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13th ASEM FMs' Meeting kicks off

Peace is essential for achievement of UNSDGs: State Counsellor

THE 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FMM13) opened in Myanmar's capital city of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with an opening address by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has stressed the vital need for new and stronger partnership to address far-reaching challenges such as the impact of regional and international conflicts on domestic security and the threat of terrorism and violent extremism in their various forms and manifestations.

"Partnership is crucial for the maintenance and promotion of peace and sustainable development which can only be achieved through collective efforts," said the State Counsellor.

Conflicts around the world are giving rise to new threats and emergencies; illegal migration, spread of terrorism and violent extremism, social disharmony and even the threat of nuclear war, she said.

"All countries even the developed and powerful have to cope with constraints and difficulties. I believe that if policy makers develop a true understanding of each other's constraints and difficulties, the process of addressing global



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addresses the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on 20 November. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

problems would become easier and more effective. It is only through mutual understanding that strong bonds of partnership can be forged," she added.

She also pledged to continue to nurture the partnership and to create new connections--not just between governments,

Full text of the opening speech delivered by the State Counsellor is covered on **PAGE-11**

but also across the private sector and civil society and of course, people-to-people.

Themed "Strengthen-

ing partnership for peace and sustainable development," the two-day meeting includes three ses-

sions, during which the ministers discussed measures to enhance cooperation in areas of shared concern, as well as

partnerships in implementing sustainable development goals (SDGs), combating climate change, mitigating and managing natural disasters, ensuring food, energy and water resource security, and narrowing development gap.

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to debate formation of two new ministries

By Aung Ye Thwin,
Aye Aye Thant
U Htun htun Oo, Union Attorney General, clarified seeking approval from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw yesterday for formation of two new ministries.

The two new ministries are the Ministry of the Office of the Union Government and Ministry of International Cooperation.

U Htun Htun Oo said, "The President sent the message to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to get the approval of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw concerning formation of

two new Ministries, in addition to 22 ministries in the tenure of the incumbent government. One of the ministries to be newly formed is the Ministry of the Office of the Union Government. As regards the duties and responsibilities of the Union Government, the Secretary of the Union Government, Director-General of the Office of the Union Government is carrying out, submitting it to the President.

The Union Government is performing numerous of tasks including matters on the administration of the Union, matters on

Planning and Finance, matters on submission of the bills and others. In doing so, the tasks are assumed to be more effectively implemented provided that the Union Minister to be newly appointed will take the responsibility for the President, hence the need for the new Ministry to be formed. In forming the Ministry of the Office of the Union Government, the office routine work will be carried out with the labor forces of the current set-up of the Office of the Union Government."

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MPs of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw attend the meeting. **PHOTO: MNA**

2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 6th regular session 14th day meeting held



Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut **PHOTO: MNA**

By Aye Aye Thant

Sixth regular session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw 14th day meeting was held yesterday morning in Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall.

Replying to a question raised by U Thant Zin Tun of Dekkhinathiri constituency on plan to take action against licensed slaughter houses that are not operated according to set procedures, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aung Myint Tun said pork, beef and mutton production

and sales works in 8 townships of Nay Pyi Taw are supervised and managed by Veterinary and Slaughter House Department of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee. Slaughter house permit is granted via auction system, market stall system and stall auction system. Actions are taken against production (slaughtering), transport and sales without permission and not according to set procedures. Rules, regulations and procedures for slaughtering animal for sales of meat, meat sales, permission and manage-

ment in Nay Pyi Taw Council area is clearly prescribed by Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee notifications. Inspections were also conducted to expose and take action against irregularities and illegal slaughter houses answered U Aung Myint Tun.

Next, U Tin Aye of Metmung constituency asked about plan to open district or township offices of border area and national races development department. Ministry of Border Affairs Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Than Htut answered that expansion and

reorganization of Ministry of Border Affairs is being conducted according to procedure. In the expansion and reorganization of border area and national races development department, Metmung Township development office is setup under the management of State Development Office (Lashio) and once authorization is granted, district and township offices will be established based on regions where development works were being conducted answered the Deputy Minister. **SEE PAGE-10**

2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 6th regular session holds its 14th day meeting

By Aung Ye Thwin

At yesterday meeting held at 10 am yesterday, Mahn Win Khaing Than, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw put forward to the Hluttaw for approval, substitution of committee members in Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee, Women and Children's Rights Committee and Citizens' Rights, the Democracy and Human Fundamental Rights Committee.

U Win Maw Tun, Deputy Minister for Education replied to the question raised by U Soe Moe of constituency 1, in Ayeyawady Region, "A total of 218 students from Kanni Village SHS in Ngapudaw township in Ayeyawady Region went to sit for BEHS examinations at Ngapudaw SHS and Shwe Mya Kwin SMS(branch) examination centres. In scrutinizing as to whether Kanni examination centre can be allowed this year, Kanni village has been found

to have only a mobile security team for the time being. In allowing an examination centre to be opened, the location essentially must have a respective police station. It must have sufficient security forces. Essentially, it needs recommendation of Regional Government's approval, and a bank-or-treasury-level security vault in the police station compound. Accordingly, Myanmar Examination Board has no program to open a new examination centre in Kanni village for now."

Afterward, Deputy Minister added concerning the question raised by U Man Law Maung of constituency 8 in Chin State, "The Ministry of Education is supplying basic education schools which are in need of teachers with B.Ed graduates from the Universities of Education, those who completed DTed and PPTT annually. More needed teachers are invited



U Win Maw Tun, Deputy Minister for Education. **PHOTO: MNA**

for primary assistant teachers (PAT) who are monthly paid on daily-wages-basis and appointed under the arrangement of Region and State Governments. They are given 30-day trainings in summer vacation and then appointed as PATs. Those who attended township-orientated PAT trainings they are made to attend more one-year correspondence courses to be con-

ferred PAT certificates. Budget needed to appoint monthly-paid teachers on daily-wages-basis is to be drawn up one year ahead, they cannot be appointed as permanent teacher urgently. Only if budget allotment has been granted, will they be able to be appointed as Permanent teachers."

Then, Deputy Minister replied to the questions raised by U Kyint Khant Pau of constituency 6 in Chin State and U Ngun Hay of constituency 1 in Chin State. Following that, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw informed Amyotha Hluttaw-approved Myanmar Companies Law (Bill) with amendment attached sent back by Pyithu Hluttaw, simultaneously announcing that interested parliamentarians to discuss the bill be enrolled to the Hluttaw.

Similarly, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw that parliamentarians interested to discuss the

Law on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance Act (Amendment) to enroll their names.

After that, Sai Tun Aung, member of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee read out the report of the Bill Committee concerning Law on Statistics (Bill) for clarification. Hluttaw announced that the report submitted by Bill Committee was approved.

U Win Aung, Committee Member of Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee read out the report of the committee, concerning motions put forward and questions raised at the 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 5th Regular Session, followed by the announcement to enroll the names of parliamentarians interested to discuss the report.

2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 6th Regular Session's 15th Day Meeting will continue to be held on 22nd November, it was learnt. ■

President receives Deputy Defence Minister of Laos

President U Htin Kyaw received a delegation led by Lt. General Chansamone Chanyalath, Deputy Defence Minister of People's Republic of Laos at the presidential palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed promotion of friendship, relation and cooperation between the two countries, bor-

der stability, peace and the rule of law and cooperation between the armed forces of the two countries.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Union Minister Lt Gen Sein Win, Deputy Minister U Min Thu, Lao Ambassador to Myanmar and other responsible officials also attended the meeting.—Myanmar News Agency ■



President U Htin Kyaw holds talks with Deputy Defence Minister of Laos Lt. Gen Chansamone Chanyalath at the presidential palace in Nay Pyi Taw on 20 November 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with Mr. Jean Yves Le Drian, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of French. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives EU Commission Vice President Mrs. Federica Mogherini. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with Finland Foreign Minister Mr. Timo Juhani Soini. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor separately receives heads of ASEM partner countries and associations

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi separately received heads of partner countries of Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) who were attending 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers Meeting yesterday in MICC-I, Nay Pyi Taw, .

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received European Commission Vice

President H.E. Mrs. Federica Mogherini and party at 8:15 a.m. and discussed promoting Myanmar-Europe relation and cooperation and possibility of cooperation in Rakhine State affairs.

Next, French Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr. Jean-Yves Le Drian and par-

ty at 2:30 p.m. and Finland Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. Timo Juhani Soini at 7 p.m. called on the State Counsellor respectively and were exchanged views and discussed on matters relating to bilateral relation and cooperation and areas of cooperation in Rakhine State affairs.—Myanmar News Agency ■



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Myanmar bean price reaches record high in local market

The price of beans which is mainly consumed in Myanmar reached a record high in the local market while the price of exported bean has declined, according to the local Mandalay bean market.

