere.—Xinhua ■

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 2nd NOVEMBER 2017 to 3rd NOVEMBER 2017 (Tazaungmone Public Holiday), Loading, UnLoading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

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All Banks will be closed on 2nd November to 3rd November 2017" TAZAUNGDAING HOLIDAYS", under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

Scarlett Johansson to join Focus drama 'Reflective Light'

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood star Scarlett Johansson is in early negotiations to star in "Reflective Light".

The drama from Focus Features will mark the directorial debut of art photographer Gregory Crewdson, reported Variety.

Marc Platt is producing along with Platt Productions' Jared LeBoff.

The film is an adaptation of the 2014 Carla Buckley novel "The Deepest Secret," which Crewdson and partner Julianne Hiam have adapted.

The story follows a teenage boy who suffers from a malady that makes him gravely allergic to sunlight. If things work out, Johansson will play the boy's mother, who is devoted to his care and has alienated the rest of their family, creating an oddly sustainable nocturnal lifestyle for him at the expense of her own well-being. When a neighbourhood girl goes missing, the balance that kept them afloat begins to unravel.

Focus hopes to start the production next year.—PTI ■



Hollywood star Scarlett Johansson. PHOTO: PTI

Purple reigns at London exhibition charting Prince's career

LONDON — Paisley, pop hits and of course purple are coming to London's O2 arena in a new exhibition of personal memorabilia of the late singer Prince.

"My Name is Prince," features over 200 items including customised guitars, award statuettes, notepads of handwritten lyrics and elaborate costumes that featured in his music videos and feature films.

The singer died of an accidental drug overdose in 2016. But organisers said he had played a role in laying the foundations of the exhibition.

"Prince started planning back in the early 2000s to open Paisley Park up for tours — literally writing the first script," said Angie Marchese, director of archives at the singer's Paisley Park compound in Minnesota.

In addition to showcasing the highlights of Prince's career, Marchese said that organisers hoped to give visitors a glimpse of the famously reclusive singer's private side.

"Who he was as the friend,

the bandmate, the brother. We hope to kind of tell a little bit of that story as well," she said.

Among the highlights of the items on display are the purple suit that the singer wore on the cover of the "Purple Rain" album, his famous "cloud" guitar and a large collection of high-heeled shoes.

The exhibition is being held in a venue closely associated with the singer — London's O2. In 2007, he performed a 21-night residency in the arena, playing to 450,000 fans.

It has the blessing of Prince's surviving relatives, though for sister Tyka Nelson, visiting was an emotional experience.

"I didn't make it 10-15 steps before I started crying and had to go back out," she said of her first entrance into the exhibition. "It was hard." Prince sold over 100 million records during a 40-year career. He won seven Grammy awards, and an Oscar for the score of his 1984 film "Purple Rain". The exhibition runs until 7 January, 2018.—Reuters ■

'East German' art show another step in still-rocky unification

POTSDAM, Germany — A display of artworks created during 40 years of East German history could help Germans from east and west bridge the divide that still separates them 27 years after unification. German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier on Saturday opened an exhibition at the Barberini Museum in Potsdam near Berlin that seeks to illuminate how artists saw and represented themselves in a state that kept tight controls on all creative pursuits.

"Behind the Mask: Artists in the GDR" includes 100 paintings, sculptures, photographs and other artworks created by more than 80 artists from the state's creation in 1949 until the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

Germany's 24 September national election highlighted the difference in mood and politics between east and west. It swept the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party into parliament for the first time in what experts largely describe as a protest vote against Chan-

cellor Angela Merkel's 2015 decision to allow in over a million mostly Muslim migrants.

The election was seen as a wake-up call about lingering divisions between the former Communist east and the capitalist west since support for the AfD was particularly strong in eastern states like Saxony, where it bested Merkel's conservatives to become the biggest party.

Steinmeier last month said the election had exposed "large and small cracks" in society and called on democratic lawmakers to join forces against any return to nationalism.

