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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with Mro ethnic people from Khonhtaing Village in Maungtau yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Making Rakhine a priority

State Counsellor visits conflict areas in northern Rakhine

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi urged local people yesterday to cooperate in reconstruction and resettlement works as she visited northern Rakhine for the first time since the terrorist attacks of late August that undermined the sta-

bility of the state. At a meeting of local people at Pantawpyin Village, she offered to provide vocational training, and gave suggestions to grow not only rice but also other crops as the area contains fertile soil.

The State Counsellor has

focused government efforts on northern Rakhine and launched a project last month to help rehabilitation and resettlement in Rakhine.

Before her visit to the conflict areas, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met

with the Youth Humanitarian Coordination Group (YHCG) at Sittway Airport. The YHCG is composed of youths from different races and religions who carry out voluntary services for the local people.

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Remaining schools to be reopened soon in N-Rakhine

By Aung Kyaw Oo

SCHOOLS are scheduled to reopen soon in the Maungtau region of Rakhine State, according to the district education office.

"We are attempting to open the schools in three stages. A total of 52 schools, 32 in Buthidaung Township and 20 in Maungtau Township, including Nantha Taung orphanage school and a monastery in Maungtau Township, have already been opened", said U Ohn Myint, Maungtau district education officer.

"In the first stage, schools will be reopened in September, October and November while in the second stage in December, January and February and the third stage will depend on the situation of the regional peace. All the teachers have not arrived back to schools as students and their parents were leaving home due to the previous regional crisis, but all the teachers are arriving before the opening of school", he added.

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U Ohn Myint, education officer.



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U Henry Van Thio inspects Union National Races Village in Thakayta

U Henry Van Thio, Vice-President and Chairman of the Ethnic Affairs, Public Affairs Management and Service Committee inspected the tasks being performed for greening and long-lasting survival of the Union National Races Village in Thakayta, yesterday morning.

Accompanied by Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin, Yangon Region Government's Chief Minister U Phyto Min Thein, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, Yangon City Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, ministers of Yangon Region Cabinet, permanent secretaries and responsible officials, the Vice-President arrived at the Union National Races Village in Thakayta yesterday morning, where U Kyaw Soe, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Rural Development, explained the status of

traditional abodes of eight national ethnic people in the Village, the exhibition of model houses built in accord with traditional ways, traditional costumes, murals, displays of utensils used by ethnics, sculptures, construction of a playground for children and for visitors to study, and a showroom in which social behaviour of the Salon ethnics, which are nearly on the brink of extinction.

Union Minister Nai Thet Lwin and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyto Min Thein discussed suggestion in matters of a Master Plan to be compiled for upgrading the Union National Races Village and further plans to be performed, with members of the ethnic, public service and management committee suggesting tasks worth performing in the Village.

"Union National Races Vil-



Vice President U Henry Van Thio and officials look at the displays of ethnic utensils at the Union National Races Village in Thakayta in Yangon. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

lage was established with a view to strengthening national solidarity and union spirit by arranging for visitors to be able to study traditions and customs of the national races who have been living for ages in a place. Especially it is aimed at national consolidation. Matters on the Union National Races Village were discussed in the meetings of the ethnic, public service and management com-

mittee. Being a country consisting of various kinds of ethnics, national unity is of great importance. Under the leadership of the State Counsellor, national reconciliation and unification efforts have been exerted zealously. We deeply urge all to try hard for the success of implementation of the building of Union National Races Village. In drawing up a Master Plan for upgrading the UNRV, it is neces-

sary to collectively implement the emergence of a recreation centre for visitors and for the development of the tourism sector."

Afterward, the Vice-President and party inspected dwelling abodes, utensils and costumes of national ethnic peoples such as the Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan and Salon in the ethnic showroom. —MNA ■

Remaining schools to be reopened soon in N-Rakhine

FROM PAGE 1

"Schools are opening in the towns but schools of some villages are in the third stage, as most houses of these villages were destroyed and the plan will undergo the cooperation of district and township education officers and teachers. Regional peace is the most important thing for all schools to reopen," said Maungtaung township education officer U Khin Aung.

"All the ethnics and Islamic people were helping each other formerly in the region. However, recent conditions in the States forced school teachers to go back to their homes. But most teachers have now arrived back here and are assuming their duties,"

he added.

There are 151 schools remaining to be reopened in Maungtaung Township, as just 32 schools have already reopened among the 183 schools in total. In Buthidaung Township, 20 schools have already reopened among a total of 221 schools and 201 schools are left to be reopened. Thus, 352 schools altogether are still to be reopened across the Maungtaung District.

An essay competition about the 97th national day was held at the Maungtaung Township education department yesterday morning. There are about 80,000 students in Maungtaung Township and 60,000 students in Buthidaung Township. ■



Students are seen at a school in Maungtaung Township. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Mathoe robe weaving contests held at famous pagodas



Women weaving at the Mathoe robe weaving contest with participation of religious associations at Shwedagon Pagoda on 2 November 2017. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH**

THE 33rd Mathoe robe weaving contests took place at famous pagodas yesterday, including Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon, with the participation of nine religious associations.

The opening ceremony of the Mathoe robe weaving contest was held at Shwedagon Pagoda on 14th Waxing Tazaungmon, 2nd November in Yangon.

At the ceremony, Shwedagon Pagoda trustee U Thauang Htike delivered a speech and cut the ribbon for opening the com-

petition together with Shwedagon Pagoda trustees. Nine teams of weavers took part last night on the eve of the Full Moon, of Tazaungmon, at Shwedagon Pagoda.

Likewise, the 35th Mathoe robes weaving competition ceremony were held at Botahtaung Pagoda in downtown Yangon at 5:30 pm yesterday. U Myint Thauang, the Yangon Region Minister for Planning and Finance, delivered an opening speech at the ceremony and cut the ribbon

for the opening ceremony. Twenty-four teams of weavers competed at Botahtaung Pagoda.

A similar contest was held at Kaba Aye Pagoda in Mayangon Township yesterday evening, where seven teams of weavers took part in the competition. Officials viewed the participation of weaving teams at the looms yesterday evening.

The robes will be offered to Buddha images at the pagodas tomorrow morning. —Ko Ko Zaw ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with Muslim residents from Pandawpyin Village in Maungtaung Township, Rakhine State, on 2 November 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi talks to border guard forces in Maungtaung, Rakhine State, on 2 November 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor visits conflict areas in N-Rakhine

FROM PAGE-1

Regarding the works for stability and development in Rakhine State, the State Counsellor stressed the need for cooperation from local people, as the tasks need to be carried out for the long term.

She also stressed the need to aid and cash systematically to the local people with proper records, pledging that the government will also provide healthcare services and security.

Accompanied by U Nyi Pu, the Chief Minister of Rakhine State, the State Counsellor and party left Sittway by helicopter for Waithali Village. From there, the State Counsellor and party continued to travel to Pantawpyin village by car. Upon arrival, the status of Pantawpyin Village reconstruction works was explained by Yangon Region Minister for Electricity, Industry, Road and Communications Daw Nilar Kyaw, who was present to assist in the resettlement works.

At a meeting with villagers, the State Counsellor urged them to cooperate with the government in reconstruction efforts, as the work is being done for the people to be able to live peacefully.

She also offered to provide vocational training to local people.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said other states and regions are co-operating for the development of the Maungtaung region.

During the trip, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met a group of Muslim religious leaders, said Chris Lewa, of the Arakan Project monitoring group, citing sources in the Rakhine Muslim community.

“She only said three things to the people - they should live peacefully, the government is there to help them, and they should not quarrel among each other,” Lewa said, quoting information from a religious leader who was present.

Afterwards, the State Counsellor inspected the No. 1 entry exit station in Maungtaung. The State Counsellor and party then went by helicopter to the site where Maungtaung Town Khonhtaing (Mro) Ywathit will be built. At the site, Ministry of Border Affairs director U Tin Maung Htut explained about Khone Daing (Mro) Ywathit land plot allocation, plans to build a clinic, roads, monastery, schools and water wells. The State Counsellor coordinated with the officials on matters raised by local ethnic nationals for children to attend schools without any gaps in their education and then warmly greeted ethnic Mro nationals.

The State Counsellor told to the local people that the Union Government would help them live in peace in the region with the spirit of unity and preserve the cultural and historical heritage of national ethnic people for long-lasting survival. Following that, the State Counsellor and party arrived at Taungpyo Letwe by helicopter and inspected the Myanmar-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge, posing for photos together with members of the party on the friendship bridge, and together with families of the No. 1 border guard police force at a monument at the border area, where she cordially spoke with the families.

Afterwards, the State Coun-

sellor and party inspected a camp site at which those who would enter from Bangladesh would be temporarily accommodated, urging the authorities to send returnees back to their original locations as soon as possible.

After that, the State Counsellor and party arrived at Kyikanpyin in Maungtaung Township to inspect the campus of No. 1 border guard police control team's headquarters. The State Counsellor met with Rakhine police force members working in the area of Kyikanpyin and their families. The State Counsellor said the major responsibility of police force members were not only to assure peace and security of the region but also to try to gain the trust of the people.