"The price of Pigeon bean and Mung bean, green gram which is mainly exported to abroad has decline in the local market while Myanmar has suspended to export various pulses to India. But, the price of beans varieties which is mainly consumed in Myanmar has reached a record-high price, said U Soe Win Myint, the owner of the Soe Win Myint brokerage.

"The price of Myanmar bean is unstable these days. The local consumption of bean price has increased two times," he added.

The local farmers rely heavily on the export market to sell their bean products. Now, the



price of bean has increased because the local bean production has been low for this year.

Currently, the lablab bean is selling for Ks 200,000 per bag while that of green peas costs Ks 160,000 per bag. The price of lentil bean is Ks 95,000 per bag

while haricot bean is selling for Ks100,000 per bag.

In 2016, the lablab bean price was Ks 100,000 per bag and Ks 120,000 for green peas, Ks60,000 for lentil bean and Ks 50,000 for haricot bean.

Myanmar people do not

consume the Pigeon bean which is one of the export products as well as Mung bean and green gram. Therefore, authorities is planning to hold the bean show which will display the exported bean.—Min Htet Aung (Mdy-sub printing house) ■

Mandalay attracts FDI of US\$230 million more than last FY

Mandalay Region received more than US\$960 million of foreign direct investments as of end of October in current fiscal year, according to Mandalay Region Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

Last FY saw only FDI of over \$720 million flowing into Mandalay Region. Therefore, the amount exceeded over \$230 million against last FY.

Since 1988, Mandalay Region has attracted more than

\$3,100 FDI, according to the statistics of DICA. Businesspersons from China, Thai, Singapore, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Taiwan, American and France mostly invested in the region, especially in industrial enterprises.

According to new Myanmar Investment Law, region and state DICA offices are authorized to give approval to investment proposals with capital of not more than \$5 million. Land

lease are also permitted from regional office. In addition, there is also tax relief for investments.

Myanmar Investment Commission set three different zones in which the entrepreneurs will enjoy the benefits of tax exemption and relaxation from three to seven years. The zones are divided upon these status; the places which are still weak in development identified as zone1, places which are fairly developed as zone 2 and places

which are developed as zone 3, according to an announcement of MIC with an approval of the Union Government. The zone 1 is granted tax holidays of seven consecutive years whereas the investors in zone 2 can enjoy tax exemption in five straight years and zone 3 will have three consecutive year tax break.

Mandalay region is designated as zone 3 and investors can enjoy three-year tax holiday in 14 townships. —KoHtet ■

Plan to release actual amount of FDI every three months underway

Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) is conducting to disclose actual amount of foreign direct investments every three months in an attempt to have transparency in the record, according to a report of Myawady

Daily.

This report will be based on MIC's report, statistics of the Central Bank of Myanmar and Myanmar Customs' import data. During the past three months July to September, the

actual amount of Foreign Direct Investment for 2017-2018 financial year was US\$2.8 billion and the amount approved by Myanmar Investment Commission was over US\$4 billion.

Similarly, another three-

month investment data from October to December will be unveiled. The report will be continued to release until March 2018. The figure will be released on official website of MIC and media and social network.—GNLM ■

Harbour Trade Tower being developed with capital of US\$30 million

Mottama Development Group Co Ltd (MGC) and Peace Myanmar Electric Holdings Limited (PMEH) are developing Harbour Trade Tower in Ahlon Township, Yangon Region with capital of US\$30 million, creating job opportunities for

construction site workers.

Although real estate market tends to downward trend, Myanmar hopes to attract more foreign direct investments next fiscal year. Therefore, we invest in this Harbour Trade Tower Project to grasp this oppor-

tunity, said U Tin Maung Tun, managing director of Mottama Development Group Co Ltd (MGC) at press conference held at Sedona Hotel on 18th November.

This tower project is designed by Taiwan architecture,

including office rooms. Through this building, wonderful and stunning views of the City and Yangon River can be enjoyed.

Twenty per cent of foundation has been installed and this project is slated to complete in 2020.—ThiThi Min ■

Shwebo Pawsan price reaches two-year record high

SHWEBO Pawsan (local popular rice of high quality) hit a two-year highest rate of Ks55,000 per bag, said rice merchants.

During that time of 2015 and 2016, a bag fetched only Ks45,000 and 46,000 respectively.

The demand surpassed the supply in the market as the erratic climate scales down the production. Shwebo Pawsan is highly demanded in the domestic market due to its high quality.

Price of Shwebo Pawsan has become high with attractive package and high quality.

Currently, efforts are being made for Shwebo Pawsan to get Geographical Indication (GI) as a specific origin of the country and then, this association will proceed to receive a copyright.

In a bid to maintain quality and protect crops from dangers of pests, soil and water experiments are being carried out. —Zar Lin Thu (AMIA) ■

This FY intends to attain US\$650 million from fisheries export sector

FISHERIES export income this Fiscal Year is expected to reach US\$650 million whereas last FY saw export revenue of \$605 million from this sector, according to yesterday's report of Myanmar Alin.

Fisheries Department is exerting concerted efforts to boost export volume targeting to receive \$700 million. Fisheries export volume in a decade is still less than 400,000 metric tons.

Revenue from fisheries export sector as of 10th November in current Fiscal Year

amounted to US\$371 million which is an increase of \$56 million compared to that of last FY.

We are endeavouring to boost fisheries export volume. We are linking with banks to receive financial aids, said U Win Kyaing, secretary of Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

Myanmar is lagging behind neighbouring countries to practice advanced fishing methods despite having rich water resource.

Fisheries export revenues were \$536 million in FY 2013-



Workers work at a fish factory in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

2014 with estimated volume of 345,267 tons, \$482 million in FY 2014-2015 for about 228,290 tons and \$503 million with volume of over 368,970 tons.

Myanmar's fish farming enterprise was experimentally conducted in 1953. With subvention of government, the business has expanded in late 1970. Freshwater fish from farming lakes has penetrated export markets.

There are about 450,000 acres of fish farming lakes. Fish farmers have loan access only from Global Treasure Bank (previously called Myanmar Livestock and Fisheries Development Bank). If they cannot take out loan from it, they will find microfinance or other individuals or association for loan, said those engaged in livestock and fisheries businesses. —GNLM ■

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addresses the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on 20 November. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting kicks off

FROM PAGE-1

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Asian (ASEAN) Coordinator, Mr. Jose Luis G. Montales, Under Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, said the Philippines is committed to the cause of peace and sustainable development through key priorities and advocacies identified in the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. He said the informal nature of ASEM is its biggest strength as it allows for more open and honest exchanges between leaders, policy makers, experts and civil society.

He said it is important for more open dialogue to take place especially in a time where there is more focus on the problems and the negatives than the positives. He said the Philippines will continue to support ASEM and ASEM and it will continue to advocate for the continued balanced treatment of ASEM's three pillars to realize the full potential of Asian-Europe cooperation. He said the citizens, "our stakeholders," should be at the center of the efforts of the countries and that ASEM should be more inclusive.

Following his opening remarks, Asian (NESAS) Coordinator, Mr. Imtiaz Ahmad, Additional Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, said the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



Mr. Jose Luis G. Montales, Under Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines

represent the most ambitious development agenda in history while the development challenge has become more imposing due to the combined constraints of climate change, rising protectionism, fraying international cooperation and conflicts.

He also expressed his hope that a focus on SDGs will increase international cooperation as both the developing and the developed countries would be engaged in a constructive partnership rather than a relationship of dependence based on donor-recipient perspective.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mrs. Federica Mogherini, Vice Chairperson of the European Commission, said she thinks the ASEM is even more important during the present time of great change and challenges where the cooperation of everyone is



Mr. Imtiaz Ahmad, Additional Foreign Secretary of Pakistan.

needed to solve global problems.

Asia has immense potential and great economic strength and there are many issues where Europe's cooperation and partnership can benefit Asia saying that Asia needs Europe's help on security, connectivity, nonproliferation and climate change.

She also said that in turn Europe needs Asia as both continents' securities are connected and the economies can benefit from more exchanges.

The world needs the European Union as a strong, reliable, predictable and cooperative partner, she added.

She said the EU has renewed its commitment to work together as a union for their citizens' security and prosperity.

EU wants to reform global multilateral institutions as a pillar of prosperity and security for



Mrs. Federica Mogherini, Vice Chairperson of the European Commission

all believing that nuclear proliferation is a danger for everyone and that diplomacy is the only effective way to prevent it, she added.

Speaking at the ceremony, Minister of Foreign Affairs for Estonia Mr. Sven Mikser, European Coordinator, said the ASEM is an irreplaceable forum for free and open discussion between Europe and Asia in times of facilitated globalization as its informal character allows for flexible and open discussions.

He said even though common approaches are not easy to find, they are determined to build more bridges, "both as a figure of speech and also more literally," he said.

