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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Tuesday, 28 November 2017



Pope Francis arrives at Yangon International Airport on 27 November 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

## Pope in Myanmar

Pope Francis arrived Yangon at 1.20 pm yesterday by special flight. The leader of the Roman Catholic church was welcomed at the Yangon International Airport by Union Minister for

Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, regional ministers, U San Lwin, Myanmar's first Ambassador to the Holy See, Archbishop Paul

Tsang in-Nam, who based in Bangkok as both Vatican Nuncio to Thailand and Apostolic Delegate to Myanmar, Daw Kay Thi Soe, Director-General of Strategic Studies and Training

Department, Cardinal Charles Bo, Archbishop of Yangon, John Saw Yaw Han, Auxiliary Bishop of Archdiocese of Yangon and Catholics.

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### 6<sup>th</sup> JICM on NCA held

3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of Union Peace Conference-21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong to be held in last week of January, 2018

STATE Counsellor, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Chairperson of the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre gave a welcoming speech at the 6<sup>th</sup> Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting on Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA held at 10 am yesterday at the NRPC in Nay Pyi Taw.

Present at the meeting were Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army), U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor, Union Attorney-General, U Tun Tun Oo, Dr Tin Myo Win, Chairman of the Peace Commission, Hluttaw Representatives, Tatmadaw high-ranking officers, Deputy Ministers, leaders of eight ethnic armed groups, signatories of NCA, JICM representatives and invited guests.

In her opening address, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi stressed the need to have the spiritual courage to dare find the right solution for peace, saying that the peace process needed the spiritual courage to reach the goal of peace while the physical courage is necessary to dare face with enemies in the battle field.

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## BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

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Myanmar Hluttaw delegation has the documentary photo taken together with members of Japan-Myanmar Hluttaw Friendship Association. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker visits Japan

By the invitation of Mr Tadmorei Oshima, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Japan, a delegation led by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint departed for Tokyo, Japan in the evening of 26 November and arrived in Tokyo, Japan yesterday morn-

ing 6:45 am. The delegation led by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker were welcomed by officials from the House of Representatives of Japan, Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Thurein Thant Zin and embassy officials at the Narita International Airport in Tokyo.

Then, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and party were hosted luncheon by Chairman of the Japan -Myanmar Hluttaw Friendship Association Mr Ichiro Aisawa at Hotel New Otani yesterday 11:30 am.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker leaves for Republic of Korea

A DELEGATION led by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than left for the Republic of Korea yesterday to pay an official visit at the invitation of Mr Chung Sye Kyun, the Speaker of the National Assembly of Korea.

The delegation was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Tin Maung

Tun, Deputy Speaker U Lin Naing Myint, Charge d'affaires of South Korean Embassy in Yangon Mr. Kim Jung Han and Counsellor Mr. Kim Ha Won and officials. The delegation includes the chairman of Myanmar-Korea Parliamentary Friendship Association of Amyotha Hluttaw and members and officials of Amyotha Hluttaw Office. —MNA ■



Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than (C) is seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

## Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control meeting 1/2017

CENTRAL Committee for Drug Abuse Control hold its meeting 1/2017 yesterday morning at the meeting hall of Union Minister office, Ministry of Home Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw and was attended by Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control chairman, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, members of Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, officials from 10 groups working against narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, UNODC, DEA, WFP, ONCB, NNCC, INGOs and high ranking officials from Myanmar Police Force.

At the meeting Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control chairman, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe

said the narcotic drug problem had been tackled by successive governments but was unable to control it and instead is becoming worse. The problem of narcotic drug is considered as a national problem and attempts were made to control and eradicate it but year by year the number of arrests kept on rising.

In 2017, Mayyu operation in Rakhine State, Shan Yoma operation in Shan State and Chindwin-2 operation in Sagaing Region were conducted. Currently Aya Oo operation in Kachin State is underway. As eradicating narcotic drugs could not be done solely through preventive operations and judicial strategies alone but must include economics, social,

health and development sectors, a new narcotic drug control policy had been drawn up.

A National Strategic Plan will be drawn up for the successful implementation of this policy. An Operation Action Plan that is relevant to the states and regions and is in accordance with the Strategic Plan is also being planned. While the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control is trying to eradicate narcotic drugs, relevant ministries are urged to increase the preventive works against narcotic drug as a very important national duty.

Afterwards, assessment of Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control secretary Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Major General Aung Win Oo, Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control joint secretary and chief of anti-narcotic task force acting police Brig-General Myint Aung explained about completed works of the decisions made at Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control meeting 1/2016, discussion by groups working against narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and assessment by Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control secretary on narcotic drug elimination efforts were made in the meeting. —Myanmar News Agency ■



The meeting of Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control in progress. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Union Supreme Court sits to pass judgment and hear cases

UNION Supreme Court yesterday sits at Union Supreme Court room number 1 yesterday morning with Chief Justice of the Union Supreme Court U Htun Htun Oo and all Union

Supreme Court judges to pass judgments on one special criminal appeal case, five special civil appeal cases and hear 8 special criminal appeal cases. — Myanmar News Agency ■

## Workshop on General Principles of Federalism



Officials participate in the Workshop on General Principles of Federalism. **PHOTO: MNA**

Workshop on General Principles of Federalism jointly organised by National Reconciliation and Peace Center (NRPC) and Intermediate was held yesterday morning at Mingalar Thiri Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw.

At the workshop Professor Marc Weller of Intermediate discussed about federalism, division of power between union government and states and regions governments that is included in the peace process, note on federalism and

works usually conducted. He then remarked on the discussions made by the workshop attendees.

The workshop was attended by a total of 78 representatives from government group, Tatmadaw group, people who ought to participate group and ethnic national group that are attending the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong and will be held until 28 November it is learnt. — Myanmar News Agency ■





State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addresses the 6<sup>th</sup> Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting on Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

## 6<sup>th</sup> Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting on NCA held

### FROM PAGE-1

“We all must have the courage to dare find rightful solution for peace. And, we are required to rightfully assess whether we can find out the solution we want or not. So, making compromise is of great importance. Unless solutions are found out urgently, solutions must be sought after confronting causes of why it is not found out.”

State Counsellor added, “If we really have the aspiration, there is no reason why we cannot accomplish what we want. I firmly believe that all those present at the meeting are desirous of peace. It is our people who want peace most, more than anyone else. The people want to live in peace. Peace can bring about progress which can result in development as known by all.”

It is responsible for all of us sitting in the meeting room to gain peace, for the sake of our people. Responsibility is great and difficult to bring about peace. It is absolutely not reasonable if we claim that we cannot dutifully perform our duties as it is great. We are required to exert our efforts more than ever. In holding the present meeting, what we must not lose the sight is our people’s desire. In this meeting, we have to solve what must be solved out, or move forward to another step or two steps if we need according to our negotiations, with the spirits of fulfilling people’s needs, desires and expectations they greatly aspired since the time of gaining Independence—the Peace. I myself hereby request all to collectively discuss with the spirit of paving a smooth

and better path.”

Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) said, “In building up the Union based on the federal democratic system, JICM plays an important role as a major driving force. UPDJC will also have facts agreed through the secretariat over solutions sought from detailed negotiations of working committees of UPDJC. In case there are some disagreements, leaders are collectively to find out solutions in this JICM. So, we say that JICM is a very important component. Concerning the items 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 of the agenda of the present JICM, it is necessary to discuss for the approval of the facts achieved from JMC and UPDJC. In doing so, the peo-

ple need not to prioritize their desires excessively, instead we need to discuss based on the spirit of keeping our three Main National Causes for ever and multi-party democratic system. In negotiating like this as well, we must pay respect to mutual trust and cooperation. Here, what we must take care is not to lose sight of our goal of emergence of a Union based on federal democratic system from achieving eternal peace.”