“We were very pleased and are feeling proud to have seen them work dutifully, even in very difficult situations”, she said. The State Counsellor and party left by helicopter for Sittway. At the assembly hall of Sittway airport, the

State Counsellor met with officials from the Rakhine State Government, addressing matters on solving Rakhine State affairs in different categories — diplomacy, security and establishing development, assurance of strength and fortification of border fences, systematic acceptance of those who will return back and harvesting of paddy left to be reaped.

After visiting villages in conflict areas, the State Counsellor, in her capacity as the chairperson of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) Committee, held a meeting with authorities at Sittway Airport, urging them to solve the Rakhine issue in three ways -- focusing on a diplomatic approach, reconstruction for development, and security of the local people.

The State Counsellor and party left Sittway by MNA special plane, arriving in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening. Union

Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development (UEHRD) is implementing the projects to be performed with great momentum in the short-term plans by laying down the process of three priorities. The Chairperson of UEHRD made an on-the-ground inspection tour together with Union Ministers and entrepreneurs, with a view to speeding up the momentum and fulfilling urgent needs for the effectiveness of the process.

The State Counsellor was accompanied by about 20 people travelling in two military helicopters, including military, police and state officials. Among the entourage was committee vice-chairman Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye, Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, U Thein Swe, Deputy Minister U Min Thu, businesspersons U Zaw Zaw, U Pyae Phyo Tayza, Daw Nang Lang Kham and officials. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, authorities and business persons have the documentary photos taken at the Myanmar-Bangladesh border in Maungtaung, Rakhine State, on 2 November 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

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100 geological research papers and monographs at Breaking New Frontiers Conference

May Thet Hnin

THE two-day Breaking New Frontiers Conference held at Hotel Novotel in Yangon on 2nd and 3rd November showcased more than a hundred geological research papers and monographs written by local and foreign geologists.

This conference was organised by the Myanmar Applied Earth Science Association (MAESA). At the conference, geologists from 16 countries addressed over 70 papers and local geologists read 40 monographs.

Experts chaired each sessions under topics such as: The Genesis of ORE Deposits and Exploration; Sedimentary basin and reservoir: characterisation and modelling; Marine geology and oceanography; Engineering geology and geophysics; earthquake and seismic studies; applied tectonics and Gondwana dispersion; applied mineralogy and gem deposits; geo-hazards; disaster management and environmental sustainability.

"Capacity building relating to geology and earth science needs to be established for young people. This event also aims to encourage science



Foreign and local geologists, lecturers, officials from the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology and MEC pose for a documentary photo at the Breaking New Frontiers Conference. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

and technology research and training. Also, this is an opportunity to promote collaboration between foreign and local experts. Those young people can also get in touch with the experts", said Professor U Khin Zaw, cofounder of MAESA.

Professor Sang Mook Lee, Associate Professor from Seoul National University, said that "this conference gives enormous benefits. Myanmar has been a closed society from the western world and other inter-

national countries. Now, the country is opening up. It will give us great chance to explore the geology of Myanmar, especially the Indian Ocean. Myanmar possesses a great marine geology environment, and the world has a lot to learn from the marine geology of Myanmar".

Dr. Myo Thant, the vice chairman of the Myanmar Earthquake Committee (MEC), said that "four research papers produced by the Myanmar Earthquake Committee

will be submitted to the conference, including situations prior to earthquake measuring above 6 on the Richter scale, a monitoring system of seismic activity, geographical studies of Lake Inle, and analysis of seismic waves".

Local and foreign geologists, university lecturers, officials from the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, Myanmar Engineering Society and Myanmar Earthquake Committee attended. ■

Research activities for 2018 Pwint Thit Sa report commences

THE Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business (MCRB) launched research activities for the 2018 Pwint Thit Sa report yesterday to survey the transparency of Myanmar's businesses. The MCRB joins hands with Yever, business consultancy operating in Myanmar in order to carry out those activities.

"This type of report was initiated in 2014 and more companies will join in this research. More rules and questions will be added in this survey. The research primarily determines transparency, as it can build trust with foreign partners and boost business production", said Daw Phyu Phyu Zin, a Programme and Communications Officer from MCRB.

The Pwint Thit Sa report will analyse five policies on

anti-corruption, employee handbooks, company ownership and senior management, and information about how the company addresses human rights risks including health, safety and environment, with 74 criteria in line with the ASEAN Corporate Governance Scorecard practiced in Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore, and other countries with international standardisation, said Dr. Vicky Bowman, director of MCRB.

In a bid to analyse information of the businesses to determine their score, MCRB's extended its criteria in line with ASEAN Corporate Governance Scorecard so that large enterprises and public companies will join, Dr. Vicky Bowman continued.

Nicolas Delange, co-founder and managing di-

rector of Yever, raised a question concerning business practices of Myanmar companies because the business report helps build trust with business partners.

The MCRB sends details relating to research activities and policies to those companies which will be benchmarked. Also, it will send a draft score analysed by Yever and remarks will be included. That report is slated to be published in end of March 2018.

The MCRB was established in 2013 to provide an effective and legitimate platform for the creation of knowledge, capacity and dialogue concerning responsible business in Myanmar based on local needs and international standards, which results in more responsible business practices. —Zar Ni Maung ■

Stimulants seized in North Dagon and South Okkalapa townships

YANGON (East) anti-narcotics police seized 200 yaba pills from a vehicle at Ward 49 in North Dagon Township at 4:30 pm on 1 November. Acting on a tip-off, the police stopped a vehicle driven by Kyaw Win Hlaing, also known as Phoe Kyaw, and discovered yaba pills in the vehicle.

Linked with this case, on the same day police detained Kyaw Swa Min Oo, also known as Japangyi, who was on board a vehicle in which 3,850 yaba pills were seized. A mobile phone was also confiscated from Kyaw Swa Min Oo at Ward 7 in South Okkalapa Township.

Police have filed charges against the suspects under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanmar Police Force ■



Workers processing fish to export at a marine product factory. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

5,780 tons of fish exported to Thailand in third week of October

FROM 14 to 20 October, 5,786 tons of fisheries with an estimated value of over US\$5 million were exported through checkpoints between Myanmar and Thailand.

The figure was up by 788 tons against the previous week. Myawady and Kawthoung gates handled the increased amount of export volume despite the

slight decline at the Myeik gate.

Thai-Myanmar trade as of 20 Oct this fiscal year amounted to \$716 million. Myanmar's border trade with neighbouring Thailand flows in and out of these gates -- Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Maese. Myawady, the largest trade gate between Thailand

and Myanmar, saw \$477 million worth of trade, but this was a decrease of \$22 million.

Cosmetics, machinery, food products, agricultural equipment, and trucks are imported into Myanmar, while fish, crabs, prawns, squid, eels, onions, sesame seeds, turmeric, corn and dried tea leaf, etc are exported to Thailand. — Ko Htet ■

Trade value with ITC totalled over Ks23 billion

BORDER trade using the Individual Trading Card (ITC) hit over Ks23 billion between 1 April and 20 October, comprised of exports valued at Ks1.8 billion and imports valued at Ks21.2 billion, according to statistics provided by the Commerce Ministry.

Of Myanmar's border gates, the Myawady and Kanpikete checkpoints experienced the largest amount of trade with ITCs, with estimated values of Ks14.8 billion and 1.15 billion, respectively.

The border trade values with ITCs as of 20 October this FY were over Ks1 billion in Tamu, over Ks16 million in Muse, Ks801 million in Tachilek, over Ks56 million in Lweje, over Ks4 million in Chinshwehaw, over Ks446 million in Kawthoung, over Ks434 million in Reed, over Ks1.13 billion in Mawtaung and Ks111 million in Keng



A file photo shows trucks run near 105-mile Muse border Trade Zone, northern Shan State. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Tung, according to Commerce Ministry statistics.

The trade values with ITC were over Ks737million from 21st Nov 2012 to 31st March 2013, over Ks6.6 billion in 2013-2014 FY, over Ks9.3 billion in 2014-2015 FY, over Ks6.4 billion in 2015-2016 and over Ks18.9 billion in 2016-2017 FY. The Trade Department has issued 1,366 cards so far, with 292 cards from 21st Nov 2012 to 31st March

2013, 261 cards in 2013-2014 FY, 317 cards in 2014-2015 FY, 146 cards in 2015-2016, 248 cards in 2016-2017 FY and 101 cards as of 20 Oct this FY 2017-2018. The Trade Department issues the ITC with an aim to boosting border trade. A businessman can trade Ks3 million worth of goods a day using an ITC. With departmental approval, up to Ks15 million a day in trade can be conducted. — Ko Khant ■

Inflation rate in September shows a slight decrease against August

THE annual rate of inflation in September based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was recorded at 4.66 per cent, which shows a slight decline against August, according to a recent announcement released by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO) under the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

The year-on-year inflation rate was 3.40 per cent in September 2017 compared to September 2016. The consumer price index in September was up by 0.87 per cent against that in August.

Rakhine State recorded the highest inflation rate of 9.07 per cent as of September 2017, while Chin State showed the lowest inflation rate of 1.62 per cent.

Yangon had a 4.94 per cent

rate of inflation rate while Mandalay had 4.65 per cent and Nay Pyi Taw, 2.36 per cent.