He said two years ago in Luxembourg, in a meeting before the United Nations' climate change conference in Paris, cli-



Mr. Sven Mikser, Minister of Foreign Affairs for Estonia.

mate change continues to be a high relevance issue but today there needs to be more focus on new and equally critical topics and challenges. Some examples he gave were the developments in the Korean peninsula, the high numbers of people displaced around the world, issues of sustainable growth and development, the condition of women and children and other more honorable groups especially in times of crises and conflicts.

He said the 2030 agenda is neither modest nor easy, therefore he wishes everyone an open mind and endurance to accomplish the 2 days of discussions to come.

Afterwards, youths representing Asia-Europe Foundation expressed the role of youths in ASEM.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Education is one of the big issues we can cooperate with Myanmar: Finland FM Timo Soini

Q: What do you think are the priorities for the relationship and friendship between Myanmar and Finland?

A: I think education is one of the big issues we can cooperate with and also the forestry sector too. Of course, we want to see peace prevailing in your country. It's very painful when there are shortages of security and we hope that these matters can be taken care of and that Finland can be part of that process as a member of the international community.

Q: We hear there are plans for Finland to support Myanmar with Euro 4 million between 2016 and 2019 via Finnish civil society and higher education institutions, so could you please tell us more about that?

A: Myanmar is one of our top priorities when it comes to development aid. We encourage our companies to come here and cooperate with your people and your companies here. Our aim is to help Myanmar to fulfill its full potential as there are a lot of riches in your country. There are chances to go forward in economical means so we think development aid should also be available for women.

Q: How should Myanmar seek out to utilize private sector funding offered by Finland?



Finland Foreign Affairs Minister Timo Soini speaks during the interview with Myanmar News Agency. PHOTO: MNA

A: Private companies are very strict on certain issues and they want to invest in a country that is safe and where rule of law prevails, and where there are good long term investment, chances and developments for the far future. I think these are coming in due course of times. Finland has a big forest industry and you have a lot of resources in that way. There is also engineering, energy, connectivity with all kinds of technical networks but the main thing is there needs to be a good environment with safe system of rule of law because then you are going up very rapidly.

Q: How do you see Myanmar's Peace Process and

what kind of support and cooperation will you provide in the different ethnic issues?

A: If I was briefed correctly this morning, what I heard is that there are 130 minorities here and there are 60 ongoing conflicts and there are also terrorist attacks and certain unrest. As part of the international community we want to help in that. We know that these processes have long standing roots and in that sense we want to encourage that all the peace processes and all the schemes, like Kofi Anan's, are very important to go forward with.

This morning the chairmen of Foreign Ministers Mr. Gabriel said this country was quite a

bad boy in Europe last century but the whole system has been healed and they are now part of the international community. I think the moral of that is that we can forgive all the bad things around the world if we continue to look towards the future.

Q: Can you tell us your opinion Myanmar's democratization process so far?

A: I think you are on the right track but your constitution is very different from what I've seen before. But you cannot anticipate that you are getting all the results done in one and a half year; you must be persistent every step of the way. For example, Finland started a hundred years ago when we got independence and after the Second World War we were a very poor country but there were certain steps which were essential.

Access to schools, access to healthcare, rights of the women and children are extremely important and by this gradual approach and confidence building, learning democracy, taking responsibilities, and being a little bit patient will help.

Nowadays we live in a world with the social media, people want to click and they want the result instantly; that won't happen; you must be able to construct it piece by piece and then as part of the international community.

That's why it's very helpful here that you have these kinds

of meetings (of ASEM) between Asia and Europe being hosted by Myanmar.

There is something that I say back home: "Rome wasn't built in the one day; miracles are not done on the one day but one day we have to do step by step policies ongoing," and that is important.

Q: The Finland Minister for Foreign Trade and Development visited Myanmar in early February so we would like to know if there will be more support in the other sectors.

A: We are putting more effort to get involved and to get to know more about Myanmar. We know that the economical opportunities and commercial chances are there but when we are subcommittee ministers we need to promote our firms and we have to be sure everything here is okay so that they are encouraged to do business if they are safe here.

We opened an official embassy here a few weeks ago and there will be an opening ceremony tomorrow in Yangon and I think that shows Finland's commitment to Myanmar.

Q: Do you have any message for Myanmar government and Myanmar people?

A: My message is be persistent and optimistic and peace is the most precious thing that you can have, "Love thy neighbor and be more happy." ■

Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor receives Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Office of Britain

U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor, received Minister of State for Asia and the Pacific at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed matters of mutual interest.

Present at the meeting were officials from the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar as well as British Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Andrew Patrick and officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of Britain.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister for the office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe holds talks with Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Office of Britain in Nay Pyi Taw on 20 November. PHOTO: MNA

Extraordinary rendezvous

EASY as it is for neighbors, friends and family members to meet each other, it is not that easy for those who had been overseas to do so. What is more, it will be more difficult for relatives and friends living far away to assemble in a person's place. Likewise, in such a period of globalization when a country can no longer stand alone, countries happen to meet frequently with other countries like brethren.

We have had brighter situations leading for international friendship through exchanges of visits, studies, discussions, seminars, multi-national forums and conferences. Very often, Myanmar has an opportunity to meet neighboring countries and ASEAN member countries in the region, concurrently hosting in turn. Yet, it is difficult to meet countries with friendly relations, living far away from us. Especially, it is more difficult to receive those countries as a host country. Now we have had an extraordinary opportunity to rendezvous with our brethren very far away from us, on our own land for the very first time. It is none other than the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting held from 20 to 21 November in Nay Pyi Taw.

As said above, Myanmar had occasionally opportunities of attending ASEAN meetings, hosting ASEAN meetings in turn and meeting with representatives from 27 ASEAN Foreign Ministers' and their related meetings. At the presently held ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting, we can meet Minister-Level Representatives of 51 East and West Nations far away from us and 2 Regional Organizations.

Accordingly, at this extraordinary rendezvous to host the present ASEM meeting, we can bring about good results from the global community by showing the efforts of Myanmar and all her citizens in the midst of the countries of the world. ■

The 11th ASEM Summit

(Continued from 20-11-2017)

After explaining the history of ASEM meetings, 11th ASEM summit meeting held in Mongolia will be presented again. Opening ceremony of the summit meeting was held at Shangri-La hotel in Ulaanbaatar in the morning of 15 July 2016 and the President of the host country, Mongolia, Mr. Tsiakhia Elbegdorj, President of European Council, Mr. Donald Tusk, President of European Commission, Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker, Prime Minister of Finland, Mr. Robert Fico, ASEAN Coordinator, President of Myanmar, U Hti Kyaw, Coordinator for Northeast and South Asia Chief Coordinator, Foreign Minister of New Zealand, Mr. Murray McCully delivered the addresses respectively. A remarkable and tragic incident in which a truck had stormed into the crowd in Nice, France killing many people had happened a day before the meeting, that is on 14 July 2016. All the leaders attending the meeting unanimously condemned the terrorists' atrocities.

Afterwards, the friendly organizations of ASEM, Asia-Europe Parliamentary Meeting representative, representative of Model ASEM, and representatives from Asia-Europe Business Forum read the reports regarding their works they had done. The plenary meeting of the heads of the nations who attends the 11th summit meeting was held under the two headings as (1) Two Decades of Partnership: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead (2) promoting the ASEM Partnership for Greater Connectivity. The President of Myanmar discussed under the heading of Two Decades of Partnership: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead.

In the afternoon the country leaders attending the ASEM summit meeting were entertained by Nadam-Nomadic festival (traditional wrestling) of Mongolia in grand celebration. On 16 July 2016 the Retreat of the leaders attending the meeting was held at ASEM Village under the heading of Enhancing the Three Pillars of ASEM. As the Retreat of the leaders is the last program of the ASEM Summit Meeting, some of the leaders went back to their country and some leaders were making further discussions between the leaders after the Retreat. During the time of ASEM Summit Meeting, the President of Myanmar had met with, the President of Mongolia, Mr. Tsakhia Elbegdorj, the President of Croatia, Mrs. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic, Prime Minister of Finland, Mr. Juha Sipila, the Prime Minister of Estonia, Mr. Taavi Roivas, the Prime Minister of Netherland, Mr. Mark Rutte, the Prime Minister of Luxemburg, Mr. Xavier Bettel, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Norway, Mr. Borge Brende, the Vice-President of Indonesia, Mr. Muhammad Jusuf Kalla, the Prime Minister of China, Mr. Li Keqiang, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Mrs. Sheikh Hasina and discussed



about promotion of bilateral relation and cooperation.