And, Vice-Senior General Soe Win added, “During the period of building up peace, I hereby suggest that it is urgently needed for us not to prioritize the affairs that can cause misunderstanding, not to intervene in the process of administration of the State Government and not to go beyond the authority. Besides, we are required to im-

plement for our armed national ethnic groups which have not yet signed the NCA to actively organize to take part, without solving political problems by military ways.”

The leader of PPST and the Chairman of Karen National Union (KNU) Saw Mutu Sae Phoe thanked for convening the JICM requested by 8 EAOs. It is therefore believed that JICM will be held regularly every three months as earlier agreed and if required, emergency meeting could also be held he added.

“First I would like to say a bit about the delay of a few months in implementing peace dialogues based on the peace process. Review and assessment of the peace process was conducted repeatedly by the 8 EAOs due to real requirements.”

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

# Tourists arrivals drop by 11 per cent as of October

By May Thet Hnin

THE number of tourists visiting Myanmar has declined by 11 per cent as of October this fiscal year when compared to the same period of last year, U Thet Lwin Toe, the chairman of the Union of Myanmar Travel Association.

The Ministry of Hotel and Tourism has a target of 3 million tourists this fiscal year. Currently, Myanmar has already received over 2.5 million tourists as of October. If we receive more tourist number in December, we can meet the target, he added.

"Ninety per cent of booked trips have been cancelled in MraukU and Ngapali because of wrong information about the Rakhine conflict issue, which has occurred over the last few months. But there is not that much cancellation in Yangon, Bagan, Mandalay and other places," he added.

"MraukU and Ngapali trips have been canceled because of negative media's impact. The political situation does not really impact tourism, but that kind of issue should be handed through the media," said U Thet Lwin Toe.

"Concerning the Rakhine issue, tourists from Italy, France, Spain and Asian countries are visiting Myanmar regularly, but the tourists from America and England has cancelled their bookings," said U Aung Tun Lin, the chairperson of the Myanmar Tourist Guides Association (MTGA).

"Our guides took the time and tried to explain the Rakhine issue to the tourists who misunderstand. All of the tourists are also interested in the Rakhine



Tourists sightsee in Inle Lake, Nyaungshwe Township, Shan State. **PHOTO: THIHA TUN**

issue. So we feel really sorry for it because most of the tourists misunderstand. Only five tourists visited Myanmar among 20 tourists who booked to visit our country," he added.

According to statistics on 2017 visitor arrivals by nationality, the majority of visitors are from Thailand, followed by China, Japan, South Korea, Singapore and Viet Nam. Citizens of the United States, France, Britain, Germany, Italy and Spain also visited Myanmar.

To be able to develop the Myanmar tourism industry, partnerships between public and private should be more closely encouraged. The Tourism Development Committee should also conduct national-level meetings three or four times per year, said U Thet Lwin Toe.

U Aung Tun Lin, the Chairperson of the Myanmar Tourist Guides Association (MTGA), urged the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism to implement the tourism point of view with the cooperation of the regional authorities and local people to be able to develop the tourism industry. The ministry should also be provided with awareness talks concerning the tourism sector.

"For example, the local people from Inle region covered their houses with the beer advertisement paper. The tourists are also asked about it. Actually, It want the local people to know that it can affect our tourism image. Covering the building at the viewpoint area is another reason to impact our tourism industry," he added.

Moreover, the government

should reduce the collection of toilet fees and camera fees for the tourists as much as they can.

There are many beautiful natural scenes, eco-tourism sites and archeological sites in Myanmar.

The ministry is also implementing community-based tourism and seeking new destinations areas which can attracts the attention of the tourists, said U Ohn Myint, the Deputy Director-General of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

"There are many natural resources in Myanmar. But, we need to conserve our resources. Not only the ministry of hotels and tourism but also other related ministries and private sectors have a responsibility to conserve those natural resources," he added. ■

## Joint venture companies granted to import agricultural machinery

By Ko Moe

THE Ministry of Commerce has granted foreign joint venture companies to import agricultural machinery for the first time, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Previously, the ministry has granted only the local companies to import the agricultural machines. Now, the ministry

granted other foreign joint venture companies as well.

To be able to import the agricultural machines, the foreign joint venture companies must have the company license and have to show the share amount and bank account which are issued by Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The local farmers can use

the high quality machines as foreign joint venture companies are permitted to import the farm machinery, said U Thein Lwin, a local farmer from Yangon Region. "Currently, we are facing scarcity of the skilled labour in the region. Now, the authorities have permitted to import the agricultural machine by foreign joint venture companies. This is good news for our local farmers," he added.

ers," he added.

Yangon Region government is drawing the First Agriculture Master Plan to be able to get the more investments from the local and foreign investors in the agricultural sector.

Moreover, Yangon Region government is planning to implement the special economic zone concerning the agricultural sector in Yangon Region. ■



## MIC describes export-oriented investments, grant tax exemption

THE Myanmar Investment Commission announced on Sunday that it would consider businesses as 100 per cent export-oriented investments if investors supply all their finished goods and semi-finished goods locally manufactured to local businesses which are 100 per cent export oriented without supplying the domestic market.

The distinction is important, because such total export-oriented investments can apply for tax exemption or relief in accordance with the section 77 (b) of Myanmar Investment Law, according to this announcement. According to section 77 (b) of Myanmar Investment Law, exemptions or relief are granted from the customs duty or other internal taxes or both on the importation of the raw materials and partially manufactured goods conducted by an export-oriented business for the purpose of the manufacture of products for export. According to section 100 (B) of Myanmar

Investment Law, those currently operating enterprises without seeking approval or endorsement of MIC can submit endorsement applications in line with Myanmar Investment Law. Even if those enterprises are endorsed by MIC, they are not allowed to apply for income tax exemption embodied in section 75 of Myanmar Investment Law. However, the announcement stated that those enterprises are allowed to apply for tax exemption and tax relief represented in section 77 (B), (C) and (D) of Myanmar Investment Law. There were many local businesses who did not seek approval from MIC, as Myanmar Investment Law is far beyond their understanding. They lost tax break opportunities under the law and lag behind those permitted by the MIC. Thus, the MIC is conducting tax exemptions or relief within the existing investment law framework. MIC announced on 10 October that investors can apply for tax exemp-

tion or relief.

Section 77 (C) stated that they can also enjoy reimbursement of customs duty or other internal taxes or both on imported raw materials and partially manufactured goods which are used to manufacture products for export. In accordance with the Section 77 (D) of Myanmar Investment Law, if the volume of investment is increased with the approval of the Commission and the original investment is expanded during the permitted period of investment, exemptions or reliefs from the customs duty or other internal taxes or both on machinery, equipments, instruments, machinery components, spare parts, materials used in the business, and construction materials unavailable locally, which are imported as they are actually required for use in the business which is being expanded as such increases may be granted. - Htet Myat ■

## Prawn hatcheries to be set up in Myeik and Dawei

A plan is underway to establish prawn hatcheries in Myeik and Dawei, said livestock businessmen.

There are prawn larvae breeding companies. The Fishery Department and associated businessmen will discuss matters to open hatcheries next year. The larvae produced by hatcheries will be sold and distributed to private prawn farming businesses. Prawn consumption is increasing year on year despite decrease in production. Therefore, prawn farming business needs to be expanded. This year insufficiency in pedigree prawn larvae contributed to decrease in prawn production, said U Nyo Myint, the livestock businessman.

The collapsing of saltwater prawn farming business is attributed to previous economic sanctions against

Myanmar, natural disaster, financial hardship of the breeders and scarcity of prawn resource in lakes and rivers.

"Rakhine saltwater prawn farming was successful to a certain extent last decade, allowing the breeders enjoying benefits. Currently, saltwater prawn production has remarkably declined. Prawn hatcheries are hoped to fulfill the requirements of domestic consumption, said U Min Min, a prawn farmer from Dawei town.