Previously, the inflation rate was evaluated based on a 2006 survey and then, the base year switched to 2012. The Central Statistical Organization conducted a Household Income and Expenditure Survey in 82 townships in November 2012.

The inflation rate in the first five-year plan from 2011-2012 FY to 2015-2016 FY rose. And thus, in a bid to reduce the inflation rate, the authorities concerned are making efforts in a second five-year plan based on the policies of finance, currency, trade and foreign currency control, according to the second five-year National Development plan.— Ko Htet ■

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Myanmar wins Star Reformers Award at Investment Competitiveness Forum

By Yi Yi Myint and
Ohnmar Thant

MYANMAR was recently awarded the Star Reformers Award by the World Bank group at the Investment Competitiveness Forum held in Vienna, Austria from 25 to 27 October.

The Star Reformers Award is on the ability to attract investment, the ease and simplicity in fulfilling legal requirements, obtaining technology from foreign investment and sharing this with local businesses and internationally recognisable reforms being successfully implemented.

The Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) Director General U Aung Naing Oo was interviewed by Myanmar News Agency.

The following is a transcript of the interview.

Q. World Bank was said to have awarded Myanmar with the Star Reformers Award. What are the conditions to achieve this award?

A. The World Bank reviews reforming nations to see if a good investment environment has been created. The first criterion is the level of support a country's reforms have made to development. The second is to have clearly visible results or outcomes from the reforms. The third is based on the points achieved in a World Bank assessment. Of the reforming countries reviewed, Myanmar and Ethiopia was selected by World Bank to be awarded the Star Reformers Award.

Q. There was more investment after the investment law was enacted. Tell us about the status of investment in Myanmar.

A. The announcement of related rules and notifications immediately followed the enactment of the investment law on 18 October 2016. While the announcements were made, reforms were conducted at the same time to increase investment. Noticeable result was the investment amount reaching more than US\$4.1 billion between 1 April and the end September in this fiscal year after the investment proposals were permitted and approved. This year's target was \$6 billion, and



DICA Director General U Aung Naing Oo speaks during the interview with Myanmar News Agency.
PHOTO: MNA

to achieve more than \$4.1 billion in six months is indeed a noticeable result. The new investment law is also making it easier for investors. Interest was increased, resulting in an increase in investment.

Q. Investment increased after this law was enacted. Is the award achieved because of this?

A. This is also correct. There were many things that they reviewed. The basic thinking is on how obvious the achieved results were due to the reforms.

Q. What more will the investment commission do after achieving this award?

A. Actually, there is no end to reform. It needs to be done continuously. The MIC (Myanmar Investment Commission) as a government agency will continue to make the rules, regulations and work processes clear and concise, and have strong laws that enable and ensure investors make investments that are in accord with the law and are beneficial to the country. Another thing is to make the enacted laws come alive. More important is for MIC to continue promotion. Promotion is related to how easily businesses can conduct their work. In the future, the MIC will work in four main areas. These are to enable rules and regulations to be business friendly and ensure that businesses follow them. It will make the laws effective and

develop the private sector. And the last is to ensure that businesses in Myanmar can conduct their businesses more easily than now.

Q. What sort of promotions will be made in relation to recently opened investment branches in Rakhine State and Chin State?

A. The Rakhine State branch office was opened on 30 October. It was opened because Rakhine State had many good opportunities. Stability in the state was also achieved. But for the opportunities to be realised and the state to progress, both local and foreign investment is required. By opening a branch office in the state, investors and businesses in the state need not go to Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw anymore. Companies can be registered in the state. Investments in the state can be approved. No need to go to Yangon to submit anything to MIC. It can be submitted to a state branch office and the state branch office will forward it to the head office. It is to ease the burden of the businesses. The other aim is to provide investment support to state government. The State office will implement the opportunities of the state. A Chin State office will be opened on 20 November. At the present moment, Chin State does not have any foreign investment. Local investment is poor. By opening an office, matters relating to increasing and inviting investment can be conducted. The directorate will assist in this. The aim is to be able to start a business

in the least amount of time and money and to support state development.

Q. What about the tax exemption for local and foreign companies coming to invest in this region?

A. This is already included in the investment law. Townships of Rakhine and Chin States are in zone 1. According to MIC investors, investing in zone 1 will have seven years of tax exemption. Both local and foreign investors are given a seven-year tax exemption. Only a three-year tax exemption is provided for investors investing in Yangon.

Q. What would you like to say on Myanmar getting this award for the first time?

A. Actually we didn't work with an aim to getting this award. The government wants investments to enter the country with ease, with clear understanding and with benefit for the people. It was for these aims that things needed to be done and amended by MIC with the guidance and instruction of the government. We were not expecting to get this award. We didn't even know there was such an award. We only found out about this award when the World Bank informed us by letter about the country being considered, and then selected for the award. While trying to develop the country's economy and make it easier for investment to enter the country, we get this award. Looking from the viewpoint of our work, more foreign investment came into the country. Compared to last year, it is distinctly higher. We are happy about this. It is becoming easier for local and foreign businesses to invest in Myanmar. We were getting good responses and are happy about this. We are happier as World Bank recognised our work and gave this award. The MIC will continue to do what it needs to do for the economic development of the country.

Q. What sort of countries receive this award?

A. There is no limit to the number of countries to be given this award. There are many member

countries of the World Bank that were undergoing reform and the award winners were selected from all such countries. Myanmar was among the two countries that got the highest marks in the assessment.

Q. What is your view on the requirements for Rakhine region development in addition to investment?

A. Actually the government is taking systematic steps in this. Regional stability is being developed. As certain stability is achieved, reconstruction works are being conducted. Once it is stable and reconstruction is complete, the investment sector needs to become involved. The investment sector is very important for the future of Rakhine State. There are many projects being implemented by Rakhine State government. There are many projects to be implemented for the development of Rakhine State.

Those projects could not be conducted by the government alone. If private sector investment participates in these projects, the momentum will increase. Rakhine State can be seen to have achieved a certain amount of stability and reconstruction works has started. It is taking the step toward development. The state is turning toward a better situation. I can foresee development soon.

Q. Is there anything you want to add?

A. The Myanmar Investment Commission is letting the people know in a timely manner of its work by posting it on its website. We met with the media and explained this. We coordinate matters if businesses face difficulties. Use the MIC for your businesses. Offices were opened in states and regions and businesses can visit those offices anytime to solve any problems they face in forming and expanding their businesses.

World Bank gave three types of awards – the Star Reformers Award, the Strong Reformers Award and the Aspiring Reformers Award. The Star Reformers Award is the highest award given to countries that conducted the most visible reform works. ■



An Afghan injured man receives treatment at a hospital in Parwan province, after fuel tankers exploded in the town of Charikar, Afghanistan, on 2 November 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

At least 15 killed in Afghanistan tanker explosion

CHARIKAR, (Afghanistan) — At least 15 people were killed and 27 wounded when fuel tankers exploded in the town of Charikar, northwest of the Afghan capital Kabul on Wednesday, destroying a nearby bus, residents and officials said.

A security official said a sticky bomb destroyed two tankers, setting off an explosion that engulfed the bus, burning many passengers to death. Waheeda Shahkar, a spokeswoman for the local

governor, put the death toll at least 15, with 27 wounded.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, which came a day after up to eight people were killed by a suicide bomber in Kabul.—Reuters ■

Iraq cannot try Islamic State's atrocities in Mosul - UN

GENEVA — Iraq is not capable of trying atrocities committed by Islamic State during the battle for Mosul so it must find other routes to justice such as the International Criminal Court (ICC), a UN human rights report said on Thursday.

At least 2,521 civilians were killed during the nine-month battle including 741 people who were executed, the report said. Most died as a result of Islamic State attacks.

“Iraqi courts and tribunals do not have jurisdiction over international crimes (such as genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes) - and prosecutors, police investigators and judges lack capacity to ... (investigate), charge and try persons in relation to such crimes,” it said.

In addition, Iraqi law did not do enough to guarantee due process or fair trials, it said.

Accepting the jurisdiction of the Hague-based ICC and

finding other ways to ensure crimes were tried by a competent court “would reassure the international community that Iraq is serious about ensuring the accountability of individuals who have committed international crimes”, it said.

Ensuring justice was key to rebuilding trust and reconciliation, it said.

The UN report also called

on Iraqi authorities to investigate alleged human rights violations committed by Iraqi-backed forces during the operation, and called for a separate investigation into air strikes by the international coalition.

It said the UN had recorded 461 civilian deaths from air strikes during the most intensive phase of the battle, from 19 February.—Reuters ■



Cars burnt and destroyed by clashes are seen on a street during a battle between Iraqi forces and Islamic State militants, in Mosul, Iraq, on 16 March 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Gunman ‘nonchalantly’ opens fire in Colorado Walmart, kills three— police

THORNTON, (Colo) — Police in Colorado on Thursday were searching for a gunman who calmly walked into a Walmart in suburban Denver and opened fire with a handgun, randomly shooting at shoppers and store clerks, killing three people, before he fled.

The suspect “nonchalantly” entered a Walmart in Thornton, Colorado, and opened fire a little after 6 p.m. local time on Wednesday and then walked out, got into a red four-door hatchback and drove away, Thornton Police Department spokesman Victor Aliva told reporters, citing witness accounts.