Furthermore the announcement issued from 11th ASEM Summit Meeting would be described. Before the ASEM Summit Meeting, the meeting of senior officials was held. Normally, in case there were the announcements including the Chair's Statement to be issued from ASEM Summit Meeting, the agreement among the leaders on the usage of words and phrases in the Chair's Statement was sought in advance at the senior officials' meeting. At 11th ASEM Summit Meeting, apart from Chair's Statement and Ulaanbaatar Declaration proposed by host nation, Mongolia, Japan and Bangladesh had proposed to issue separate announcement strongly condemning the terrorist attack on 1st July 2016 in Dacca of Bangladesh which caused 21 dead including 7 Japanese nationals. As ASEM Chair's Statement usually includes mentioning the cooperation in politics and security sector; there were effects on the summit meeting by unusual events. Politically there were two unusual events; the first one was that North Korea was continuing its ballistic missile test and nuclear program defying against the UN resolution to stop the nuclear and ballistic missile test; and in retaliation to North Korea's threat, America had issued an official announcement on 4th July 2016 on the agreement between America and South Korea to deploy America's strategic THAAD system in South Korea; the second one was that Philippines submitted the complaint in 2012 regarding the territorial dispute in South China Sea between China and Philippines to the International Arbitral Tribunal and the Tribunal set the ruling that China's territorial claim basing on 9-dotted lines was illegal and not in accord with the maritime law on 12th July 2016. China had declared that it would never recognize the Philippines' submitting to Arbitral Tribunal and dissociate all the undertakings regarding the South China Sea territorial dispute. China disclosed

that it never recognized the ruling of the tribunal. In accordance with the prevailing conditions, Philippines, Japan and some EU countries tried to include the latest development of South China Sea crisis in the Chair's Statement, but China and Russia intensely objected. Likewise, Russia and China tried to include their objection to THAAD deployment in Japan in Chair's Statement, however Japan and South Korea rejected. The senior officials' meeting had started at 9am of 12 July and as they did not come to any agreement till the morning of 14 July, the senior official of Mongolia, exercising his Prerogative of the Chair, decided to use the same wording as in the previous ASEM Meeting. Thus the Chair's Statement could be issued successfully. Japan and Bangladesh proposed to include the announcement of condemnation on terrorism, however other countries did not agree reasoning that terrorism was happening in every part of the world, so not to highlight the terrorism specifically in Bangladesh only, but just to mention the terrorism in general. While the meeting was in deadlock without being able to get agreement, another terrorist attack occurred in Nice, France where a truck stormed in the crowd of the Bastille Festival killing many people on 14th July 2016 one day ahead of the summit meeting. All the leaders in the meeting unanimously condemned the terrorist attack and successfully include the announcement of condemning the terrorism in the Chair's Statement.

Chair's Statement of 11th ASEM Summit Meeting stated that ASEM had overcome the various challenges for two decades and it could also enhance the cooperation in all sectors for the benefit of the people of Asia and Europe. Furthermore it could produce the practical result including the promotion in connectivity between the two big regions, Asia and the all-inclusiveness of different layers of people, creation of the opportunities in accordance with the policy of equality, mutual respect and benefit sharing.

ASEM will support the United Nations to be able to implement the objectives of sustainable development, to mitigate the damage due to natural disasters, to help to enliven the provisions of Paris Agreement to be able to expedite the implementation of convention framework of UN on climate change.

Moreover the Chair's Statement urged the member countries to practise the coordination among the ASEM nations for ASEM to be more capable and efficient. It stated that member countries shall try to organize the social organizations, business organizations, labour organizations, women organizations, intellectuals, students, reporters to be more included in ASEM programs. It also mentioned that ASEM welcomed the request of South Korea to hold next ASEM Meeting in South Korea and also the request of Myanmar to hold 13th ASEM foreign ministers' meeting at Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

In Ulaanbaatar Declaration stated as ASEM partnership has come into the 3rd decade, basing on the past experience, the member countries are needed to strengthen the partnership between European and Asian countries, to focus on the cooperation in the sector that will practically benefit the people and to enhance the connectivity in all sectors.

Evaluation

ASEM meeting is a forum to promote the cooperation between Asia and Europe which are politically, economically and culturally significant. ASEM started its activities in 1996 and now it reaches 20 years of age. ASEM was started with 26 countries only, however, now it has grown to have 53 countries. By witnessing that the growth the ASEM meetings are known to be significant and relevant. ASEM can promote the mutual understanding between the two big regions, Asia and Europe within 20 years. It could undertake the economic, social and cultural exchange and achieved in holding the political discussions. Currently all Asian

and European countries are not included, nevertheless, it is evident that ASEM is important not only for Asia and Europe but also for stability and development of world politics and economy as it can represent 70% of world population, 58% of world GDP, 60% of global trade and it contained 7 out of 10 world economic super powers and 12 G20 countries.

ASEM has not only expand the member countries but also extend the cooperation realm. Apart from the three pillars, political pillar, financial and commercial pillar and social and cultural pillar, ASEM could have extended to anti-terrorism sector; human rights and labour rights sector; transportation sector; industrial sector; promotion of physical connectivity such as car road, rail road and airways and soft connectivity such as people engagement and exchange of information and technology. In other words, ASEM had only mere informal meeting in early period, however, after 20 years it could have embarked on the right track of cooperation that could engender practical beneficial result for two large regions. The future potential of ASEM meetings are vividly perceived as brightening as the member countries attending at 11th ASEM Summit disclosed that they had firm political commitment to support and strengthen the people-based ASEM cooperation in the coming 3rd decade. Myanmar has engaged with other countries of the world amicably practicing independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy. The relations between Myanmar and EU countries were strained and at the wake of elected government in power in 2012 the relationship has improved. In 2016 in the term of incumbent government remarkably improved relation has been seen between EU and Myanmar. The improved relationship with EU countries can lead to the enhancement of cooperation that can support Myanmar government in endeavoring to meet the economic and political target. Nowadays as both regions are facing with terrorism, climate change, food security, monetary crisis and necessities of infrastructure they have to be interdependent. Active participation of Myanmar in ASEM meeting indicates Myanmar has always been cooperating with international countries in addressing the crisis and by taking part in the ASEM meeting Myanmar has chance to promote its cooperation with EU countries. Agreement of all ASEM countries to the proposal of Myanmar to hold ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Myanmar in 2017 manifests that international has recognized Myanmar's transition to democratic state. It can be taken as a great diplomatic feat of Myanmar.

This is the revised version of the articles of Tekatho Han Soe U covered in 2016 issue of "Thakaung Taman Magazine" of Ministry of Foreign Affairs. ■

(Translated by Khin Maung Win)

An action plan for clean air and better health

By WHO Regional Director
Dr. Poonam Khetrapal Singh

In aiding private citizens' actions, government interventions can be of crucial importance.

Air pollution is a massive threat to health and wellbeing across the WHO South-East Asia Region. We can change that.

Cancer. Stroke. Heart Disease. Asthma.

These are some of the life-threatening diseases caused by air pollution, a problem that kills more than six million people worldwide every year and which is the most pressing environmental health risk humanity faces. In 98% of cities in low- and middle-income countries air quality exceeds WHO safe-levels and is having a severe impact on health. The youngest, oldest and poorest among us are most affected.

For urban residents across the South-East Asia Region the situation is dire. As urbanization proceeds, inadequate planning is compounding an already fraught scenario. Every day, more and more people are exposed to the deadly particulates motor vehicles, diesel generators, smokestacks and power plants pump out. And every day, those particulates are having a devastating impact on our immediate and long-term health.

Despite the magnitude of the problem, change is possible. Each one of us can do our part.

Choosing to take public transport over driving a private vehicle is a good way to make an immediate difference that not only decreases emissions, but also saves money and encourages physical activity. Similarly, if and when we do use a private vehicle we can ensure that its engine is well-tuned and running efficiently, thereby decreasing emissions and maximizing fuel mileage. Though these steps are simple, they can have wide-ranging impact: Private vehicle use remains a significant contributor to urban air pollution across the Region.

In and around the home we can also make small but important changes. Instead of burning wood and other biomass fuels for cooking or heating, for example, we can switch to using natural gas or liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). The household use of wood and other biomass fuels (including kerosene) is the cause of approximately 1.69 can also make concerted efforts to cut down on and better dispose of waste, including by ending open burning.

It is now being seen across the Region that from the municipal level up, governments are aiming to provide the infrastructure needed to provide healthier environments and taking steps to encourage public forms of transport. This is being done by building quality bus and rail systems, and by making cities pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly through the provision of footpaths and bicycle lanes. Schemes are being implemented to provide incentives for households to switch to cleaner energy sources that are benefiting the poor and vulnerable. Biomass continues to be burned largely as a result of cost incentives and there is realization now that demand can be shifted to other forms of household energy through subsidies and other innovative pricing mechanisms.

Empowering and engaging the health sector is also important. Not only can the health sector identify and assist vulnerable groups to prevent exposure to air pollution, thereby mitigating its effects, but it can also provide critical support to the society-wide struggle for clean air. Health institutions and workers have the power to raise awareness and promote change at the personal and policy levels – a role that should be encouraged and where possible supported.