Myanmar's prawns cannot compete those imported prawns from Thailand in the market despite the same species. The imported prawns fetch higher price, with the price gap of Ks 1,000 to 2,500 per viss (3.6 pounds) depending on size against locally produced prawns. -Zar Lin Thu (AMIA) ■



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# Pope in Myanmar

## FROM PAGE-1

Pope Francis was welcomed by members of ethnic minority groups in traditional dress at Yangon International Airport, people including children waved Vatican and Myanmar flags and wearing T-shirts with motto

of the trip “love and peace, as his convoy passed the crowd at several roadside points along the Pyay Road and Bogyoke Aung San Road.

More than 150,000 people have registered for a mass that Francis will say in Yangon on Wednesday, ac-

cording to Catholic Myanmar Church spokesman Mariano Soe Naing.

During his trip, Pope Francis will meet President U Htin Kyaw, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, cabinet members, diplomats, religious leaders and Catholics.—MNA ■



Photo: MNA



Photo: Reuters



Photo: MNA

Pope Francis is welcomed by members of ethnic minority groups in traditional dress at Yangon International Airport, people including children wave Vatican and Myanmar flags as he arrives in Yangon on 27 November 2017.



Photo: MNA



Photo: MNA



Photo: Reuters

## Senior General meets Pope Francis

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing greeted the Pope Francis, who has been in Myanmar on goodwill at the St. Mary's Cathedral at Thein Pyu Road in Yangon yesterday evening.

During the meeting, Senior General expressed his welcoming word for Pope's visit and went on saying that all the religious teach to stay in peace, unity and justice and there is no religious discrimination in Myanmar. Freedom of religious is also prescribed in Myanmar and Myanmar's Tatmadaw as well. Tatmadaw is carrying out the tasks for maintaining peace and the desire of the Tatmadaw in peace and

stability of the entity and he stressed that there is no discrimination among the ethnic races in Myanmar. Pope Francis also expressed his delight for warm welcome of Myanmar when he arrives in Myanmar and having the chance to meet with Myanmar's respective religious leaders. He also talked about possible development of political sector of Myanmar by obeying the respective faith. He went on that interfaith mutual respect can lead to nations's wealth and prosperity. Pope said that he was glad to hear the news of peace keeping process in Myanmar and he prays for the peace and prosperity of Myanmar.—MNA



## 6<sup>th</sup> Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting on NCA held

### FROM PAGE-3

“Despite the delay in discussing with the government, it was continuously discussed among us. Peace process is resolving the political problems through discussions based on NCA. But we must not forget the matter of national reconciliation. As national reconciliation is listening and coordinating with one another and finding a solution for a common goal, it is important in a peace process. Therefore, holding a national level political discussion is heading towards national reconciliation.”

“Furthermore, it is very important to create informal and coordination meetings prior to official meetings. In order to establish our future country that is appropriate to all stakeholders, a foundation based on democracy federal principal need to be laid. It also needs to be actually implemented too. This is the peace inheritance that we’ll leave behind for our next generation.”

“It is good to reach the goal of peace but it need to be arrived at by taking time to fully resolve the differences. Meetings need to be based on this principal. An-

other thing is to be responsible for the processes. I would like to conclude by urging to conduct the meetings and discussions based on national reconciliation,” said the KNU Chairman.

Meeting attendees then confirmed the meeting agenda, submit and confirmed the minutes of Implementation Coordination Meeting on NCA, ToR and SOP drawn by UPDJC, discussed on National Dialogue matters, discussed general matters and matters relating to implementing the union agreement.

After the discussions were completed the leader of PPST and the Chairman of KNU Saw Mutu Sae Phoe delivered a concluding speech. “I thank all for successfully holding the 6<sup>th</sup> JICM meeting. In future discussions, matters that could affect either party need to be overcome by having understanding and being magnanimous. Finally establish together a federal democracy nation by aiming at national reconciliation.”

Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Tatmadaw Vice-Senior General Soe Win said “There are good results after today’s meet-

ing as well as items that need to be discussed more. On the part of our Tatmadaw, this ToR and SOPs are processes that we have to go through until we achieve permanent peace. Looking back in detail at the UPDJC meetings, JICM meetings and meetings of generals led by me, we found small requirements that are actually not a new concept.”

“The good outcome from these works can resolve a problem with RCSS. This is a win-win solution theory that is not a gain or a loss to either side. This is mainly the result of the successful brokerage by the State Counsellor (between the two) and is the essence of the meeting’s success,” said the Vice-Senior General.

National Reconciliation and Peace Center Chairperson State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said “Achieving this success in JICM meeting is not only reaching one agreement but also the progress of our will power. (Shows that) We have the true Panglong spirit. I’m very much pleased as it supports the spirit of cooperation. And much thanks is owed to all who have conced-



Saw Mutu Sae Phoe, Leader of PPST and the Chairman of KNU. **PHOTO: MNA**

ed in places where concession is required. In the day’s meeting, matters in which there were disagreements were discussed.”

“We agree to continue discussion on some. To agree and disagree are the conduct of a civilized society. We all could not be of a single mind. But the quality to negotiate the differences is the main ability. Today’s meeting show that both sides had this ability and I’m confident that the peace process will definitely be successful. Whether the time is long or short depends upon our efforts and most importantly, the support and participation of the

people” said the State Counsellor.

After the meeting Dr. Hlan Hmon Sar Khaung and U Zaw Htay met with the media and explained about the results of the discussion and answered to the questions raised by the media.

In the JICM meeting held yesterday (1) confirmed the report of Implementation Coordination Meeting on NCA (2) decided to hold national level political discussion of RCSS-SSA in Langkho (Linkhay) town, Shan State in January (3) decided to continue the effort for ALP to conduct national level political discussion (4) decided the implementation of Union Agreement to be continued according to NCA (5) decided to hold Union Peace Conference – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong third meeting on the last week of January 2018 (6) decided to hold 7<sup>th</sup> JICM meeting on the last week of February 2018 (7) with the exception of some points that need to be discussed, political discussion framework, ToRs and Standard Operation Procedure-SOPs for national level political discussion were confirmed.—Myanmar News Agency

(Unofficial Translation)

A large advertisement for Emirates featuring a night view of the Dubai Fountain. The fountain's water jets are illuminated with warm lights, creating a magical atmosphere. A small boat with people is in the foreground. The text "There's a different KIND OF MAGIC in Dubai" is prominently displayed. Logos for Emirates and Expo 2020 Dubai UAE are in the top right. The slogan "DON'T JUST VISIT. LIVE IT." is in the bottom left. A red Emirates logo is in the bottom right corner.

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## Join in youths all round development festival!

**W**ITH the two major objectives of sharing intellect, knowledge, technology and ethics among Myanmar youths, and of building up Myanmar society with their excellent vision, Youths All Round Development Festival will be held from 1<sup>st</sup> December to 3<sup>rd</sup> December this year. For successful celebration of the festival with pomp and circumstance, preparations are underway to cover every aspect of management to make this festival a success. Also, it is significant to note that the period of the festival coincides with the Pre-Centenary of Yangon University.

Rangoon College which was established in 1878 as an affiliated college of the Calcutta University reached the status of a university in 1920. Yangon University is the oldest in the history of Myanmar education, being one of Myanmar's historic places of fame and glory. Simultaneously, it was the

Alma Mater which produced numerous political leaders for the country. The Youths All Round Development Festival is going to be celebrated in the Yangon University Campus, with activities for the Pre-Centenary of Yangon University included.