“What we have determined is that it is random as of right now,” Aliva said. “As witnesses stated, the person came in and just shot towards a group.”

Two men died at the

scene of the shooting. A wounded woman was taken to a hospital where she died, he said.

The shooter is a white man, who was wearing a black jacket, maroon shirt and blue jeans, Aliva said.

There was no indication that the shooting was an act of terrorism as no one has claimed responsibility, he said.

“We can’t rule anything out,” he said.

Thornton is city of about 120,000 people roughly 10 miles (16 km) northeast of downtown Denver.

A Walmart customer, Aaron Stephens, 44, of Thornton, told Reuters he was inside paying for groceries at a self-checkout stand when he heard gunshots and the sound of ricocheting bullets.—Reuters ■



Patrick Carnes is evacuated in a Walmart cart by SWAT medics from the scene of a shooting at a Walmart where Carnes was shopping in Thornton, Colorado, on 1 November 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Turkey detains 283 suspected IS militants in last 11 days

ANKARA — Turkish police have detained 283 suspected Islamic State (IS) militants in Turkey in the past 11 days, a statement released by Security General Directorate said Thursday.

The statement said that among the 283 suspected IS militants, 187 are foreign nationals while 96 are Turkish citizens.

During the anti-IS operations conducted in 25 provinces across Turkey between 22 October and 1 November, the police also seized 66 improvised explosive devices and other weapons.

Last weekend, police successfully foiled a plot by IS extremists to carry out a bomb attack on a shopping mall in Istanbul and detained the perpetrators.

Turkey has suffered several deadly attacks that killed more than 300 people since 2015, and government blames IS as plotter.

According to Turkish Justice Ministry, at least 780 people, including 350 foreigners, remain in detention, some of whom have been convicted, for suspected links to the IS group.—Xinhua ■

Federal Union to be built up with national unity

By Khin Maung Oo

With the strength of peace and development of a nation, the national dignity of that country's citizens as well will rise up automatically. To put it simply, as addressed by the State Counsellor, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the nation would be able to stand tall in the midst of all the countries of the world so that no nation would dare to insult us. The State Counsellor herself said that the fundamental requirement to become such a country would be to achieve Union Peace, based on National Reconciliation. If there is National Unity there will be Union Peace.

The nearly-70-year-long internal

armed conflicts would come to an end only if political agreements will be achieved through the dialogues of the Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong. The Union Government, the Tatmadaw and all the armed national ethnic groups had the unanimous conception that the only goal of holding political dialogues is to establish the Federal Union. That belief has created the hope for the future Federal Union. Accordingly, the target of holding political dialogues is none other than laying down fundamental principles relating to the Federal Union. Especially, the State Counsellor gave guidance to exert efforts for laying down fundamental principles regarding the Federal Union as a foun-

ation during the period till the year 2018 from now on.

The State Counsellor instructed that reviews and reforms on the framework of political dialogues must be performed to perfection provided that we are really desirous of grasping the aim of the political dialogues, simultaneously emphasizing that it is of great importance to draw the SOP—Standard Operating Procedures needed for success and effectiveness in practically implementing the agreements. It was also pointed out that unpractical SOP's would be only as words written on paper.

Furthermore, the State Counselor stressed that the proficiency and compe-

tency in office work plays an important role for the successful of performance of the UPDJC leading to the success of the political dialogues. The State Counsellor highlighted that office workers need to be competent in office routines and also have the right spirit for work. To sum it up, we humbly request all our national forces to firmly grasp the need for national unity through negotiations, keeping in our minds the State Counsellor's speech that the door to the political negotiations table is always open for all the armed national ethnic groups to take part in signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, for the successful establishment of the Federal Union. ■

IN the life time of Gotama Buddha, the most extra-ordinary event of tragedy took place in the Kingdom of Magadha, where King Bimbhisara reigned. The King's son Prince Ajatasattu unfortunately became a devout pupil of Ashin Devadatta who was the staunch opponent of Gotama Buddha. Under the influence and ill advice of his master Ashin Devadatta, Prince Ajatasattu attempted to get the throne by force, knowing as he did that he would surly succeed his father.

Instead of waiting for the death of his father in old age he could immediately get the throne, by persecuting his father and killing him. So Prince Ajatasattu after torturing and persecuting the royal father committed the greatest crime of patricide, in spite of the protest and appeal of his mother. After that crime, a son was born to him.

He loved his son very much and asked his mother whether his father loved him. She explained that Prince Ajatasattu in his boyhood had a whitlow disease on his finger, his father kept the finger in his mouth to relieve the pain. When whitlow burst out bad blood, his father swallowed it instead of moving out the finger from his mouth for fear of waking up the son now in sound sleep. Prince Ajatasattu who now was the King repented very much for killing his father. In his remorse he could not sleep. He was always restless.

On consultation with royal physician Doctor Jivaka, who knew that it was a serious psychological case which he could not sure. So he recommended that King Agatasattu should go to Lord Buddha who was residing at the Vihara monastery which Doctor Jivaka built in his mango Forest Park. So King Ajatasattu with his retinue of courtiers went to Lord Buddha on the Full moon night of the month of Tazaung mon [November].

From the Palace to the Vihara monastery the royal journey was brightly illuminated with colourful

torches under the full moon night sky.

Upon seeing Lord Buddha the King paid homage to Buddha and requested to cure his long suffering disease of sleeplessness.

Whereupon Lord Buddha gave him Samannaphala Sutta, a discourse on the benefits of being ordained monk. Now King Ajatasattu found a true master who gave him a true teaching i.e. dhamma King Ajatasattu became the most devoted person of

King's conversion to truth i.e. Buddha Dhamma.

Regarding the King's former master Ashin Devadatta he was suddenly swallowed up by the earth, as soon as he got down from his palanquin and his feet touched the earth for his bad act of Pancanantriya kamma. which means Five acts that immediate retribution.

These Five acts are

1. Matughataka, killing one's mother or matricide

Samannaphala Sutta on Full moon of Tazaungmone

By Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja Sithu
Dr. Khing Maung Nyunt

ha Order (Lord Buddha foretold that though Ashin Devadatta was immediately retributed by being swallowed up by earth, but he would finally emerge as an Arahat saint monk when he found truth- the Dhamma.)

In our younger days at primary, middle and high schools, our teachers in their moral instruction in the classes, often told us the story of Ajatasattu and his bad master Ashin Devatta. They also quoted and explained the relevant passages from Mingala Sutta such as

“Asevana ca balanam

Panditanam ca sevana

Puj a ca pujaneyyanam

Etam mangala muttamam

Not associate with fools

To associate with the wise

And to honour those who are worthy of honour

This is the highest blessing”.

In today's crimes of stealing, killing, drug abuse and drunkenness as well as sexual abuses, the major cause is the association with fools in younger days. At tender age, young ones are tempted to copy their associates. Therefore, the writer would like to suggest that Buddhist Sutta like Mingala Sutta and others should be reintroduced in the curricula for primary, middle and high school teachings. We are glad to hear quite often in dhamma lectures for the public by our Buddhist Dhamma kahtika monks touching upon the importance of good character training of young generations with references to and quotations from Mingala Sutta and recounting of the story of Ajatasattu and his bad teacher Ashin Devadatta.

In Myanmar Visual and Performing arts such stories of good character training of young generation are depicted in the mural paintings and other Visual art media as well as reenacted in the Performing arts of music, song, dance and drama by both human actors and puppets. ■

In today's crimes of stealing, killing, drug abuse and drunkenness as well as sexual abuses, the major cause is the association with fools in younger days. At tender age, young ones are tempted to copy their associates. Therefore, the writer would like to suggest that Buddhist Sutta like Mingala Sutta and others should be reintroduced in the curricula for primary, middle and high school teachings.

Buddha Sasana. So the full moon night of Tazaunemon is commemorated as Samannaphala Sutta Day on which King Ajatasattu was converted to the greatest promoter of Buddha Sasana. The Buddhists recited Samannaphala Sutta and chanted poems describing the

2. Pitughataka, killing one's father or patricide

3. Arahantaghataka, killing an Arahat saint

4. Lohituppadaka, raising a blister on a Buddha and

5. Causing a schism in the Sang-

Free healthcare provided at Buthidaung Hospital



Doctor provide medical check-ups to a patient at the Buthidaung People's Hospital. **PHOTO: MNA**

FREE healthcare services are being provided to patients of the Mro, Khami, and Daignet ethnic groups as well as Hindus and Muslims at Buthidaung People's Hospital in Rakhine State.

In addition to free healthcare, transportation, medicine and money for expenses are also being provided to the patients who have recovered and wish to return their home villages.

Organised by the Ministry of Health and Sports and assisted by the Union Minister, a party led by Professor Dr. Hla Win Myint, a pediatric specialist from the University of Medicine, Magway is providing health examinations, treatment and medical care. "We have been here since 30 October. Free healthcare services will be provided from 1 to 5 November. With me during this trip are lecturer Dr. Nu Thazin

Win, lecturer Dr. Nyi Nyi Wai Yan Zaw and assistant lecturer Dr. Hnin Wint Wint Swe from the department of etiology in University of Medicine, Magway. Our team treated patients at Buthidaung Hospital on 1 and 2 November and we will treat more patients at Maungdaw Hospital on 3 and 4 November. Most of the patients receiving treatment in Buthidaung are children who are suffering from chest infections. The second most common disease is diarrhea and the third most common is a disease that leads to brain infection in children", Dr. Hla Win Myint said.