As part of this wider push, cities across the Region are urged to join the Breathe Life 2030 campaign, a WHO-lead effort to mobilize individuals and the cities they live in to take action against air pollution. More than 30 cities have already joined, and are working from the grassroots up to achieve cleaner air, improved health and a greener environment. All cities and towns in the South-East Asia Region could also benefit from / or the opportunity to do likewise.

That opportunity should be welcomed. Though air pollution represents a massive moral and practical challenge, it also represents a chance to chart a bold new path – one where clean air is an integral part of healthy economic development and growth. Indeed, as countries across the South-East Asia Region develop and prosper, they needn't repeat the development tropes of a bygone era. They can and must write a different history. ■

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Head of service organizations appointed

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

| Name | Appointment |
|---|---|
| (1) U Khin Zaw General Manager (Production) Myanma Shipyards Ministry of Transport and Communications | Managing Director Myanma Shipyards Ministry of Transport and Communications |
| (2) U San Myint Deputy Director-General Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration Ministry of Planning and Finance | Director-General National Archive Department Ministry of Planning and Finance |
| (3) Daw Si Si Pyone Deputy Director-General Treasury Department Ministry of Planning and Finance | Director-General Treasury Department Ministry of Planning and Finance |
| (4) U Zaw Naing Deputy Director-General Treasury Department Ministry of Planning and Finance | Director-General Financial Regulatory Department Ministry of Planning and Finance |
| (5) U Myint Oo Deputy Director-General Financial Regulatory Department Ministry of Planning and Finance | Director-General Revenue Appellate Tribunal Ministry of Planning and Finance |



Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin meets Ireland Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mr. Ciaran Cannon in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin separately receives heads of ASEM partner countries

Yesterday, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin separately received in MICC-I heads of partner countries of Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) who were attending 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers Meeting.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin received Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Deputy Secretary H.E. Mr. Gary Quinlan and party at 12:35 p.m., Italy Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Undersecretary of State H.E. Mr. Benedetto Della Vedova and party at 1:20 p.m., Ireland

Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade H.E. Mr. Ciaran Cannon and party at 1:50 p.m. Britain's Minister of State for Asia and the Pacific at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office Rt. Hon Mark Field MP and party at 4:45 p.m. and Romanian Secretary of State for Global Bilateral Affairs H.E. Mrs. Monica Gheorghita and party at 5:15 p.m.

During the meetings, views were exchanged and discussions made on increasing bilateral relations and cooperation and status of development in Rakhine State. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to debate formation of two new ministries

FROM PAGE-2

Union Attorney General added, "The other Ministry is the Ministry of International Cooperation. Myanmar is actively taking part in international affairs. In doing so, a Ministry is urgently needed to cooperate with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in international affairs and to take responsibility for the President by assessing international affairs not only from the political point of view but also from the economic cooperation point of view.

Accordingly, the new Ministry is formed to fulfill the requirements. The said new Ministry's staff will not be extended. Instead, it will be performed by the staff of the international organizations and Economic Department of the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs.

The State Counsellor is performing the duties and responsibilities of the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The Union Minister for Foreign Affairs will attend some international meetings, whereas the Union Minister, Ministry of the International Cooperation to be newly formed will attend some international meetings.

The Office of the Ministry of International Cooperation will be opened in the same building of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The two ministries will closely operate the tasks. Now, foreign diplomatic affairs are being carried out by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with matters on international organizations carried out by the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

At present, matters on the international organizations will be carried out by the Ministry of International Cooperation to be newly formed. By doing so, international relations will be able to be carried out more conveniently."

Mahn Win Khaing Than, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

announced that parliamentarians wishing to discuss the matter be enrolled, followed by submission to the Hluttaw, concerning the appointments of two Union Ministers sent from the President.

Afterwards, the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw announced that any parliamentarians desirous of objecting over the nominations can enroll their names with solid evidences of invalidity, if ever, attached.

And, the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw reported to the Hluttaw concerning the formation of Anti-Corruption Commission sent from the President.

After that, the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw announced that any parliamentarians desirous of submitting objections over nominations can enroll their names with solid evidences of invalidity attached. 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 6th Regular Session's 10th Day Meeting will continue to be held on 21 November. ■

2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 6th regular session 14th day meeting held

FROM PAGE-2

Responding to a question by U Kyaw Htay of Leshi constituency on plan to construct a township road connecting Lahe and Leshi townships, Ministry of Border Affairs Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Than Htut said the plan to construct this road is included in the border area development 5-years plan and will be conducted starting from fiscal year 2018-2019.

Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Than Htut then replied to questions raised by U Than Lin Lin of Meisei constituency and U Wom Hla of Nanyun constituency.

Next, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint announced the receipt of a bill on Myanmar Parliament Union sent with amendment by Amyotha Hluttaw and announced for parliamentarians who would like to discuss the bill to enroll their names.

As Hluttaw agree to approve without amending a bill to repeal municipal law, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced the approval of the bill.

A motion by U Sai Ngaung Hsaing Hein of Maukmai constituency urging the government to draw up a policy involving the people in basic good democratic practice on disposing plastic products separately and to reduce the usage of plastic products was then discussed by U Thein Tun of Kyaunggon constituency, Dr. Daw Khin Sithu of Loikaw constituency, U Saw Tun Mya Aung of Hapun constituency, U Sai San Thein of Moene constituency and U Nan Mon Htin of Machanbaw constituency.

In his discussion on the motion, Union Minister U Ohn Win said education and information on waste for the public are provided by one of the work committees, committee on human resources development in environmental conservation, information and education.

Subjects on environmental protection are also prepared to be included in the school curriculum to educate and inform the students of school age. Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aung Myint Tun also discussed the motion. ■

Partnership is crucial for the maintenance and promotion of peace and sustainable development which can only be achieved through collective efforts: State Counsellor

Following is the full text of the Opening Statment delivered by State Counsellor at the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

- It is a pleasure to welcome all of you to Nay Pyi Taw.
- Myanmar is honoured to host the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting. This is a dialogue mechanism unique in the multilateral arenas that allows Asia and Europe to engage informally.
- As we are all aware our world has never been free from crises arising from multiple causes. Today we are faced with a new period of global uncertainty and instability. Conflicts around the world are giving rise to new threats and emergencies; illegal migration, spread of terrorism and violent extremism, social disharmony and even the threat of nuclear war. Conflicts take away peace from societies, leaving behind underdevelopment and poverty, pushing peoples and even countries away from one another.
- These challenges have been compounded by the devastating effects of natural disasters which have become more frequent and intense as a result of climate change and lack of adequate concern and care for the environment.
- The history of numerous countries, including that of Myanmar, illustrates that conflict and instability cast a long and lasting shadow on a country's development. Without peace, there can be no durable progress and prosperity. Peace is essential for the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- All countries even the developed and powerful have to cope with constraints and difficulties. I believe that if policy makers develop a true understanding of each other's constraints and difficulties, the process of addressing global problems would become easier and more effective. It is only through mutual understanding that strong bonds of partnership can be forged.
- In our ASEM context, there is a vital need for new

and stronger partnerships to address far-reaching challenges such as the impact of regional and international conflicts on domestic security and the threat of terrorism and violent extremism in their various forms and manifestations.

- Partnership is crucial for the maintenance and promotion of peace and sustainable development which can only be achieved through collective efforts. It is for this reason that we have proposed as the theme of this Meeting: 'Strengthening Partnership for Peace and Sustainable Development'.

In our ASEM context, there is a vital need for new and stronger partnerships to address far-reaching challenges...

- In the past two decades of ASEM's journey our partnership, based on the cardinal principles of equal collaboration and mutual respect, proved its vitality by enabling ASEM to withstand repeated and varied crises. We must continue to nurture this partnership and to create new connections – not just between governments, but also across the private sector and civil society and of course, people-to-people.
- ASEM is gathered here today to reiterate our commitment to accomplish the tasks entrusted by the Heads of State and Government of 51 nations and leaders of two organizations who resolved to work together to promote further connectivity, partnership and cooperation between Asia and Europe at the last Summit held in Ulaanbaatar in 2016.
- Today, there will be two sessions of Plenary

Meetings. In the first session, the emphasis will be on the maintenance and promotion of peace and the sustainable development under the heading of "Synergizing Peace and Sustainable Development".