On Saturday, he said he hoped the wide-ranging exhibit would enable a deeper understanding of how East German artists dealt with the challenges of creative expression in a country where art was often "censored, restricted or instrumentalized."

"This exhibition ... will open our eyes anew," Steinmeier said in the text of a speech at the exhibit's official opening.

"That is why it is a very important milestone on the path toward one another that we embarked on a quarter century ago — and that is taking longer than we all imagined back then."

The display offers insights "into how people lived, thought and work, and how the world was seen, and what was so important and valuable that it was artistically rendered," he said.

Ortrud Westheider, director of the museum, said the concept of "mask" was useful for organizing the show because it showed how artists were at once forced into a certain role, but also makes clear that they were aware of that fact. Curator Michael Philipp said the exhibit aimed to show "the leeway that artists had, and the leeway that they fought for, chose and used" despite governmental constraints. Many of the paintings and sculptures used irony to respond to the conditions under which they lived and worked, he said.—Reuters ■

Ten contestants advanced to level-3 peace music festival

THE event 4 of the level-2 was held yesterday evening at Myanmar International Convention Center-2(MICC-2) in Nay Pyi Taw.

Present at the event were Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint, Thura U Aung Ko, U Khin Maung Cho, Dr Win Myat Aye, high ranking officers and officials from Ministry of Information, respective departmental staff and invited guests.

The event 1 and event 2 of the level-2 competition were held in Mandalay on 21 and 22 October and four contestants Sa Paung, Linn Thit, Phone Wai Thwin and Khin Thuzar Tun were selected for level-3 competition.

The event 3 of the level-2 competition was held in Nay

Pyi Taw on Saturday, 28 October and two contestants Ma May Thu Kyaw and Ma Kyu Kyu Hlaing emerged. The final event of level-2 as well as event 4 of level-2 competition was held yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw and two contestants were selected from this event and another two were also selected under the judges' recommendation so that total 10 contestants to advance to level-3 competition.

The 10 contestants will have to take part in the Grand Final for first, second and third and seven consolation prizes. The first prize winner will get K 30 million, the second prize winner K 20 million, the third prize winner K 10 million and each consolation prize winner K 3 million.



Contestants performing music at level-2 competition at peace music festival in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

The country's popular vocalists and all the contestants will entertain the public at the Grand Final.

All the events of compe-

titions will be broadcast from MRTV after the news of 8 o'clock on the event days and will also be broadcast live from the Facebook Pages of MRTV

www.facebook.com/mrtvwebmediaportal and Peace Music Festival www.facebook.com/peacemusicfestival.
—Myanmar News Agency ■

Highlights product representative of Taiwan Excellent 2017 Myanmar:

UniMax Mirroring and Back Control IVI System- Automotive Trend

UniMax, within ASUS Group, focuses on the smart automotive electronics and manufactures a complete set of advanced automotive products, such as the IVI SYSTEM, HUD, DVR, BSD, vehicle charger, and gesture control.

IVI SYSTEM transforms it to a smart car, paralleling the functions of a smart phone.

Through the connection and mirror back control, so that users can utilize apps like Google navigation, Yahoo navigation, Youtube, OBD2 diagnosis, and all of your favorite APPs.

UniMax comes to Myanmar and in search of cooperation with manufacturers, agents, and distributors.

Unimax shall participate in the Taiwan Excellence exhibition. You are welcome to come and learn about the Unimax Asus group to know well. ■





Champion Shan United FC celebrating their victory in Taunggyi Stadium yesterday after winning the MNL Max Cement Cup 2017. **PHOTO:MNL**

Shan United crowns MNL Max Cement Cup 2017

AS a final decisive match of the MNL Max Cement Cup 2017 Championship, Shan United FC played against Hanthawaddy United FC at Taunggyi Stadium yesterday afternoon.

Shan won with a big margin 4-0 result and secured the champion of the MNL Max Cement Cup. It was the very first time

for Shan to win the tourney's champion.