Along the Adipadi Road from the entrance on University Avenue Road fanfare and stalls will occupy, with the Stage where the Opening Ceremony is to going to be held—in front of the Convocation Hall. The Youth and Drug Exhibition Room is in the car-parking ground. If you turn to the left, there is the exhibition room of job opportunities for youths in the Campus of Yangon University of Economics; in the interior halls of the main building of Yangon University of Economics discussions, talk shows, extempore speeches, contests for English Language Proficiency will be held. In the open space near the

Thit Poke Pin, a remarkable tree and a symbol of Yangon University, there will be a book fair festival. The Cultural University will provide entertainment in front of the lawn of Yangon Arts and Science University; in the Recreation Centre there will be booths for inventions, science fair and other shows to be presented by students from the Institute of Information Technology, Computer University, and Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University. Sports activities will be organized in the football ground and car parking ground in front of Bago and Sagaing Halls. We can guess how crowded the festival will be with the enthusiastic efforts and participation of youths. This festival will be for three days.

For the successful celebration of the festival, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and Sports, the Ministry of

Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture are cooperating and collaborating. As youths constitute the hopes and aspirations for the future, it is important to upgrade the capacity of our youths in all fields of activity.

In the Constitution, it is strictly prescribed that the State is required to carry out the tasks of developing patriotism in youths, cultivating correct thoughts and ideas in their minds, and equipping them with physical and mental strengths. And last but not least, social skills and the importance of understanding the value of spiritual development. To sum it up, we firmly believe that the Youths All Round Development Festival will pave the way to build up a peaceful and prosperous nation so that today's youths will be able to shoulder heavy burdens of our nation in the future. ■

## Heartbeat of a mountain dweller in Nay Pyi Taw

### Convergence Theory and Myanmar Social Community

Lon Jon Sun Maing

**I**T is almost two years that I have been in Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw. I questioned myself what I have done, how much effective has my work been and what momentous role I took part. How much I could have realized the dream of ink-stained little finger tips, the want of the State and how much I could have contributed to the history of mankind.

The answer is just a simple one. I am now at the stage of riding on the wave with other Hluttaw members without any significant contribution and still going on as an ordinary Hluttaw representative.

Much as being an ordinary Hluttaw representative, I feel I am a member of Hluttaw who is duty bound to achieve the betterment of the nation's fate and to realize the objectives of the Parliament in line with its organizational essence and character.

#### Convergence Theory

I wish to put up the Convergence Theory as it seems fit with the prevailing situation. At the research congress in 1972 Dr Than Naing read the paper on Convergence Theory. He got a Doctorate degree in philosophy from then Soviet Union. He was then a demonstrator in Philosophy Department of Rangoon Arts and Science University and also a warden

of Khabaung Hostel. It had been 45 years long and all the facts of Convergence Theory were not remembered. Only basic principles were still in my memory. The Convergence Theory was then popular among the political researchers in Europe and America. The essence of the convergence Theory included the facts that the socialist system and capitalist system

The National Reconciliation trend is the least affected way for the people and can be coined as Win- Win strategy.

The way to annihilate the opponent by military might and the way to terminate the military influence by creating intense political crisis by organizing the social uprising will lead to the great loss for both the country and the people as well.

were marching forward in parallel contending for power for a certain span of historic time, however the two systems would converge at a certain point along the historic journey or would be being directed to converge at a certain point.

For instance the managers and employees of the companies and businesses under the capitalist system, could become the share holders and owners of a company or business

after buying the shares and stocks by their earnings

Dr Than Naing denied the convergence theory and pointed out the basic principles of the socialist theory as follows:

1. Leadership of working class and the positions of social classes
2. Capital and units of labour
3. Specification of Labour units

and values of labour

4. Sharing of labour value and sharing system of surplus value (whether this fact was included in his paper was not remembered)

According to Dr Than Naing the socialism and capitalism would never converge and socialism would finally demolish the capitalism.

1972 was the time when the effect of cultural revolution of Mao Tsetung and Chou Enlai was still lingering

over China. It was also the time of intense global contest between the East Group (Socialist Group) and West Group (Capitalist Group).

We being the young leftist group in the then Rangoon Arts and Science University-RASU fervently accepted and supported the idea of Dr Than Naing.

#### The present world and socialism

At the 19<sup>th</sup> Chinese Communist Party Congress held in October 2017 the President of China, Xi Jinping contended in his report that China will continue its socialist revolution and building the socialist economy with base on the Marxism-Leninism and Mao's Ideology, nevertheless adapted to the prevailing situation of China. When we were young students of RASU we were earnestly studying the Marxism-Leninism and Mao's Thoughts and tried to understand them fancying to be Mao of Myanmar.

We confess we are still confused to understand the building of socialist economy based on the peaceful coexistence of different social classes.

According to Deng Xiaoping no matter the cat is white or black, what matters most is to be able to catch the rat. Like wise, Jiang Zemin disclosed that Chinese capitalists should be accepted as member of Communist Party.

SEE PAGE 9



# Eurowindow – The total solution provider of European Standard Doors and Windows

**E**UROWINDOW was established on August 29<sup>th</sup> 2002, after 15 years of continued growth and nearly 4,000 in staff, including qualified experts, engineers and highly skill technicians. We have become not only the No.1 solution provider of doors and windows in Vietnam, but now we are expanding their business to other countries in the world. In 2017, the Representative Office of Eurowindow has been officially opened in Yangon, Myanmar to bring products that are made to the high quality European Standard. Eurowindow products will help improve quality of living, and bring a modern standard to many newly constructed buildings in Myanmar.

Eurowindow offers uPVC doors and windows, which are fabricated from Kommerling (Germany) uPVC design. The advantage of this design is that it will not be affected by

weather conditions resulting in shrinkage, bending, oxidation or aging. Moreover, Eurowindow's uPVC products are more durable; provide thermal insulation, and sound proofing. Consequently, the operation and maintenance costs are very low. Hardware systems are also European brand name; therefore, the combination provides various ways to open and close the windows are doors, options include inward swing, outward swing, top-hung, turn-tilt, sliding and parallel.

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Eurowindow Multi Complex Building - Hanoi, Vietnam.

Eurowindow wooden doors are fabricated from forested wood materials and imported natural wood, which has been chosen carefully and has been well treated before starting the production process. Consequently, Eurowindow wooden doors are more stable under the various weather conditions.

Eurowindow fire-rated wooden doors comply with all fire regulations. Our products are particularly designed for resisting fire for up to 60 minutes, 90 minutes, 120 minutes

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since it's interior friendly and provides great aesthetics that will match the interior of the home. Aluminum-wooden products are perfect for high class luxury villas, and apartments.

From November 30<sup>th</sup> till December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017, Eurowindow will be attending the Myanmar International Building & Construction Industry Show – MyanBuild 2017. Please visit Eurowindow's booth No.210 to have a better understanding about Eurowindow.

## OPINION

# Heartbeat of a mountain dweller in Nay Pyi Taw

FROM PAGE 8

Our knowledge is insufficient to understand how the Communist Party control on disciplinary misconduct of its members, how much successful it is in combating the corruption and what social classes are leading in Chinese societies.

We have no ability to assess how much pure the socialist system is in North Korea and Cuba. It is vivid Russia and East European countries had changed their politics. Viet Nam and China who dubbed themselves as socialist countries employ the socialist market economy.

In this respect, it can be assumed that the socialism and capitalism are meeting at a point and converge which was discussed in Dr Than Naing's research paper: Marxism-Leninism, Mao's Thoughts and socialism- communism are found

still living though it is clear those theories are becoming less and less popular among the people.

Market economy of capitalist theory is overwhelming the other political theories. Professional in political analysis can assess the difference, relationship and connectivity between the capitalist market economy and socialist market economy of President Xi Jinping.

In this context a question arises whether the political trend representing America and the trend representing China are converging. In Soviet Union of Khrushchev time, Mao of China accused Russia of revisionist or deviating from socialist track bringing about the treachery on communism. In this respect the answer is that the two political systems having different stance and beneficial representation cannot converge at all.

In the long human history

even the political system taking control over others for a certain span of time has to change itself in due course of time. It goes without end like a spiral stairways. It can be compared to the flowing river that never turns back its direction of flow.