- The subject of the 2nd Plenary Meeting will be "3rd Decade of ASEM: Making ASEM Partnership more Dynamic and Connected" - there we will explore possible ways of enhancing ASEM's efficiency and connectivity for the third decade.
- The ASEM mechanism provides a unique opportunity for policy makers of Asia and Europe to exchange informally views, share best practices and explore the best ways and means of addressing the challenges of global affairs.
- In accordance with the usual ASEM practice, we will have a Retreat Session tomorrow, keeping the whole morning for a free and informal dialogue on International and Regional Issues. For that meeting I would like to propose that we focus on the promotion of peace, and address traditional and non-traditional security challenges in Asia and Europe.
- The role of youth is central to all areas of cooperation in our ASEM mechanism, as they will be the inheritors of the consequences of our actions. I am happy that two student representatives of ASEF's "8th Model ASEM" will also be delivering speeches at this opening ceremony. I congratulate ASEF for their relentless efforts in bringing the two continents together by enhancing cultural, educational and people-to-people contact.
- In conclusion, may I express the hope that our meetings today and tomorrow, will provide opportunities for all of us to reflect on progress made and to explore future avenues for the enhancement of political, economic and socio-cultural engagement in line with the three pillars of ASEM cooperation.

Thank you.

VP U Henry Van Thio receives Finland Foreign Minister and party

VICE President U Henry Van Thio received Finland Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. Timo Juhani Soini and party at the diplomat hall of the Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting matters relating to peace and stability in Rakhine State, rule of law and development, increasing bilateral relation and coopera-

tion were discussed.

Together with the Vice President at the meeting were Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung, Deputy Minister Dr. Tun Naing and U Set Aung and officials while Finland Foreign Minister and party were accompanied by Finland Ambassador to Myanmar Ms. Riikka Laatu. —Myanmar News Agency



Vice President U Henry Van Thio holds talks with Finland Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. Timo Juhani Soini at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on 20 November. PHOTO: MNA

Opening ceremony of 8th meeting for traditional medicine of Mekong region countries launched

Under the supervision of Department of Traditional Medicine, Ministry of Health and Sports hosted the 8th meeting for traditional medicine of Mekong region countries and the opening ceremony at Novotel Hotel in Yangon yesterday morning.

At the opening ceremony, Yangon Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein delivered an opening speech.

After the opening ceremony, the meeting was held at Summit Park View Hotel in Yangon on the same day.

During the meeting, the officials discussed therapy using traditional medicine and herbal medicines preservation, rights

for intellectual property, fair and equitable sharing of utilization of resources of Nagoya Protocol, guidelines and ethics in doing research for traditional medicine practitioners, making records of list of traditional medicine practitioners, medicinal herbs and therapies in the sector of the traditional medicine in Mekong Region Countries, budget supplied by Government of China in research projects of traditional medicine in Mekong region countries.

In the evening, dinner was hosted to the representatives by the Department of Traditional Medicine, Ministry of Health and Sports at Karaweik Palace Hotel.



Officials from Department of Traditional Medicine held 8th meeting for traditional medicine of Mekong region countries at Novotel Hotel in Yangon on 20 November 2017. **PHOTO: AW MIN LATT, YE HTUT**

The second day meeting is held today and traditional medicine practitioners from Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam will show the demonstration on the traditional therapies.

The expo for traditional medicine products of Mekong region countries will be launched from 21 to 24 November in Tatmadaw Hall in Yangon. The meeting and expo were conducted biennially by

China and Thailand starting from 2007 and this is the first time for Myanmar to host the meeting and traditional medicine practitioners and researchers attended.— Yi Yi Myint, Ohnmar Thant ■

Framework, ToR, SoP Work Group meeting concludes

FRAMEWORK, Terms of Reference (ToR), Standard operating procedure (SoP) Work Group meeting was continued yesterday morning in National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC), Nay Pyi Taw and was successfully completed in the evening.

In the day's meetings Framework, ToRs, SoPs and structure, decision making concept, composition, national dialogue related to political discussion framework were discussed by officials from group representing the government, group representing the ethnic armed organisations and group representing political parties. Next, on behalf of the group representing political parties, U Thein Tun said frank and open discussions to prepare ToRs and SoPs for conducting union level peace negotiations were made. Basic principle for processes that remains to be discussed were also achieved. He added that good results were achieved because discussions were held with an aim toward establishment of a long term sustainable peace throughout the regions of the union, uninterrupted and connected rule of law, peace, stability and development

On behalf of the group representing ethnic armed organisations, Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win said efforts were made to obtain

good results from this meeting. If all work together in future to find a solution, the peace process will be successful. All must strive to achieve peace for the country and its people.

Brig-Gen Sein Tun Hla, on behalf of the group representing the government said if peace discussion were conducted patiently, success will be achieved. There were agreements and disagreements in making decisions. Success will be achieved by continuing the negotiations.

With regards to the results of the discussion, U Hla Maung Shwe said "Our main duty is for political discussion framework. It is to submitted after reviewing and discussion about it. Secondly, all work processes were reviewed. Based on the previous congress, discussions were made to achieve a better result quickly. From this, proposals will come out. Most of the framework is agreed upon. Some differing views will be submitted to UPDJC meeting. We all can discuss to achieve a result. Discussion on SoP was completed."

Framework, ToR, SoP Work Group meeting was held from 17 to 20 November and was attended by officials from the government group, ethnic armed organisations group and political parties group.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Delegation led by Senator Jeff Merkley calls on Rakhine State Chief Minister

DELEGATION led by Senator Jeff Merkley and US Ambassador to Myanmar HE Mr Scot Marciel called on U Nyi Pu, Chief Minister of Rakhine State at the Hall of State Government Office at 2 pm yesterday.

In the meeting, Senator Jeff Merkley asked the Chief Minister and party to recount on-the-ground-situations as US would like to know from where US would give supports to Rakhine State.

Chief Minister replied, "We are very grateful for international communities to be interested in Rakhine State Affairs and to be desirous of helping eagerly in collaboration. Since the time when the Rakhine State Government took office, we are prioritizing the tasks of regional peace, stability and development.

The two sectors are simultaneously implemented and security matters are also being carried out as a priority. And, the tasks of mitigating the distrust and misunderstanding between the different communities and making them co-exist in peace forever was our priority works. The tasks are being carried out by the Rakhine State Government alone, but the State Government is also supporting the implementation of the Central Committee

of UEHRD in Rakhine State led by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. Rakhine State affairs were solved by forming advisory commission on Rakhine State led by Mr Kofi Annan. Plus, Rakhine State Affairs were solved by forming the investigation commission led by Vice President U Myint Swe."

Chief Minister added, "While performing the tasks of regional development, conflicts took places again. During the outbreak of conflicts, series of events were managed to be controlled under the leadership of State Counsellor. State leaders felt sorrowful for false news spread by global media, managing to solve them. After

the events, we are carrying out the tasks of providing humanitarian aids, resettlement and rehabilitation, sustainable development of the area with great momentum. Concerning those tasks, State Counsellor formed the UEHRD, implementing successfully so far. In doing so cooperation, mutual understanding and practical implementation of the tasks play the important role."

The delegation led by Senator Jeff Merkley met with responsible officials from Arakan National Party and Wun Let Foundation and Islamists town-elders and Islamist women at Aung Mingalar ward of Sittway.—Tin Tun (IPRD) ■



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu holds talks with a delegation led by Senator Jeff Merkley and US Ambassador Mr Scot Marciel in Sittway. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attends a dinner in honour of participants of the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 20 November. **PHOTO: MNA**

Dinner hosted in honour of participants of 13th ASEM

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi hosted a dinner in honour of participants of the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

She extended greetings at the dinner held at the Myanmar International Convention

Centre-I in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Afterwards, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi enjoyed the dinner together with foreign ministers, deputy ministers and senior officials from member countries.

At the dinner, Myanmar artistes performed dances accompanied to the traditional orchestra of the Myanmar Radio and Television and music of Japanese musician Mr. Yamamoto.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Workshop titled Democracy administration launched

By the collaboration of British Embassy and Chevening Alumini Association Myanmar, a workshop titled "Democracy Administration" was held at the Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the workshop,

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker delivered an opening speech. Next, President of Chevening Alumini Association Myanmar U Aung Kyaw Thein discussed the title named "Introduction of the Workshop and Chevening Alumini Association Myanmar".

Then, chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertaking Vetting Committee U Thein Swe discussed the title named "Introduction of the Workshop and Chevening Alumini Association Myanmar".

Following, President of Chevening Alumini Association Myanmar U Aung Kyaw Thein also discussed the title "Democratic Governance".

Afterward, representative from Amyotha Hluttaw and other departmental staffs also discussed at the Workshop.

—Myanmar News Agency

Myanmar anti-corruption committee in cooperation with UNODC launched Financial Investigation Course

Myanmar anti-corruption committee launched Financial Investigation Course yesterday morning at Royal Nay Pyi Taw Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw with the aim of elevation the ability of inspection for anti-corruption, prosecution and pleading ability for the departmental staffs.

A total of 34 trainees from the office of Myanmar

anti-corruption committee attend the course and the course will be conducted till 30 November.