"So far nearly 50 children have already been treated, and the other patients in the hospital are also being treated" she added.

After treating patients at

Maungdaw Hospital on 3 and 4 November, the doctors will also visit patients at the places where road travel is uncomfortable and makes it difficult for the patients to come to the hospital.

U Gi La, a Daignet ethnic who lives in Maungdaw, Mg Kyaw San, a Mro ethnic who lives in Buthidaung, U Dee Mar Mauk, a Muslim who lives in No.4 Ward of Buthidaung, Daw Gin Gar, a Hindu who lives in Ward No.7, said that receiving treatment in the hospital is very convenient and gave thanks to the doctors as they cared for patients and followed up as they recovered after treatment. In Buthidaung Hospital, 255 inpatients and 203 outpatients were treated in August, 218 inpatients and 438 outpatients in September and 175 inpatients and 267 outpatients in October. — Maw Si ■

Residents in Buthidaung hold rally to support State Counsellor

ABOUT 120 local ethnic nationals conducted a peaceful demonstration at National League for Democracy office on Bogyoke Road in Buthidaung yesterday morning to welcome and support the State Counsellor.

U Ye Thein, one of the leaders of the demonstration, gave a speech in support of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. U Kyaw Zaw Oo condemned the ARSA extremist terrorist attacks and U Nyo Hla Aung quoted from speeches of the State Counsellor. Attendees

of the demonstration shouted slogans and held signs reading, "May success be achieved in State Counsellor's work on Rakhine State stability and development," "May the people's leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi be healthy," "We don't want ARSA extremist terrorist" and "Entire people stand together with people's leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi".

The State Counsellor has focused government efforts on northern Rakhine and launched

a project last month to help rehabilitation and resettlement in Rakhine.

She has pledged to allow the return of refugees who can prove they were residents of Myanmar. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's spokesman voiced fears on Tuesday that Bangladesh could be stalling on the accord to first get millions of dollars of international aid money, an accusation a senior Bangladesh home ministry official has denied. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Local people take part in the rally in support of the State Counsellor's leadership. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister U Win Khaing holds the sideline meeting with Indian counterpart Mr Shri Dharmendra Pradhan at the 7th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister for Electricity and Energy attends AMER7

U Win Khaing, Union Minister for Electricity and Energy, attended the 7th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable, also known as AMER 7, sponsored by Thailand's Ministry of Energy in Bangkok yesterday.

The ceremony began with opening address by H.E Air Chief Marshal Prajin Jantong, the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand.

Afterwards, introductions and scene setting continued, as

H.E General Anantaporn Kanjanarat, Minister for Energy, Thailand, H.E Khalid al-Falih, Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources and, H.E Sun Xian-sheng, Secretary-General of the International Energy Forum, all gave welcoming speeches.

The subject of Natural Gas, Disruptive Technology and Energy Future, From Vision to Action were discussed in four sections.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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

Trump calls for ending visa programme after NY attack, blasts Democrats



Secretary of State Rex Tillerson (L) sits beside US President Donald Trump during a cabinet meeting at the White House in Washington, US, on 1 November 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Wednesday seized on the deadly New York City truck attack to step up demands for stricter US immigration laws, asking Congress to end a visa programme that let the Uzbek suspect into the country and saying he might send him to Guantanamo Bay.

In a day of harsh recriminations over Tuesday's attack that killed eight people in America's largest city, Trump appeared to assign some blame for an incident that authorities have labelled as terrorism to top Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer, who accused Trump of politicizing a

national tragedy.

Trump said he would consider sending the suspect, identified by authorities as Sayfullo Saipov, to the military prison at the US naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, which his Democratic predecessor Barack Obama tried but failed to shut. No detainee has been sent to the Guantanamo prison since 2008.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders later told reporters that Trump considers Saipov an "enemy combatant," a designation that would curtail his legal rights. Trump called the suspect "this animal" and lambasted the US justice system

for terrorism suspects as "a joke" and "a laughingstock."

Since taking office in January, Trump has sought to increase deportations of illegal immigrations and limit legal immigration. The Department of Homeland Security said Saipov entered the United States in 2010 through the so-called diversity visa programme, designed to provide a path to US residency for citizens from countries with historically low rates of immigration to the United States.

Authorities said Saipov drove a rented truck along a bike path in lower Manhattan, mowing down cyclists and pedes-

trians. Police shot and wounded Saipov before arresting him.

Trump reprised what has been his stance as a White House candidate and as president - that tougher immigration laws should be a first line of defence against such attacks. "I'm going to ask Congress to immediately initiate work to get rid of this programme," Trump told reporters at the White House.

"We have to get much tougher," he said. "We have to get much smarter. And we have to get much less politically correct. We're so politically correct that we're afraid to do anything." —Reuters ■

Moscow wants Iran nuclear deal saved despite US attacks: Russian deputy FM

MOSCOW — Moscow wants the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), commonly known as the Iran nuclear deal, to remain in place despite US threats to abandon it, a senior Russian diplomat said Wednesday.

"There is no doubt that those in the United States who wish to continue widening the spiral of anti-Iran sanctions in spite of everything, in defiance of common sense and (the) logic of

the JCPOA, are rather strong," RIA Novosti news agency quoted Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov as telling reporters. Ryabkov said it was imperative to maintain the JCPOA and avoid imposing sanctions against Iran.

"We must act in accordance with the JCPOA, and this is precisely the message that Iran, Russia, China and European countries are transmitting to

Washington," Ryabkov said.

On 13 October US President Donald Trump alleged that Iran had committed "multiple violations" of the accord and threatened to abandon the JCPOA if it was not amended.

Ryabkov said he saw no room for amendments to the agreement, which, according to him, reflected a "very well-measured and delicate balance of interests and compromises."

The responsibility for the potential collapse of the JCPOA will rest entirely with the American side, Ryabkov said. The JCPOA was signed in 2015 by Iran, China, France, Germany, Britain, Russia and the United States.

Under the deal, Iran agreed to halt its nuclear weapons programme in exchange for economic aid and partial lifting of international sanctions. —Xinhua ■

WORLD BRIEFS

US President Trump to visit China next week: FM

BEIJING — At the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping, US President Donald Trump will pay a state visit to China from 8 to 10 November, Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said in a press release on Thursday morning.

The two heads of state will exchange in-depth views on China-US relations and major global and regional issues of common concern, Lu said.

He said China stands ready to work with the United States to achieve important results for Trump's visit and Xi-Trump meeting, in order to inject new and strong impetus to the development of bilateral ties. —Xinhua ■

Russia wants \$2 billion from Turkey for S-400 air defence missiles

MOSCOW — Russia has sold its advanced S-400 air defence missile system to Turkey for over \$2 billion (1.51 billion pounds), Sergei Chemezov, the head of state conglomerate Rostec, said on Thursday, the TASS news agency reported.

The deal with Turkey, a NATO member, has caused some disquiet in the United States.

Turkey originally awarded a \$3.4 billion contract for a defence system to China in 2013, but cancelled that two years later, saying it would concentrate on developing a system domestically. — Reuters ■

Paris shopping mall briefly evacuated due to suspect packages

PARIS — The Forum des Halles, one of main shopping malls in Paris, was briefly evacuated on Thursday afternoon due to two suspicious packages, according to local reports. More than 600 people were called to leave the mall at around 13:00 local time (1200 GMT) after "dogs of the Froum des Halles' private security service stopped on two bags," news channel BFMTV reported. "We took (the alert) very seriously because the dogs sniffing explosives had stopped suggesting that there was a deployed device," a police source was quoted as saying. —Xinhua ■



German Chancellor Angela Merkel shakes hands after the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in front of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, on 31 October 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Germany records surge in refugees as Merkel seeks new migrant policy

BERLIN — The number of people seeking refuge in Germany has more than doubled in the last two years to 1.6 million, with most fleeing Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq, the Federal Statistics Office said on Thursday.

Asylum figures are a hot issue in Germany due to a migrant crisis which peaked in 2015. Voters punished Chancellor Angela Merkel for her open-door policy in a September election, with her conservatives suffering heavy losses to the far-right.

Agreeing on migrant policy is one of the biggest hurdles facing conservative Merkel in her attempt to form an awkward three-way coalition with the Free Democrats (FDP) and Greens.

The Statistics Office said on Thursday the 1.6 million people seeking protection by the end of last year was a 113 per cent increase from the end of 2014 and was equivalent to 16 per cent of the foreign population in Germany.

Included in the figures are people from abroad staying in Germany for humanitarian reasons, people still going through the asylum process, those granted refugee status or subsidiary protection status and failed asylum seekers who stay.

More than half of the 1.6 million people had by the end of 2016 been granted permission to stay in Germany while some 158,000 were rejected asylum seekers, said the Office.—Reuters ■

Colombia's FARC unveils presidential candidate for 2018 race

BOGOTA — The former Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the largest guerrilla group in Colombia, said Wednesday that its ex-commander Rodrigo Londono will run for president in 2018.