## Myanmar Society

In present Myanmar the word National Reconciliation is popular among the people. Different political group, different representation and different political trend engender the word National Reconciliation. The National Reconciliation is much coveted by the whole people who beg the stakeholders to successfully accomplish the National Reconciliation with great expectation.

The National Reconciliation trend is the least affected way for the people and can be coined as Win- Win strategy. The way to annihilate the opponent by military might and the

way to terminate the military influence by creating intense political crisis by organizing the social uprising will lead to the great loss for both the country and the people as well. So the way different from persecuting the opposite side will be the only way to give happy end for both the nation and people. The followings are way to be used for Win-Win situation.

1. The way in which different views and ideas shall be accepted and take the decision of the people by putting up their policy, ideology and view before the people.

2. By building a new federal democratic state based on the first way and based on the creation of harmony among the different people and self-determinable region containing the people of different race, religion, language, literature and historical background, the appreciable human society without the feeling of loss or win

and with harmonious relationship between different groups will come into existence. To put in a nut shell people will gain the victory at long last. In the human history it has been a few centuries that the States with the firm constitution has appeared in the world. The time has allowed to build a Nation in the name of Myanmar in conformity with the modern world in a space with boundry granted by the law of nature. Democratic Federal State that allows containing the people of different race, religion, language and culture shall be built in line with the standard of present world. Every families can have the right to decide for their own benefit without affecting others and shall build a big village where people can reside peacefully.

(Lon Jon Sum Maing is MP of Pyithu Hluttaw)

Translated by  
Khin Maung Win



# Neo-Voluntary-Health-Care Training opened

By News Team

PHOTO: HAN LIN NAING

(SITTWAY-SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)

WITH a view to giving care to the people living in remote rural areas in Buthidaung and Rathedaung townships, 3-week-long neo-voluntary-health-care-training was being conducted in the general hospital in Buthidaung starting from 10<sup>th</sup> November.

The training was being attended by 40 volunteers, comprising of Rakhine, Daingnet, Mro, Hindus and Islamists. On completion of the course, trainees will be provided with drugs so as to be able to launch medical care in their villages. It has been learnt that trainees will be conferred with acknowledgement certificates by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Here are interviews with the authorities from Buthidaung general hospital and trainees.

## Dr Than Tun Kyaw (Deputy Director- Buthidaung Township Health Department)

The training we are now conducting is the neo-voluntary-health-care training. Its objective is to produce voluntary health workers with a view to bring about convenience in health care services in the township and for the public to enjoy health care service to the full.

The training was being conducted for giving urgent treatments to minor cases, giving first aids help and sending patients needing serious treatment to respective hospitals and dispensaries. On completion of the training, they will be given out acknowledgement certificates by the Ministry of Health and Sports. And they will be provided with drugs monthly or every 3 months. Auxiliary mid-wife course will be opened too."



Dr Than Tun Kyaw (Deputy Director- Buthidaung Township Health Department).



U Tin Naing (township health assistant grade 1, Buthidaung township health Department).



Aye Thein Maung (Rakhine- Ngamyinbaw Ywathit).



Dr Than Tun Kyaw extends greetings to trainees of Neo-Voluntary-Health-Care Training.

## U Tin Naing (township health assistant grade 1, Buthidaung Township Health Department)

The present training is the one for the public health workers. At the training 7 instructors of health staff including me will conduct. I myself teach them skills a health worker must have, their responsibilities and their daily routines in their villages. Some diseases commonly found in the villages, chronic diseases, diabetes, hypertension and cancer will be conducted so that they can share some knowledge to villagers. After 25 August, var-

ious kinds of races from the regions out of reach of health care coverage were taught.

## Aye Thein Maung (Rakhine- Ngamyinbaw Ywathit)

Interested in medicine, I attended the training with a view to being convinced of the medicine and sharing knowledge and giving medical treatment to those from remote areas like us.

The trainings made arrangements for us to feed, and accommodate. The training includes many races, Rakhine, Hindu, Islamists, Daingnet and Mro. We are familiar with each other.

## Bi Gyan (Hindu- Taung Ba Zar village)

I am 21 years old, attending 10<sup>th</sup> Standard Class. After the event of terrorist attack, our village school was not yet opened till now. At the urge of the medical doctor in the town, I attended the training. I will share medical knowledge to others and help them in hygienic affairs.

## Habel Samat (Muslim, Yin-ma Village)

I heard about this training from Township Health Department and came to attend it. Health Department had arranged for our accommodation

throughout the duration of the training but I stay in my relative's home. The department arranged both the board and lodging for us throughout the training. I got to know the different nationals who came to the training and become well acquainted. I'm thinking of providing health care in my village with the knowledge I gain from this training.

## Ma Nyo (Mro, Bogalay Ywathit village)

It took two days with one night stop to reach Buthidaung from our village. Transport is rather difficult. I attend the training because my village didn't have a clinic. As we are far from the town, I can help the villagers if they become sick. Our village has more than 40 houses with a population of more than 200. Nearby, we have ethnic national villages as well as Muslim villages. Once I'm through this training, I'll share my health knowledge to others.

## Ma Than Than Aye (Daing-net, Pankonema Village)

Our village has nearly 170 houses. Population is around 600. We don't have a clinic in our village.

It will take about 2-3 days to come to Buthidaung from our village. We dare not come alone when we come to town.

We need to come in a group of 4-5 people. I want to provide health care to my villagers and I come to attend this training on behalf of them. I believe that I'll be able to provide health care after the training.

Township Medical Doctor informed me by phone about the training and I came to attend it. Although the trainees are of different ethnic, we were friendly with one another. ■



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# Rakhine State MPs calls for more transparency of govt's works

Rakhine State Government should be more transparent on his resettlement and rehabilitation works in northern Rakhine, said MPs of the Rakhine State Hluttaw yesterday.

Rakhine State Cabinet members led by Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye clarified the MPs of Rakhine State Hluttaw about the government's undertakings to socio-economic development in Rakhine State.

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye also explained the undertakings of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine State-UEHRD, stress-

ing the importance of coordination and cooperation between the Union Government, Rakhine State Government, the Hluttaw and the people.

He continued to say that local businessmen and partnership and friend countries will join with the UEHRD as part of efforts for effectively implementing the socio economic development in Rakhine State.

They discussed budge and time schedule for rehabilitation works, cooperation of the local people, resettlement of villagers, repatriation of refugees, plans for development of youths and plans of the government of assisting for ethnic villagers from conflict areas to move to Maungtaw if they wish.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Union Minister inspects preventive measures against riverbank erosion in Ayeyawady Region



Accompanied by Regional Minister for Road Transportation U Win Htay and Director-General of the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems U Tun Lwin Oo, Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung inspected preventive measures against riverbank erosion in the Ayeyawady Region.

On his arrival at the riverbank erosion prevention worksite in Laymyethna Township, the Union Minister was informed about

the work in progress and ongoing programs. Next, the Union Minister and party proceeded to two villages in Danubyu and Nyaungdon Townships where preventative measures against riverbank erosion are being undertaken.

According to the statistics from the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems, more than Ks 8.6 billion will be spent for carrying out preservation measures for riverbank erosion in 2017-2018 fiscal year.—MDN ■



New Yangon Water Bus jetties will be constructed by YRTA. PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR

## New Yangon Water Bus jetties to be opened

The Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA) is making arrangement to construct new Yangon Water Bus (YWB) jetties near Bandula Bridge, Dawbon Township and Shwepyitha bridge, Hlaingthaya township, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

"Currently, Yangon Water Bus is operating Insein-Botahtaung route. Later on, authorities are planning to operate between Bandula

bridge- Shwepyitha-Hlaingthaya and Aungzayar bridge. The authorities are also planning to run along the Nga Moe Yeik creek. The long-term project will be implemented next year," said Dr. Maung Aung, the secretary of the YRTA.

Water bus fare will be Ks300 for one route but no need to pay the cash. Any pay card will be available at the jetties.