The course conducting was led by technical advisor from UNODC and personal skill evaluation was made before the course according to the Myanmar anti-corruption committee. —Myanmar News Agency ■

13th JMC-U meeting starts in Yangon

FIRST day of 13th Union Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC-U) meeting was held yesterday morning at Yangon office of National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Shweli Road, Yangon. First, JMC-U chairman Lt.-Gen. Yar Pyae delivered a message of greeting. He said today's meeting will discuss and coordinate thoroughly work implementation status of JMC-U and future works in relation with our own organisations. Next, JMC-U Vice chairman (1)



Saw Isaac Po delivered a message of greeting. He said conflicts occur in stages through action and thought against each other, differing views and opinions. It needs to be coordi-

nated in stages. Through gives and takes, both side need to be satisfied so that a fair and beneficial peace can be established. In his message of greeting, JMC-U Vice Chairman (2)

Rev. Saw Mathew Aye told of civilian representatives conducting how to prevent engagements and how to participate. In the day's meeting implementation status of decision made at 12th meeting were submitted, second meeting of civilian representatives involved in the stages of JMC were explained, discussed and confirmed SOPs and general discussions were held. The meeting will be held for three days from 20 to 22 November it is learnt.— Zaw Gyi ■

MARRIAGE ANNOUNCEMENT

MAUNG KYAW THUREIN TUN

at 413 ontario St, storm Lake, Ia 50588, USA
Son of U Kyaw Soe Win and Daw San San Yee.

AND

PHUE PWINT PHYO (Pinky)

at 107, 92nd street, Kandawlay,
Mingalar Toung Nyunt Township,
Yangon Region. Daughter of
U Nyi Lay Mg and Daw Tin Tin Swe
Are Pleased to Announce their Marriage on Thursday,
19th October,

2017 at Supreme court of Yangon Region

MAUNG KYAW THUREIN TUN & PHUE PWINT PHYO (Pinky)

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.11.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV WEST SCENT VOY. NO (160)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY. NO (160) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.11.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV OEL MALAYSIA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV OEL MALAYSIA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.11.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Deputy Speaker of Indonesian Regional Representative Council



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint holds talks with Lt. Gen (Han) Dr Nano Sampono in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint received a delegation led by Deputy Speaker of Indonesian regional representative council of Lt. Gen (Han) Dr Nano Sampono at the guest room of the Hluttaw building yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, bilat-

eral relations and cooperation between the parliaments of the two countries and affairs on humanitarian aids were discussed.

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw also attended the meeting.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Vaccination of Children against Encephalitis in Maungtaw

By News Team

MOBILE health team comprising of Specialist Medical Surgeons from Maungtaw Health Care Centre visited Pan Taw Pyin village where Islamists live, giving medical care and vaccinating children aged 9 months and those under 15 against encephalitis, yesterday morning.

Specialist surgeon Dr Kyaw Maung Maung Thein, leader of the mobile health team said, "We are giving medical treatment at Pan Taw Pyin under the mobile health team program. Until now, infectious diseases were not found yet. Minor cases such as cough and normal gastric ulcers were found. To have them vaccinated against encephalitis we organized through ward or village administrator and health staff."

Over 200 children were vaccinated against encephalitis, with more than 170 were



Nurses giving medical care and vaccinating children for prevent Encephalitis to Islamists in Pan Taw Pyin village. **PHOTO: NELIN**

given medical treatments, it was learnt.

U Annawar, the Muslim Village administrator of Pan Taw Pyin said, "Most are poor in the ward, so it is convenient for them to have such mobile medical treatments. Frequently health teams come here. In the meanwhile, they go to Maungtaw General Hospital. Today, children were vaccinat-

ed against encephalitis. Most children came here today."

Maungtaw township health department is giving mobile health care services twice a month to distant regions which is not easily accessible. Starting from November 15, vaccination of encephalitis was carried out in over 100 villages in Maungtaw township, it was learnt. ■

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives Deputy Speaker of Indonesian Regional Representative Council

SPEAKER of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than received Deputy Speaker of Regional Representative Council of Indonesia, Lt. Gen (Han) Dr. Nano Sampono, M.Si, at 3:30 pm at Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi

Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matter concerning promotion of social, economic and promoting bilateral friendship between two countries. Also present at the meeting

were Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, secretary of Amyotha Hluttaw Myanmar-Indonesia Hluttaw friendship association and officials of the Amyotha Hluttaw Office.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than meets Deputy Speaker of Indonesian Regional Representative Council Lt. Gen (Han) Dr. Nano Sampono in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Forty per cent of edible oil consumption imported from abroad

ABOUT 40 per cent of edible oil consumption is dependent on import market due to the high price in the local market, according to a report of Myawady Daily.

Growing methods need to be upgraded in order to boost production.

Local production of edible oil can cover about 60 per cent of consumption. In order to fulfill the requirements, 40 per cent is imported from foreign countries.

High prices for edible oil crop raw materials such as peanuts and sesame

are contributing factors for the millers to scale up the price.

As a result, low-income people are forced to buy imported edible oil, which is cheaper than locally produced peanut oil, U Myin Kyu, the chairperson of Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers Association, told Myawady Daily.

In a bid to reduce imported edible oil consumption and compete against them in the market, raw material prices need to be reduced.

Traditional growing methods cannot help boost

the yield, so growers need to keep up with advanced technology.

In addition, edible oil crops are in high demand from the export market.

The aforementioned association is conducting publicity awareness campaigns concerning edible oil in cooperation with Consumer Affairs Department.

At present, sunflower oil and soybean oil are imported from America, Argentina and Russia while palm oil is imported from Malaysia and Indonesia. —GNLM ■

34 illegal overseas recruitment cases reported in Yangon this year

THE No.6 Anti-Human Trafficking Division (Yangon) announced that 34 illegal overseas recruitment cases have been reported in Yangon this year, according to a report of the Myawady Daily issued on Saturday.

Police Lt. Colonel Wai Lwin said that action is being taken against overseas employment agencies that illegally sent Myanmar workers to Thailand, Japan and China (Taipei) in accordance with four sections of the Law Relating to Overseas Employment.

According to Section 26 of this law, those overseas employment agencies that illegally sent

workers to other countries without a licence shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years in maximum.

Under Section 27 of this law, the registered overseas employment agencies that collect agency fees higher than the rates fixed by the supervisory body shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to a maximum of three years.

Concerted efforts are being made by the government to regulate the system and officially send workers to other countries.—GNLM ■



in
Picture

Students get medical examinations in Pyay Township

The doctor examines a student to vaccinate the Encephalitis vaccination. Supervised by Pyay Township Public Health Department, Bago Region, the students from age 5 to 15 were vaccinated against Encephalitis at No 3 Basic Education Middle School, Pyay Township yesterday. **PHOTO: MAUNG SHWE WIN (PYAY)**

Angels or demons? Political shadow hangs over Victoria's Secret China show

SHANGHAI — Victoria's Secret's glitzy annual fashion show hits the stage in China on Monday night for the first time, but will do so without several of its "angels" and star names who had been expected to attend, including model Gigi Hadid and pop singer Katy Perry.

Hadid has confirmed her absence, while reports have swirled ahead of the show about visas being denied over political sensitivities and strict controls

around the Shanghai event — a potential headache for the brand famed for its racy lingerie.

Perry and Hadid have both drawn criticism in state media and online in China, the former for appearing at a concert in 2015 to show support for Taiwan, a self-governed island that China considers a wayward province and an integral part of its territory.

The furor underscores the challenges for global firms looking to hold ma-

JOR live events in China, even as music producers, Hollywood and sporting franchises increasingly look to tap into the country's fast-growing entertainment market.

"Brands have to be much more aware of politically or morally sensitive topics here," said Ben Cavender, Shanghai-based principal at China Market Research Group, adding the lure of the market meant most people would nevertheless take risks.

"It's a very different political environment than their home markets and we're at a time when China is on a drive to clean up behavior and push a sort of moral code."

China has long kept tight control of performers it allows into the country. Justin Bieber, Lady Gaga, Bjork and Bon Jovi are all banned over perceived bad behavior or for broaching sensitive topics like Tibet or Taiwan.

Under President Xi Jinping, a push to reinforce socialist "core values" in cultural products from video games to music shows has also meant firms like game developer NetEase Inc to the producers of the Grammy Awards have had to clean up their offerings.