In early September, the disarmed rebels officially entered the realm of politics, renaming itself as the Revolutionary Alternative Common Force, a party that preserves the group's acronym and objective of fighting for social justice.

At a press conference here, the FARC said Londono, also known by his nom de guerre "Timochenko," will run with Imelda Daza as his running mate. Londono is currently in Cuba receiving medical treatment. Daza is a member of Voces de Paz (Voices of Peace), a political movement created to follow up on the peace accords signed in 2016 between the Colombian government and the rebels, which brought five decades of fighting to an end.—Xinhua ■

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST INTERNATIONAL PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST C4-CS1 INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT

Client: Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC)

Country: Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Project: Myanmar Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Management Project

Loan No. 60800-MM

Assignment Title: International Procurement Specialist

Reference No. (as per Procurement Plan): C4-CS1

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) in the form of a loan toward the cost of Myanmar Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Management Project. The Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC), an implementing agency for the Project, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this loan to for Consulting Services.

YCDC wishes to invite eligible Individual Consultant to express his/her interest in providing his/her services as International Procurement Specialist.

The International Procurement Specialist shall be responsible for inter alia: i) Assisting YCDC to carry out procurement of civil works, goods, equipment and consultant services under the Project; ii) The build-up in the capacity of the various departments of YCDC in procurement and contract management; iii) Development of a framework and documentation for procurement and contract monitoring and training YCDC staff in the use and application of the framework; iv) Assistance to YCDC to resolve any procurement-related issues, including responses to comments from the World Bank and possible disputes and complaints from contractors, suppliers, consultants on contract award and progress in accordance with World Bank Procedures.

It is envisaged a one year contract, renewable for up to 12 months subject to satisfactory performance and a 3 month probationary period in the first year.

YCDC now invites eligible Individual Consultant to indicate his/her interest in providing the Services. Interested individual consultant must provide information indicating that he/she is qualified to perform the services: Curriculum Vitae (should include a description of education and general qualifications, similar assignments, experience in similar conditions etc. and the names, business contacts and email addresses of three referees).

The successful candidate must have (Essential Qualifications and Knowledge/Experience): 1) An advanced degree in management, economics, business administration, engineering or any related field; 2) At least 10 years of working experience in public procurement in developing countries, including at least 5 years in conducting procurement under World Bank financed projects; 3) Experience in delivering procurement training and contract monitoring courses to public agencies; 4) Willingness to train national staff on day-to-day basis; 5) Must be computer literate in the use of software such as word processing, spreadsheets, planning software (MS Project) and any other applications used for procurement activities

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers* January 2011, revised July 2014 ("Consultant Guidelines"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Individual Consultant Selection method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours [9.30a.m to 4.30p.m, Monday to Friday].

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by Friday, November 17, 2017 before 3:00 pm.

Yangon City Hall

Contact Person: U Nyan Thar

1st Floor, Yangon City Hall,
Kyauktada Township, Yangon,
Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Tel: ++95 1 371126

Fax No. : 951-371126, 01-371126

E-mail: ydcdba@gmail.com

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

MYANMAR

South East Asia Disaster Risk Management Project
Project ID. P160931

Assignment Title: Component 3 Preparation of Detailed Engineering Designs and Bidding Documents for the seismic retrofitting of 20 buildings in Yangon, and Construction Management and Supervision of the Works

Reference No. C3 CS1

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has applied for financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the South East Asia Disaster Risk Management Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds to finance the Works for seismic retrofitting of 20 buildings in Yangon and the cost of Consulting Services.

The Consulting Services (“the Services”) shall consist of two stages: Stage 1 covering Detailed Design; and Stage 2 covering Contract Management and Construction Supervision. A single proposal (technical and financial) covering both stages will be requested. Separate contracts will be awarded for each stage with award of the contract for Stage 2 being conditional on satisfactory performance on Stage 1. Stage 1 shall include carrying out a risk assessment of the targeted buildings, detailed structural analysis and engineering designs for the retrofitting of 20 buildings (all of which are of heritage significance), preparation of an environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) in conformity with an existing Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF); detailed cost estimates; prioritization of retrofitting works; proposals for procurement packaging and preparation of Bidding Documents for a number of priority bid packages using World Bank Procurement Guidelines and Standard Bidding Documents. Stage 2 shall cover Contract Management and Construction Supervision of the works including assisting Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) with overall coordination, including during the Defects Liability Period of the works.

The duration of services for Stage 1 and Stage 2 are estimated at about eight (8) months and twenty-four (24) months respectively excluding Defects Liability Period. The Defect Liability Period is expected to be 12 months.

The budget available for the priority seismic retrofitting works is approximately US\$18 million.

The Yangon City Development Committee with the Engineering Department (Buildings) (EDB) will be implementing the Project and now invites eligible consulting firms (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

The short listing criteria: (1) At least 10 years of experience in the field of seismic structural analysis and design and retrofitting of existing structures; (2) At least 3 projects of similar scope and nature; (3) Substantial experience in developing construction documents, bidding documents and plans; (4) Substantial experience in the management of large construction projects, including supervision of construction activities and contractual financial management processes; (5) Prior experience in developing and monitoring effective QA programs and compliance records; (6) The ability to interact with a varied set of stakeholders, ranging from government partners to the private design community; (7) Experience developing and delivering capacity and knowledge transfer programs; (8) Proven experience in carrying out similar assignments within the past 5 years.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank’s [Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants \[under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants\] by World Bank Borrowers](#) dated January 2011 and revised in July 2014. (“Consultant Guidelines”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub consultancy to enhance their qualifications. The “association” may take the form of a joint venture or a sub consultancy. In case of a joint venture (JV), all members of the JV will be evaluated jointly for the purpose of short listing and shall be jointly and severally liable for the assignment and shall sign the contract jointly in case of award is made to that JV. Interested consultants should clearly indicate the structure of their “association” and the duties of the partners and sub consultants in their application. Unclear expression of interests in terms of “in association with” and/or “in affiliation with” and etc. without indicating the status of the partnership and designation of the lead partner may not be considered for short listing.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

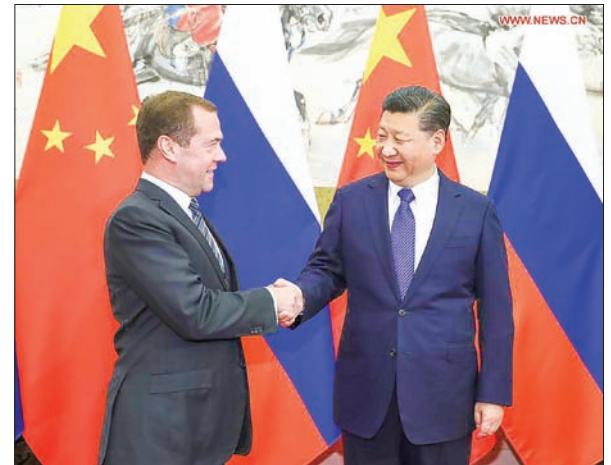
Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours [9.30 a.m to 4.30 p.m, Monday to Friday].

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by Friday, November 17, 2017 before 3:00 pm.

**Engineering Department (Buildings)
Yangon City Development Committee**

Contact Person: Daw Hnin Ei Win
Engineering Department (Buildings)
4th Floor, 10 Storeyed Office Building,
Corner of Sepin Street & 34th Street,
Kyauktada Township, Yangon
Postal Code - 11182
Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Tel: ++95 1 374366
E-mail: ydcdb@ydc.gov.mm
hnineihin@ydc.gov.mm

Xi stresses commitment to good China-Russia relations



Chinese President Xi Jinping (R) meets with Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev in Beijing, capital of China, on 1 November 2017. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

BEIJING — Chinese President Xi Jinping on Wednesday stressed China’s commitment to developing and deepening relations with Russia during a meeting with Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev.

Xi said China is ready to work with Russia to expand cooperation in various fields, maintain close coordination in international affairs and promote the building of a community of shared future. The president said he believed the comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination between China

and Russia would generate new opportunities and achieve new results.

Xi pointed out China and Russia should give full play to the prime ministers’ regular meetings and enhance cooperation on energy, equipment manufacturing, agriculture and aerospace.

He called on both sides to increase the content of technological innovation in their cooperation and integrate the Belt and Road Initiative with the Eurasian Economic Union.—Xinhua ■

Catalan secessionist leaders to appear in court, without Puigdemont

MADRID — Catalonia’s secessionist leaders will appear before a court in Madrid on Thursday to answer charges of rebellion and sedition, though the region’s former president Carles Puigdemont said he would not turn up. Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy sacked Puigdemont and his government on Friday, hours after the Catalan parliament made a unilateral declaration of independence - a vote boycotted by the opposition and declared illegal by Spanish courts.

Puigdemont said on Wednesday he would ignore the court order to answer charges over the region’s push for in-

dependence, but he was ready to testify from Belgium, where he had travelled with four other members of his sacked cabinet.

The other 15 due to testify from 9 am (0800 GMT) are Puigdemont’s former vice-president Oriol Junqueras, eight other members of his sacked cabinet and six senior regional lawmakers, including the speaker of the Catalan parliament, Carme Forcadell.