Currently, YWB is operating between Insein and

Botahtaung with stops at Shwepadauk-Kyeemyindaing-Lanthit-Pansodan jetties. The boat will run between 6:00 am to 8:00pm. Yangon Region Government wants to reduce Yangon's traffic congestion by developing water transportation. Many commuters also took Yangon Water Bus on the opening day.

Now, Yangon Water Bus is running daily for 19 rounds between Insein and Botahtaung.—GNLM ■

## Maungtaw authorities hold talks with local companies over resettlement and rehabilitation

To speed up the rehabilitation and resettlement in Rakhine State, local authorities in Maungtaw and local companies held a meeting yesterday in Maungtaw.

At the meeting, the two sides discussed ways for working together for putting the state onto the path to stability and development.

At the meeting, Maungtaw

District Deputy Commissioner U Ye Htut explained the government's efforts for implementing the humanitarian aid, rehabilitation and resettlement in Rakhine State.—News Team ■

## Seven trapped, four injured in coal mine blast

Seven are still trapped in a coal mine in Minbu as a pipe used for injecting oxygen into the tunnel of the mine exploded yesterday.

Four, including two Chinese nationals who were injured in the blast were taken to a hospital.

The blast happened at the depth between 200 ft and 250 ft of the tunnel.

Rescue teams are at the scene to save the trapped miners.—Than Naing Oo (Ngaphe)



Rescue teams at the coal mine to save the trapped miners in Minbu, Magway Region. PHOTO: THAN NAING OO (NGAPHE)





It is impossible to counter modern means "with a rifle in one's hand, a submachine-gun and even a machine-gun," the head of the Federation Council Defence and Security Committee said. **PHOTO: TASS**

## Hypersonic and bottom-based missiles make part of Russian troops' arsenal

MOSCOW— Tsirkon hypersonic missiles and Skif missiles hiding at the ocean bottom are part of the arsenal of the Russian Armed Forces, ex-Chief of the Aerospace Force and Head of the Federation Council Defence and Security Committee Viktor Bondarev said on 21 Tuesday November.

"As of today, we have in our arsenal unique strategic bombers (Tu-160 aircraft), tactical missile systems with powerful ballistic and cruise missiles (the Iskander family of missile systems), Sarmat heavy missile complexes, air defense missile sys-

tems (S-400s), intercontinental ballistic missiles, nuclear-powered missile cruisers with powerful anti-ship missiles (the Tsirkon hypersonic missile) and Skif bottom missiles," he said.

Out of the three basic military branches, the Aerospace Force "bears special brunt" at the new stage of the scientific and technological revolution, the ex-commander said.

"The Syria campaign shows that subsequent wars will also embrace the space sphere. It is impossible to counter modern means with a rifle in one's hand, a submachine-gun

and even a machine-gun. That is why, the development and production of the PAK DP (the Perspective Airborne Complex of Long-Range Intercept), new missiles and strike unmanned aerial vehicles [drones] is coming to the fore," he said.

Precision weapons and the development of the strategic nuclear forces "designated as priorities of the new stage of the Russian armament system make it possible to fulfil the tasks assigned by the head of state," the senator stressed. Russian Deputy Defence Minister Yuri Borisov earlier told

journalists that the first pop-up tests of the most advanced Sarmat missile were scheduled for late 2017. As a source in the defence industry told TASS, Russia's latest Tsirkon hypersonic anti-ship missile had reached eight times the speed of sound during the tests. As other sources in the Russian defense sector earlier told TASS, the Tsirkon is undergoing state trials this year. After the missile is accepted for service, it is designed, in particular, to replenish the ammunition load of the heavy missile cruisers Pyotr Veliky and Admiral Nakhimov.— TASS ■

## Germany may need constitutional change to allow it to strike back at hackers

BERLIN — Germany may need to change its constitution to allow it to strike back at hackers who target private computer networks and it hopes to complete any legal reforms next year, a top Interior Ministry official said on Monday.

The plan could include disarming servers used in attacks and reflects growing concern about the frequency and intensity of such attacks. Industry is also raising pressure on government to respond to the barrage, which ultimately could hurt Europe's leading economy.

State Secretary Klaus Vitt told Reuters the government believed "significant legal changes would be needed" to allow such "hack back" actions. "A constitutional change may be needed since this is such a critical issue," Vitt said on the sidelines of a cyber conference organised by the Handelsblatt newspaper. "The goal is to get it done by the end of next year at the latest." Vitt said much would depend on the outcome of coalition talks in Germany of which cyber capabilities formed a part. Experts say it may be easier to enact the legal changes

under a right-centre-left coalition, which has ruled for the past four years, than under a three-way coalition with smaller parties that Chancellor Angela Merkel initially tried to forge. Top German intelligence officials told parliament last month they needed greater legal authority to strike back in the event of cyber attacks from foreign powers. Vitt told the conference that changing threats and new modes of attack required different responses from government agencies including more "offensive" capabilities. "We must assume that purely preventative measures will not be sufficient to counter future attacks," Vitt said.

He said no one would question the need for police to enter a house and disarm a sniper shooting at innocent people. "But what about servers that are used to launch cyber attacks that paralyze the IT (information technology) of hospitals or utilities, affecting hundreds of thousands of people?"

Andreas Jambor, chief information security officer for RWE Generation SE, a unit of German energy giant RWE, welcomed the moves.— Reuters ■

### CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV MIKAWA VOY. NO (100)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MIKAWA VOY. NO (100) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.11.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W-1 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  
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### CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.11.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.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.

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### CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BATAM VOY. NO (029)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BATAM VOY. NO (029) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.11.2017 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.

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China's President Xi Jinping listens to Viet nam's Communist Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong (not pictured) during a meeting at Central Office of the Communist Party of Viet Nam in Hanoi, Viet Nam on 12 November, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

## Xi wants China to spruce up toilets to boost tourism, quality of life

BEIJING — China must keep up efforts to “revolutionise” its toilets until the task is completed, state media quoted Chinese President Xi Jinping as saying on Monday, amid efforts to boost the domestic tourist industry and improve the quality of life.

Xi launched the “toilet revolution” in 2015 as part of a drive to improve standards of domestic tourism in China, which he said suffers from deep-seated problems of a lack of civility.

“The toilet issue is no small thing, it’s an important aspect of building civilized cities and countryside,” Xi said, according to the official Xinhua news

agency.

As an emerging industry, Chinese tourism needs an upgrade in both hardware and software to continue strong growth, Xinhua reported Xi as saying.

China’s National Tourism Administration recently announced plans to build and upgrade 64,000 toilets between 2018 and 2020. But the toilet revolution is about more than just giving sightseers a better holiday experience; it is also about creating a more civilized society, Xinhua added. Since coming to power in 2012, Xi has often visited homes in the countryside and makes checks to see if the locals use pit

toilets, besides stressing that village modernization requires sanitary toilets, Xinhua said.

In a course-setting speech to a meeting of the ruling Communist Party in October, Xi redefined the “principal contradiction” facing Chinese society for the first time since 1981, saying the current need was not just for more growth, but more equal growth to satisfy people’s desire for a “nice life”.

China’s tourism industry has upgraded 68,000 toilets over the last three years, completing about 19 percent of the task, Xinhua said, in what it called “universally welcomed” renovations. —Reuters ■

## Tijuana turns wastewater into wine, as Latin America dips toe in reuse

TEPIC, Mexico — Italian winemaker Camillo Magoni is using reclaimed water at La Morita treatment plant in the Mexican border city of Tijuana to cultivate 800 lush vines in its grounds, producing red wine he quips could retail for \$200 a bottle.

If the experiment works, transporting treated wastewater through the arid Baja de California peninsula to the Valle de Guadalupe, south of Tijuana, to irrigate the area’s upscale vineyards could be an option for winegrowers competing with nearby towns for scarce water supplies.