Shan United dominated the match from the beginning and got an opening goal at 26 minute mark scored by Shan's player Zin Min Tun.

The goal shocks Hanthawaddy players to make speedy and responsive actions but all

the efforts were blurred as Shan's defenders were too good to concede the goal.

The match was getting hotter and Shan's best efforts could be seen in the second half by two consecutive goals that was scored by Soe Min Oo at 59 minute and 90 minute and the fourth goals by Christopher in just before the

final whistle. Although Yangon United won against Chin United 7-0 in their final match, they were just pleased with second position of this year's tournament with 2 points difference compared to Shan. Both Shan and Yangon have already secured for 2018 AFC Cup that will be started in January 2018.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Myanmar secures Semifinal in 2017 AFF Futsal Championship by winning Indonesia

MYANMAR played an important game by beating Indonesia 3-2 in Group (A) of the 2017 AFF Futsal Championship in Phu Tho indoor Stadium in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam by charming all three win matches in the group possessing full 9 points and secured the semi-finals with the first position while Vietnam in the second.

The game was very important as both teams played patiently with their utmost effort throughout the match. Myanmar got an opening goal just three minutes of the match with striker Pyae Phyto Maung scoring brilliantly. After the goal, Myanmar had numerous shots but fail to convert them into goals.

However, Indonesia's Sya-



Futsal players from Myanmar and Indonesia vie for the ball in yesterday's match at Phu Tho indoor Stadium in Ho Chi Minh. **PHOTO:MFF**

qi Saud equalized it at the eighth minute mark, by shooting into the roof of the net.

Myanmar played tough in

the second half and Pyae Phyto Maung was again on target and gave his team the lead at the 24 minute while Myanmar Captain

Aung Aung eased the pressure on his team with a third goal scoring at the 35 minute.

After Myanmar's goals, Indonesia used power play and Bambang Bayu Saptaji got his shot in, unfortunately it was too late for the Indonesians.

The semi-finals will play on 1 November and the final match is slotted for 3 November.

Fantastically, Myanmar futsal player Pyae Pyo Maung is standing as the most goal scorer of the tourney. Because of getting the chance to semifinal of the current tourney, Myanmar team has also qualified for the first time ever to the AFC Futsal Championship that will be hosted in 2018 in Chinese Taipei.—KyawZin Lin ■

Liverpool get back on track with win over Huddersfield

LONDON — Liverpool put their recent Premier League frustrations behind them to breeze past Huddersfield Town 3-0 on Saturday with Daniel Sturridge's goal setting up the victory.

Mohamed Salah missed a first-half penalty for Liverpool but Juergen Klopp's side raced away after the break.

Sturridge's cool finish in the 50th minute put Liverpool ahead, the England striker clocking up his 100th goal in club competition, before Roberto Firmino doubled the lead with a header eight minutes later. Georginio Wijnaldum rifled home Liverpool's third as Liverpool claimed only their second league win in seven games to move up to sixth spot.—Reuters ■

Rose roars back to win in Shanghai as Johnson crumbles

SHANGHAI — Justin Rose roared back from an eight-stroke deficit to claim an astonishing two-shot win at the WGC-HSBC Champions event in Shanghai on Sunday after overnight leader Dustin Johnson threw away the tournament with a horror final round.

Eight strokes adrift of Johnson on the first tee, Englishman Rose fired a five-under 67, tearing up the back nine with five birdies at Sheshan Golf Club as the American gave up a six-stroke lead to finish runnerup with Henrik Stenson and Brooks Koepka.

Former US Open winner Rose finished the \$9.75 million event with a 14-under total of 274, a tap-in par on the par-five 18th enough to seal an ultimately comfortable win on a breezy day. A hole behind, a shell-shocked Johnson had already come to grief with consecutive bogeys on the 15th and 16th, and he finished with a five-over 77 without a single birdie on his card.—Reuters ■