Puigdemont and his former team were summoned by the High Court while Forcadell and the other lawmakers were summoned by the Supreme Court.—Reuters ■

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Rescue team frees ‘Glory Amsterdam’ freighter from German sandbar

BERLIN — A rescue team freed the grounded freighter “Glory Amsterdam” from a sandbar near the North Sea island of Langeoog and ruled out an oil leak, German authorities said on Thursday.

Two large towing ships pulled the freighter to deep water and 16,000 tons of ballast water were pumped out of it, said Simone Starke, spokeswoman for Germany’s Central Command for Maritime Emergencies.

Environmental and fishery groups warned of dire consequences to the Wadden Sea, a UNESCO World Heritage site, if the ship began leaking 1,800 tonnes of heavy oil and 140 tonnes of marine diesel on board but there was no damage to the hull, authorities said.

“No leaking was



A handout picture provided 30 October 2017 by the German Central Command for Maritime Emergencies (Havariekommando) shows the Panama-flagged bulk carrier Glory Amsterdam which ran aground off the coast of Langeoog island in northern Germany. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

found during the towing process. An oil monitoring plane will accompany the barges towards Wilhelms-haven,” said Starke.

Shallow waters off the island had forced officials to revise initial plans to

dislodge the 225-metre (742-foot) freighter, which ran aground during a storm on Sunday that killed at least six people in Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic.

After rescuing the

ship, the 22 crew members and 7 advisory experts went on board and 3 ships were connected with the freighter to lead it to Wilhelmshaven port in the Northern Sea.

—Reuters ■

Ministry checks misconduct prevention steps at 2 more Nissan plants

TOKYO — The transport ministry on Thursday inspected two more Nissan Motor Co. factories to examine measures introduced to prevent unqualified workers from conducting vehicle safety inspections in violation of government rules.

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism checked steps at the two plants in Kanagawa Prefecture near Tokyo and Fukuoka Prefecture in southwestern Japan, following an inspection at another Nissan plant in Fukuoka on Wednesday.

If the ministry endorses the preventive measures prepared by the scandal-hit automaker, Nissan is set to resume production and shipment of new vehicles for the Japanese market.

On 19 October, Nissan

said it will halt car shipments and production at all six of its car assembly plants in Japan, having found that invalid inspections had continued at most of the plants even after the misconduct surfaced in September.

Nissan said it will finish reviewing its safety inspection processes at the remaining three plants by Friday.

To prevent further misconduct, the automaker said it will carry out final inspections of their new vehicles in an isolated, enclosed area, which only certified inspectors are allowed to enter.

Nissan also said it will conduct external audits once a week to check such inspections are held appropriately for the time being.—Kyodo News ■



Supplied photo taken in October 2017 shows female bottlenose dolphin Nana, who died at an estimated age of 45-47 at Shimoda Aquarium in Shizuoka Prefecture on 31 October after around 43 years in human care, the longest in Japan, according to the facility operator. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Dolphin dies after 43 yrs under human care, longest in Japan

SHIZUOKA, (Japan) — A female bottlenose dolphin under human care for around 43 years, the longest in Japan, has died at an aquarium in central Japan, according to the facility operator.

Nana, whose age was estimated at somewhere between 45 and 47, had lost her appetite since 4 October and was found drowned in the facility’s natural cove on Tuesday, according to Shimoda Aquarium in Shizuoka Prefecture. After being hunted off the coast of Ito

city in November 1974, Nana lived in the aquarium in the city of Shimoda. By 1994, she had given birth to eight calves. On 4 October, her days in captivity reached 15,666, surpassing the previous longest record held by Kamogawa Sea World in Chiba Prefecture, east of Tokyo. “We feel sorry as we were hoping she would live longer. We will use the experience gained by rearing her for this long period to take care of other dolphins,” said an aquarium official.—Kyodo News ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ALLY VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ALLY VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.11.2017 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 EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV ANAN BHUM VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.11.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV THANLWIN STAR VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV THANLWIN STAR VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.11.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP 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 CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV SOUL OF LUCK VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SOUL OF LUCK VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.11.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/MIP 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

Environmental documentary starring Jackie Chan starts shooting

XINING — Filming of a three-part documentary has begun in Zadoi, the source of one of China's largest rivers in northwest China's Qinghai province.

The documentary, Jackie Chan's Green Heroes, is a joint project by the action movie star and the National Geographic Partners LLC. The series will feature green innovation to inspire and educate a new generation of green action heroes,

Chan said.

The first hero Chan found was Arthur Huang, 38, a structural engineer from National Geographic Society of Emerging Explorers. Huang is a specialist in post-consumer trash recycling.

In the first episode, they will show Trashpresso, a mobile waste recycling machine.

The series will be aired on the National Geographic channel

in April 2018.

Located in a wide valley, Zadoi is administered by Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Yushu. It is the source of Lancang (Mekong) river at an average altitude of about 4,000 above sea level.

It has practiced trash sorting for many years, but as the population is growing, the county faces challenges in recycling plastic waste.—Xinhua ■

Actor accuses Kevin Spacey of harassment during London theatre stint

LONDON — Roberto Cavazos, an actor who worked at a London theatre where Kevin Spacey was artistic director between 2004 and 2015, said he had encounters with the Hollywood star at the time "that verged on what you could call harassment".

Spacey has publicly apologised to another actor, Anthony Rapp, who accused the filmstar of trying to seduce him in 1986, when he was 14.

Spacey said he did not remember the incident, but that if it happened it was "deeply inappropriate drunken behaviour".

Reuters was unable to independently confirm the accusations made by both actors.

Spacey "is taking the time necessary to seek evaluation and treatment" and "no other information is available at this

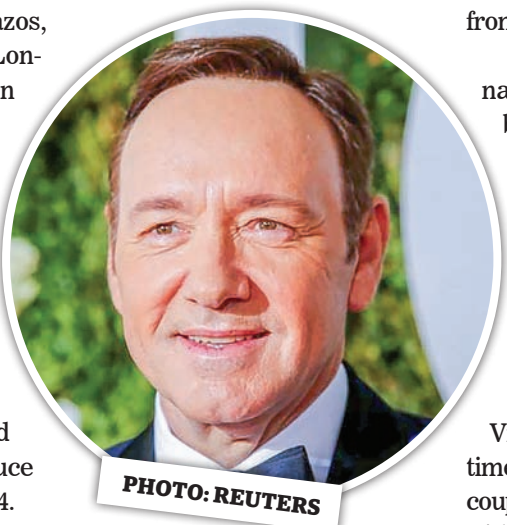


PHOTO: REUTERS

time," representatives of the actor said in an email late on Wednesday to Reuters.

Spacey's decision to use the apology statement to go public about being homosexual angered many in the gay community and beyond, who said he had made his personal announcement to deflect attention

from Rapp's account.

Spacey is one of several big names in the entertainment business to be accused of sexual misconduct by people coming forward in the wake of allegations against movie producer Harvey Weinstein.

Cavazos, a Mexican actor who appeared in productions at London's Old Vic theatre during Spacey's time, said he had experienced "a couple of unpleasant encounters with Spacey that verged on what you could call harassment".

"There are many of us who have a 'Kevin Spacey story'," Cavazos wrote in Spanish on social media site Facebook.

"It seems that we only needed to be men under 30 years old for Mr Spacey to feel free to touch us," he wrote.—Reuters ■

Facing backlash, Rolling Stone writer posts second apology for 'hurtful' book

LOS ANGELES — A Rolling Stone writer who has come under fire for a 17-year-old book that critics say depicts his own mistreatment of women at a newspaper office made a second apology on Wednesday, saying he wrote "hurtful" things but did not sexually harass anyone.

Matt Taibbi posted the lengthy repentance on his Facebook page hours after an event intended to promote his latest book was scrapped in Washington, DC without explanation.

The furor over Taibbi's early work comes as a string of accusa-

tions against film producer Harvey Weinstein have galvanized outrage over abuse of women that has been covered up or ignored. Weinstein has denied engaging in non-consensual sex with anyone. "I've done a lot of wrong things in my life. As a young man, I wrote and said some very dumb and hurtful things," Taibbi, 47, said in the Facebook post. "I'm sorry for all of this."

"But it was never more than that. I know the list of revealed harassers is growing, but I am not on that list, nor should I be. I belong to a much bigger group. I

was young once, and a jerk. And I am sorry for that," he said.

The journalist has faced outrage in recent days over the 2000 book "The Exile: Sex, Drugs and Libel in the New Russia," which chronicles his time as the editor of an English-language newspaper in Russia. Critics say the book, co-written by Taibbi and another editor at the now-defunct paper, Mark Ames, contains passages seemingly detailing mistreatment, sexual harassment and even assaults on their female staff and other young women.—Reuters ■

Beyonce, James Earl Jones set for live-action remake of 'The Lion King'



Singer-Songwriter Beyonce. PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Beyonce, actor James Earl Jones and comedian John Oliver are joining the cast of Walt Disney's new live-action film version of the "The Lion King", the studio said.

Directed by Jon Favreau, the movie follows the storyline of the 1994 animated film, in which a young lion named Simba grows up on the African savanna after his uncle Scar conspires to usurp his father Mufasa's place as king.