“It tastes like a Cabernet Sauvignon. There’s absolutely no difference,” said Magoni, who has worked for more than 50 years in Baja’s wine industry. “The water we’re using is very clean; it’s practically crystalline.”

Magoni’s project to turn wastewater into wine could help find a solution to the area’s water shortages, he said. “We’re going to continue and see in the future if there’s interest... from the industry players,” he added.

High-tech systems are already taking water from “toilet to tap” in

some countries like Singapore, which recycles water for drinking and industry, while Israel reuses much of its wastewater for irrigation.

California’s Orange County, meanwhile, is pumping millions of gallons a day reclaimed from sewer effluent into aquifers, where it is filtered naturally before being drunk. But Latin American countries — where many struggle with crippling shortages despite the region’s overall water abundance — have been slow to catch on to the potential of water recycling, according to experts who say most reuse is informal. The tide is slowly turning in Mexico, Chile and Brazil where wastewater is now viewed as an asset as thirsty cities vie for increasingly valuable water supplies with industry and agriculture, which together account for nearly 90 per cent of water withdrawals worldwide. “Engineers have this tendency to say ‘We’re running out of water; we need a new source’,” said Diego Rodriguez, a water management specialist with the World Bank.

“You get the water from the source — you

treat it, it’s used, it’s discharged. That’s very linear thinking. If you start circular thinking, you begin looking much more at the value of reuse.”

But to reuse water, it first needs to be captured.

Only half of Latin America is connected to a sewer, and only around 30 per cent of wastewater is treated, according to the World Bank. Cities like Lima pump much of their effluent into the sea, while others struggle with decrepit networks and inefficient treatment plants.

Globally, 80 per cent of all wastewater is untreated, says the United Nations, which forecasts a 40 per cent shortfall in world water availability by 2030. In Latin America, some industrial and mining companies are now pushing ahead with water reuse schemes to secure a reliable supply for themselves, easing pressure on local resources into the bargain. In Sao Paulo, hit by drought in recent years, the Aquapolo plant is turning sewage from parts of the Brazilian mega-city into industrial-quality water for nearby businesses, producing the equivalent of the water consumed by 500,000 people. —Reuters ■

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## South African self-defence trainer crowned Miss Universe

LAS VEGAS — A South African woman who helps train women in self-defence was crowned Miss Universe on Sunday at the pageant held in Las Vegas, with Miss Colombia and Miss Jamaica also making it to the final three.

Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters, 22, who unleashed a big smile when she won, hails from Western Cape Province and recently earned a business management degree from North-West University.

Her passion for self-defence was reinforced when she was hijacked and held at gunpoint about a month after winning her title as Miss South Africa, she said in a video on the Miss Universe website. Miss Colombia, Laura González, 22, was the first runner-up. She has been preparing to be an actress since the age of 16. After graduating from a performing arts school, she moved to Bogotá to build her career.

The second runner-up was Miss Jamaica, Davina Bennett, 21. She is a model pursuing a degree in marketing at the University of the West Indies. — Reuters ■



Miss South Africa Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters waves after being crowned Miss Universe during the 66th Miss Universe pageant at Planet Hollywood hotel-casino in Las Vegas, Nevada, US on 26 November, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

## Margot Robbie wants to star alongside female actors of her age

MELBOURNE — Actor Margot Robbie has said she wants to work with her contemporaries in films.

The 27-year-old said she wants reality of her life to be “reflected” in the projects.

“I already work with a ton of female writers who are brilliant, and I want to work with female directors... I really want

to work with actresses my own age,” Robbie told Vogue Australia magazine.

“I’m trying so hard to get projects up and running with an ensemble of young female characters, because that’s my life, my group of girls, we’re a gang and we roll together and I’m like: ‘Why is that not reflected in film?’” she said. —PTI ■



**PHOTO: PTI**

## ‘Coco’ Beats ‘Justice League’ Over Holiday Weekend

LOS ANGELES — Disney-Pixar’s “Coco” handily won the Thanksgiving holiday box office over the second weekend of Warner Bros-DC Entertainment’s “Justice League,” with \$71.2 million at 3,987 North American sites during the Wednesday-Sunday period.

“Justice League” pulled in \$60 million at 4,051 locations during the same timeframe. The superhero action-adventure, the fifth in the DC Extended Universe, has totalled \$172 million in its first 10 days.

“Coco” posted for the third-best Thanksgiving holiday opening ever, trailing three other Disney titles — “Frozen” with \$93 million in 2013, “Moana” with \$82 million in 2017 and “Toy Story 3” with \$80 million in 2010.

Audiences surveyed by comScore’s PostTrak gave “Coco” strong ratings with 66% calling it “excellent,” and another 23% rating it “very good.” Surveys also showed 77% of viewers saying they would “definitely recommend” the movie to friends and 20% saying they would watch it again in a theatre.

“Coco,” directed by Lee Un-



(L-R) Jason Momoa, Henry Cavill, Ezra Miller, Gal Gadot, Ray Fisher and Ben Affleck. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

krich and co-directed by Adrian Molina, is based on the traditions surrounding the Day of the Dead holiday in Mexico and centers on a 12-year-old boy who dreams of becoming a musician and ex-

plores his family history in the Land of the Dead. The studio has not released a price for the movie. Disney-Pixar titles are usually budgeted in the \$175 million to \$200 million range.

“Justice League,” which teams up the DC characters in the same manner as Disney-Marvel’s superheroes, is already in the top 15 of titles released in 2017 and has opened with a B+

CinemaScore. It’s been the lowest performer among the DC Extended Universe.

“Wonder Woman” grossed \$206.3 million in its first 10 days in June and “Suicide Squad” took in \$222.6 million in its first 10 days in August 2016. Gal Gadot stars as Wonder Woman along with Ben Affleck as Batman, Henry Cavill as Superman, Jason Momoa as Aquaman, Ezra Miller as the Flash, and Ray Fisher as Cyborg as the superheroes team up to save the world.

Warner Bros has not disclosed the production cost, which is believed to be as much as \$300 million. Lionsgate’s family drama “Wonder” continued to show impressive traction in third place with about \$32 million at 3,140 locations for a 10-day total of more than \$69 million. The film, which stars Jacob Tremblay as a fifth grader with a facial deformity, has a modest \$20 million budget. Disney-Marvel’s “Thor: Ragnarok” finished fourth with about \$24 million at 3,281 sites, lifting its 24-day domestic total to \$277 million. It’s topped “Despicable Me 3” as the sixth-highest grosser of 2017. — Reuters ■



## Son of US soldier looking for kin of 130 Japanese he saved in WWII

TOKYO — The son of a second-generation Japanese-American who served in the US forces during World War II is searching for family members of 130 Japanese soldiers and civilians his father saved in the battle of Saipan in 1944.

In a recent interview with Kyodo News, Lawrence Kubo, 67, said he is hoping to hear Japanese side's stories of Bob Kubo who talked eight Japanese soldiers into releasing 122 civilians held captive in a cave.

With his Japanese language skills, Kubo was dispatched to the Pacific battlefield and landed on Saipan in July 1944 as an infantry man.

In the fierce battle that began in June, many Japanese soldiers and civilians from Okinawa committed mass suicide as they refused to surrender.

Following information that several Japanese soldiers were barricading themselves with more than 100 civilians, Kubo volunteered to go to the cave alone to persuade the soldiers on 26 July.

Pointing guns at Kubo, the Japanese soldiers asked him "How can someone of Japanese descent fight against Japan?" according to Lawrence.

In reply, Kubo said, "I am also the son of Japanese parents but I was born in the United

States. The United States is my country and I fight for it."

Kubo then expressed his emotional pain by citing an old story of Japanese military commander Taira no Shigemori in the Heian Period, (794-1185) who said "If I follow my duty to the emperor, I go against my father. But if I am filial, I fail in my obligation to the emperor."