Hadid, penned to be one of the Victoria's Secret "Angels" at the show, tweeted last week she was no longer attending. The tweet followed a video posted online of her squinting her eyes while holding a small Buddha statue drew ire in China. —Reuters ■



Models Danlela Braga get ready backstage before the 2017 Victoria's Secret Fashion Show in Shanghai, China on 20 November, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

U Thayne Soe (70) years

Son of U Sein Lin and the late Daw Hla Sein, beloved husband of Daw Swanti, residing at University Avenue, 77(E), Shwe Taung Kyar (1) Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon, eldest brother of U Soe Aung and Daw Li Li Han, U Kyaw Thein, Dr Ohmar Moe Myint and U Moe Myint, father of Daw Sandy Soe, Daw Saw Marlar Soe and U Nyan Phyo Min, Daw Suu Myat Soe and U Ponnnya Kyaw, Daw Su Pyae Sone Soe, grandfather of Ma Shin Mya Kha Kyaw, Maung Agga Min, Ma Piti Min, Maung Min Myat Ponnnya, peacefully passed away at his residence at 10:00 a.m. on 19 November 2017 (Sunday).
The funeral ceremony will be held at Yeway Cemetery at 4:00 p.m. on 21 November 2017 (Tuesday).
(Buses will leave from the residence at 2:30 p.m.)

Bereaved Family

Chinese students take top honors in SC17 supercomputer competition

DENVER, the United States — Singapore's Nanyang Technological University and China's Tsinghua University finished 1-2 in the 11th annual highly competitive Student Cluster Competition (SCC) at the Super Computer Conference (SC17) this week in Denver in the US state of Colorado.

SCC was introduced in 2007 to expose undergraduate and high school students to high performance computing.

Over the past few months, six-person student teams designed and built small clusters with hardware and software vendor partners, learned designated scientific applications, and applied optimization techniques for their chosen architectures.

In the final days, students competed in a non-stop, 48-hour "mystery" challenge at the SC17 conference — to complete a real-world scientific work challenge. A total of 16 teams competed in the 2017 competition, hailing from China, Germany, Poland, Singapore, the United States and China's Taiwan province. The event is considered the penultimate student supercomputer competition in the world.

Tsinghua narrowly missed winning its third straight international computer competition of 2017 — edged out by a Singapore team comprised of all Mainland Chinese students. "I was a little surprised we won," admitted modest Nanyang Technical University team co-leader Siyuan Liu from Hebei Province, whose team was

considered a long shot by industry experts.

"We are very excited to finish ahead of such strong teams," the other co-leader Yiyang Shao told Xinhua, who also said they knew the team to beat was Tsinghua.

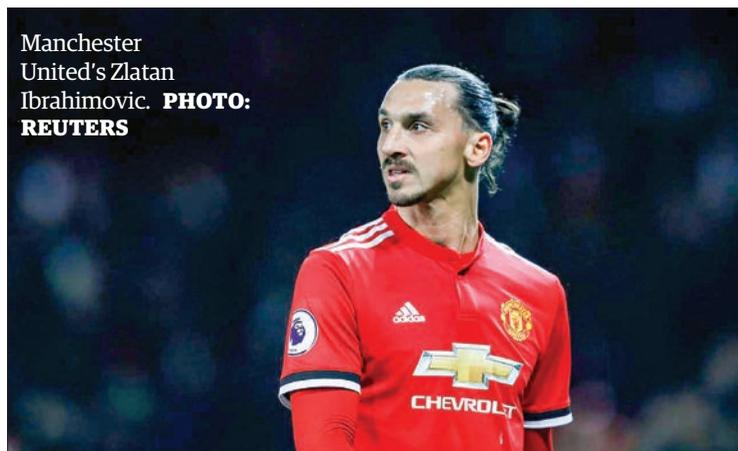
The favoured Tsinghua team was having a phenomenal 2017 — taking top honors on 17 April at ASC17 in Wuxi, China, and on 17 June at ISC17 in Frankfurt, Germany, and were nudged out in a photo finish by a mere three points at SC17 in America's Mile High City.

"I thought they were going to win," SCC Chairman Stephen Harrell told Xinhua, of the favoured Tsinghua team.

Harrell, a computer technical expert from Purdue University was given the difficult task of compiling results from a panel of judges who ranked the diverse international field.

"No one's a loser in this competition," Harrell emphasized, as he met with, and complimented all of the teams after the top honor was announced.

"All of these students will be very successful in life and in the HPC field," he said. Harrell, who emphasized the integrity displayed by the Chinese students from both teams, said that interviews and a poster competition also factored into the decision-making. This year's all decisive "mystery" question dealt with the migration of carbon dioxide around the world, and students were asked to simulate the flow of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere using calculations and creating an algorithm. —Xinhua ■



Manchester United's Zlatan Ibrahimovic. PHOTO: REUTERS

Manchester United chasing Premier, Champions League titles — Ibrahimovic

LONDON — Manchester United are able to mount a serious challenge for both the Premier and Champions League titles this season thanks to a stronger squad, striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic has said.

Ibrahimovic, Paul Pogba and Marcos Rojo returned to United's squad for Saturday's 4-1 league win over Newcastle United as Jose Mourinho's side, who are second in the league, remained eight points behind neighbours City. With four wins from four Champions League group games this season, United need just one more point from two matches to qualify for the last 16. They visit FC Basel on Wednesday.

Ibrahimovic told British media that a domestic and European double was very much a target.

"I think there is a possibility

for everything ... We are stronger this season. We believe we can do it — that's the aim. To win and get the trophies," he said.

"I think we can chase City, why is it not a possibility?"

"This week the manager has been very happy because he has a full team ... He knows what he is doing, even when the number of players are limited because he's a winner and has been winning every season."

Ibrahimovic and Rojo returned from serious knee injuries sustained last season and started on the bench for an almost full-strength United squad. The Swede came on in the latter stages of the game.

Frenchman Pogba recovered from a hamstring injury and scored in his first game since September.—Reuters ■

FIFA MA Refereeing Course 2017 gets underway in Myanmar

By the cooperation of Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) and World Football Federation (WFF), FIFA MA Refereeing Course 2017 was launched yesterday morning at the meeting hall of the Myanmar Football Federation.

A total of 30 trainees are being participated in the training program of the course which will be concluded on 24 November.

The Russian instructor Mr. Lvanov is being coached the trainees according to MFF.

FIFA is a private association which describes itself as an international governing body of association football, futsal, and beach soccer. FIFA is responsible for the organization of football's major international tournaments, notably the World Cup which commenced in 1930 and the Women's World Cup which commenced in 1991. FIFA was founded in 1904 to oversee international competition among the national associations of Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, the

Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland. Headquartered in Zurich, its membership now comprises 211 national associations. Member countries must each also be members of one of the six regional confederations into which the world is divided: Africa, Asia, Europe, North & Central America and the Caribbean, Oceania, and South America. FIFA MA Refereeing Courses are being conducted across FIFA membered nations annually.—Kyaw Zin Lin

Manchester City must keep their cool despite stellar start, says Kompany

LONDON — Manchester City extended their winning run in the season to 16 games across all competitions but captain Vincent Kompany has urged the Premier League side to remain composed in their pursuit of silverware.

City maintained their eight-point lead at the top of the Premier League table with a 2-0 win at Leicester City on Saturday and are unbeaten in the Champions League heading into the knockout stages.

"It's exceptional, but it's early doors in the season, and

we want to put it aside a little bit and just focus on the next game," Kompany told the club's website.

"Hopefully we can continue such a special start. I think when you're pushing the boundaries like this, the main thing for yourself is to always feel like you can achieve even more, and more. "We've got no silverware for it, and therefore so many reasons to just stay calm about it. Hopefully this is just something at the start of a beautiful story."

Pep Guardiola's team fin-

ished third in the league last season and ended the campaign trophyless and defender Kompany is wary of a repeat this time around.

"We have played well last season as well, and therefore we need to be cautious that it's not just about how well we play, but how much we can actually do the damage when we're on the pitch," Kompany said.

City top their Champions League group and face Feyenoord in their penultimate group stage match on Tuesday.

—Reuters ■

Barcelona to appeal Suarez, Pique yellow cards

BARCELONA — La Liga leaders Barcelona will appeal the yellow cards handed to defender Gerard Pique and striker Luis Suarez during Saturday's 3-0 win at Leganes, the Spanish club has said.

Pique was booked in the first half for fouling Leganes midfielder Nordin Amrabat and will miss Barcelona's league game against second-placed Valencia through suspension if his yellow card is not repealed.

Suarez, who scored twice against Leganes to end a five-match goal drought, was cau-

tioned for impeding goalkeeper Ivan Cuellar in the second half.

"FC Barcelona appealing yellow cards shown to Gerard Pique and Luis Suarez during Saturday's 3-0 win at Leganes," the Catalan team said on their Twitter.

If the appeal is unsuccessful, Barcelona will have to rely on their only two fit centre-backs — Thomas Vermaelen and Samuel Umtiti — as they try to maintain their four-point lead at the top of the standings when they visit Valencia on Sunday.—Reuters ■



Barcelona's Luis Suarez celebrates with Gerard Pique after scoring their second goal during the match against Leganes at Butarque Municipal Stadium in Leganes, Spain on 18 November, 2017. PHOTO:REUTERS