Jones reprises his role as Mufasa, while the young Simba is voiced by Donald Glover, who recently starred in "Solo: A Star Wars Story". Chiwetel Ejiofor, lead actor in "Twelve Years A Slave", takes the role of the villainous Scar.

Beyonce plays Simba's childhood friend and love interest Nala, while Golden Globe-winning actress Alfre Woodard voices the character of Simba's mother Sarabi.

Comedian Seth Rogen takes on the character of Simba's warthog friend Pumbaa, while Oliver plays Zazu, the hornbill adviser to Mufasa.

"It is a director's dream to assemble a talented team like this to bring this classic story to life," said Favreau, who has also directed Disney's "The Jungle Book" live-action remake, which saw actors interacting with characters enhanced by computer-generated imagery. The film is expected to hit US theatres on 19 July 2019.—Reuters ■

Lily Collins to star opposite Zac Efron in Ted Bundy biopic

LOS ANGELES — Actor Lily Collins is all set to feature opposite Zac Efron in serial killer Ted Bundy biopic "Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil and Vile".

The 28-year-old actor will play Elizabeth Kloepfer, former girlfriend to Efron's Bundy in the Joe Berlinger-directed movie, reported Variety.

Talking about Collins' selection to essay Kloepfer in the film, Berlinger said, "Lily has very quickly distinguished herself as a major talent in a number of diverse roles in recent years.

"I am really excited about taking Zac and this hugely tal-

ented actress to some dark but very human places they may not yet have explored." The movie explores Kloepfer's perspective during the long time that Bundy hid his murder spree from her when they were living together. Shortly before his execution in 1989, Bundy confessed to committing 30 homicides in seven states between 1974-1978.

The original screenplay was written by Michael Werwie, which won the Nicholl Fellowship first prize and was featured on the Black List.

The production is set to begin on 10 January.—PTI ■

Nazi art trove goes on display at Swiss museum, heir to Gurlitt collection

BERN — Some 150 art works from a massive trove amassed by a German collector during the Nazi era went on public display for the first time on Wednesday in the Swiss capital, amid lingering questions about the origins of the collection.

German art dealer Hildebrand Gurlitt built up the collection after being enlisted by the Nazis to sell so-called “degenerate” modern art they had seized from German museums.

His son Cornelius Gurlitt inherited the art and then kept it stored in his Munich apartment for decades. The Kunst Museum Bern was stunned to learn in May 2014, the day after Gurlitt’s death, that it had been named as the sole heir to 1,500 works, including paintings by Pablo Picasso and Henri Matisse.

Its exhibition “Degenerate Art - Confiscated and Sold” is composed mainly of drawings, lithographs and paintings confiscated by the Nazis from museums and acquired by Hildebrand Gurlitt. “For the most part we know exactly when the works were confiscated, from which



A man takes a picture of the lithograph “Fischerkinder” from 1926 by late German artist Emil Nolde during a media preview of the exhibition “Dossier Gurlitt: Degenerated Art confiscated and sold” at the Kunstmuseum in Bern, Switzerland, on 1 November 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

German museum,” Nina Zimmer, director of the Bern Art Museum, told Reuters Television.

“We only have taken works where we are 100 per cent sure they were not looted (from private owners),” she said, adding that a

further 300 “degenerate” works were awaiting clarification of their ownership as intensive research continued.

“Art, after 70 years, needs to see the light of day and the public needs to reconnect with the art

works,” Zimmer said.

A separate exhibition of works from the Gurlitt collection will open in the German city of Bonn on Friday with the title “Nazi Art Theft and Its Consequences”.—Reuters ■

Australia's famed Uluru outback monolith to be closed to climbers

SYDNEY — Australia’s world-famous Uluru, formerly known as Ayers Rock, will be closed to climbers from 2019, its management board said on Wednesday, ending a decades-long campaign by Aborigines to protect their sacred monolith in the Northern Territory. A board of eight traditional owners and four government officials voted unanimously to close the rock to climbers, a spokesperson told Reuters.

“The climb is a men’s sacred area, the men have closed it,” chairman Sammy Wilson added in a statement. “It has cultural significance that includes certain restrictions.”

The UNESCO World Heritage-listed 348-metre (1,142 ft) rock, known for its shifting red-ochre colors, is a top tourist drawcard, attracting around 300,000 visitors each year, despite its remote desert location near Alice Springs.—Reuters ■

Last round for 'beer bikes' as Amsterdam curbs unruly tourists

AMSTERDAM — The “beer bike,” a 12-seat rolling bar popular among partying tourists in Amsterdam, is no longer welcome along the city’s picturesque canals.

An inner-city ban went into effect on Wednesday, following a court ruling a day earlier that sided against four businesses offering the service.

The court agreed with the city that the beer bikes disrupt public order and block traffic in narrow streets, with riders shouting and urinating in public.

“The ban is justified because of the combination of traffic congestion, disorderly behaviour and crowded city centre,” it said in its ruling.

Amsterdam is well known for its “red light” district with brothels and “coffee shops” selling marijuana, but the millions of annual visitors have long been a nuisance for residents.—Reuters ■



Tourists cycle as they drink beer and sing karaoke on a beer bike in Amsterdam in 2009. **PHOTO: REUTERS**



Myanmar women team head coach Mr. Roger Reijners (Right) seen with Myanmar national women team.
PHOTO: MFF

MFF says goodbye to Myanmar women team head coach

The Myanmar Football Federation bid farewell to Mr. Roger Reijners, the head coach of the women's national team, as his contract expired and a mutual agreement was reached for his departure, according to a post yesterday on the MFF website.

The Dutch coach has led the women's national team since February 2016.

"I want to thank the MFF, especially president Mr. Zaw Zaw, for giving me the opportunity to work for the national women's team of Myanmar. I was very honoured to work with a very enthusiastic team and staff. Also thanks to all fans of Myanmar. Especially the matches, last year in Mandalay, were overwhelming. I wish the team,

staff, MFF and all the fans all the best for the future. We will meet each other again somewhere" Mr. Reijners told the MFF. Mr. Reijners coached the team to third-place finishes in the 2016 AFF women Championship and 2017 Malaysian SEA Games.
—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Matic holds key on return to old stomping ground

LONDON — Chelsea's decision to sell Serbian midfielder Nemanja Matic to title rivals Manchester United raised more than a few eyebrows and the consequences may be felt when the sides clash in the Premier League on Sunday.

Matic left the London club after three and a half years to re-join former Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho at Old Trafford. He has played every minute in the league since, helping United to second place in the table, five points behind Manchester City.

Mourinho's capture of Matic is looking shrewder every week, prompting former United defender Phil Neville to say

after Chelsea's 3-0 Champions League drubbing at AS Roma this week that selling the Serb was the main reason why Chelsea are struggling defensively.

His absence from Chelsea's midfield will be highlighted further should N'Golo Kante fail to recover from a hamstring injury.

The Frenchman is back in training but if he misses out against United, Chelsea will be without both members of the central midfield pairing that guided them to the title last season.

In their place, Cesc Fabregas and Tiemoue Bakayoko bring creative attacking qualities, but do not provide the extra

cover Conte craves and United's pacy forwards could have the freedom to seriously threaten a fragile Chelsea defence that has conceded 10 league goals this season.

United's main striker Romelu Lukaku has gone six games without a goal, however, and Mourinho must decide whether to play Marcus Rashford and Anthony Martial together in the hope their raw speed and trickery can unsettle the Chelsea rearguard.

Earlier on Sunday, Manchester City bid to extend their record-equalling start to the campaign at home to Arsenal.—Reuters ■

Ayeyawady and Nay Pyi Taw in final of MFF U13 Boys' States & Regions Tournament 2017

Under the supervision of the Myanmar Football Federation and Ministry of Education, semifinal matches of the MFF under-13 Boys' States & Regions Tournament 2017 were held yesterday evening on the artificial turf field at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

Nay Pyi Taw and Ayeyawady advanced to the final as Nay Pyi Taw beat Shan (East) 1-0, while in the match featuring Ayeyawady against

Bago, the game was played to a draw with the score 1-1. It was decided to play penalty and the match ended with a 7-6 score as Ayeyawady team stepped up to the final.

The final match of the tourney will be played at 4 pm on 5 November and the awarding ceremony will be launched after the match, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.
—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Dortmund heading out of Champions League after APOEL draw

BERLIN — Borussia Dortmund managed only a frustrating 1-1 draw at home against APOEL Nicosia in the Champions League on Wednesday to see their hopes of a knockout spot all but evaporate with two matches left in Group H. Raphael Guerreiro put them ahead in the 29th and the Germans, 2013 finalists, should have scored several more in the first half before

APOEL's Mickael Pote stunned the home crowd with a superb equaliser six minutes after the restart.

The result did neither team a favour with both on two points from four matches, five behind second-placed Real Madrid, who lost to group leaders Tottenham Hotspur. Dortmund, who host Tottenham on 21 November before travelling to Madrid for their final group game, had four shots on goal after only 10 minutes.—Reuters ■



Manchester United's Nemanja Matic in action at Old Trafford, Manchester, Britain, on 28 October 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**