Earning respect from the Japanese soldiers, Kubo emerged from the cave some two hours later. All eight soldiers and 122 civilians surrendered.

Based on testimonies by the Japanese soldiers, Kubo was awarded the Distinguished Ser-



Undated supplied photo of Lawrence Kubo, 67, talking about his father, Bob Kubo, who saved the lives of 130 Japanese soldiers and civilians in the battle of Saipan in 1944. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

vice Cross before his death in 1998 at the age of 78.

"I would like to confirm my father's courageous act," by

hearing stories from Japanese families, said Lawrence. He can be contacted at [lhkubo@aol.com](mailto:lhkubo@aol.com).—Kyodo News ■



**in**  
Picture

Students attend a Chinese classical poetry contest at Lianhejincheng primary school in Hefei City, east China's Anhui Province, on 24 November 2017. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

## Ancient stone pillar restored in Shanghai

SHANGHAI — A Tang Dynasty (618-907) stone pillar engraved with Buddhist scripture is being restored in Shanghai, the local government has said.

It is the first time it has been restored since 1962.

The 9.3 meter-high pillar is located in Zhongshan primary school in the district of Songjiang.

Weathering and lengthy exposure to sunlight have made the surface of the pillar fragile, and ground

subsidence has made it incline slightly.

Experts will clean it, using the latest technology to repair and reinforce it.

The restoration is expected to be finished within the year. —Xinhua ■

## Grannies dance to battle cold weather in Inner Mongolia

HOHHOT (China) — Beating tambourines and dancing to delightful rhythms, 12 elderly women can be seen rehearsing a dance routine outdoors for a square dancing competition to be held in Hohhot, capital of northern China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

"The temperature is -10 degrees Celsius, but we feel warm and are full of energy when dancing," said Zhao Yiyi, a 60-year-old resident of Hohhot. "Dancing properly is a way to battle the cold and helps us keep fit."

Square dancing, a form of group dancing in public squares, has become a popular exercise among the elderly in China.

It is estimated that more than 120 million Chinese people are regular participants in square dancing.

Hohhot, with a population of more than three million, has seen growing enthusiasm for square dances over the past few years.

Only 36 groups with about 300 dancers participated in last year's contest, but more than 100 teams with 1,000 members will take part this year, organizers of Monday's local square dancing contest said.

Fan Fengying, 67, who used to sit watching TV most time of the day, noticed several benefits after she started attending a community dance group. She also succeeded in encouraging dozens of her neighbors and friends to dance with her every morning.

"Square dancing helps me lose weight, get rid of bad habits and create more chance to chat with others," Fan said.

However, due to insufficient public space and poor management, noise made by square dancers has led to several conflicts.

The local government has taken several measures to solve the problems. Urban authorities plan to construct more accessible exercise grounds, as laid out in their infrastructure development blueprint.

Many sub-district offices and community residents committees have renovated some of their work places into activity venues for dancers and other indoor sports fans.

Local officials have also sponsored properties where elderly citizens can conduct dances, and give out awards to groups who were able to conduct their activities with minimal noise.—Xinhua ■



## No goal, no problem as Mourinho hails Lukaku's work rate

LONDON—There is no pressure on Manchester United striker Romelu Lukaku to rediscover his goalscoring form as the Belgian's relentless work rate makes up for it, club manager Jose Mourinho has said.

Lukaku, who netted 11 goals in his first 10 United games following the move from Everton in the close season, disappointed on Saturday when United laboured to a 1-0 home win over Brighton.

The 24-year-old has scored just once in last 10 games but Mourinho believes he offers much more than goals on the pitch, inspiring teammates to follow his lead and work harder.

"In the last minute he (Lukaku) was fighting and running back like he was in the first minute, so I think it is also a mentality question," Mourinho told reporters.

"The way Romelu wins the corner for the goal, the way Romelu ends the game-making tackles in the left-back position - that is the mentality I want.

"Some guys are capable to go into the limits of their efforts and some other guys even with

a lot of talent, they don't manage to do that. So Romelu, for me, (is) fantastic. Didn't score, I don't care."

Mourinho's side, currently second in the league, remain eight points behind leaders Manchester City, who are unbeaten with 37 points after 13 matches.

United next visit Watford, who are eighth on the league table after an impressive 3-0 win at Newcastle United on Saturday.

Ahead of their trip on Tuesday, Mourinho said he was still upset about the manner in which the game was officiated when United were beaten 3-1 at Vicarage Road last season.

"Against Watford I was very upset with Watford's first goal after some guy sent (Anthony) Martial to the hospital and the referee let it go, that is the reason why I was very, very upset at Watford," he added.

"They have a squad full of very good players who are not normal to be in these mid-table teams. They have a good coach and have improved a lot from last season."—Reuters ■



Myanmar (Red) and Kyrgyzstan (White) Vie for the ball at the previous qualifier on 10 October at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon, Myanmar. PHOTO: MFF

## Postponed Myanmar, Kyrgyzstan qualifier to be set in coming March

Kyaw Zin Lin

THE postponed Kyrgyzstan and Myanmar 2019 AFC qualifier in Group A will be played on 22 March 2018 and host country for the match has not yet decided by the officials from the Asian Football Federation.

The AFC qualifier has been postponed on September 5 due to the security concern of Kyrgyzstan

and it has been decided to move to a later date as advised by the Government of the Kyrgyzstan Republic to its nation's football federation.

All the expenses for the match will be covered by the football federation of Kyrgyzstan and the qualifier will be mainly supervised by the Asian Football Federation. After playing the qualifier against Kyrgyzstan,

Myanmar will play against Macau as their last qualifier on 27 March, 2018 at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon and whether Myanmar is qualified for final round of AFC 2019 or not will be known after this match. After playing the four qualifiers, Myanmar is standing in the third place in the table of the AFF Group A qualifier with gaining five marks with one win, one loss and two draw. ■

## Arsenal's Ozil to miss Huddersfield game with illness

LONDON — Arsenal midfielder Mesut Ozil will miss Wednesday's Premier League match against Huddersfield Town after he had to travel back home with illness just hours before Sunday's 1-0 win at Burnley, manager Arsene Wenger said.

Wenger was forced to call-up midfielder Ainsley Maitland-Niles to make up the numbers on the bench after German international Ozil was advised to leave the team hotel ahead of the match at Turf Moor.

"The doctor came to see me and said he (Ozil) had to

travel back home, he was in the hotel with us," Wenger told reporters.

"He travelled up with us, then travelled back. We brought Maitland-Niles up who arrived at 1 pm because we had only 17 players." "Will Ozil be available for Wednesday? Certainly he will be short. We will see what it is exactly."

Arsenal moved up to fourth place in the league after Alexis Sanchez's late penalty helped them collect three points against Burnley. Huddersfield are 11<sup>th</sup> with 15 points after 13 league matches.—Reuters ■

## Benitez urges Newcastle to meet Christmas points target

LONDON — Newcastle United manager Rafa Benitez has asked his players to ensure six points in their next six Premier League games to avoid being dragged into a relegation battle.

Newcastle's 3-0 defeat to Watford at St James' Park was their a fourth consecutive league defeat which saw them drop to 14<sup>th</sup> in the table, four points above the drop zone after 13 matches.

In an attempt to rally a young and inexperienced squad, Benitez has set a 20-point target at halfway stage into the season as they prepare to face West Bromwich Albion, Chelsea, Leicester City, Everton, Arsenal and West Ham United by Christmas.

"If my target for the first half of the season is 20 points and we



Newcastle United manager Rafael Benitez. PHOTO: REUTERS

have 14, we have to be sure we use these next six games to get those points," he told reporters.

"We then have to try to improve in the second half of the season. We have to learn in the

Premier League what happens if you make one mistake.

"It will be tough, but I still think we are in a good position. It's important in any team, especially a young team. When you are winning it gets easier."

Newcastle defender DeAndre Yedlin said they must come together as a club to end their losing streak when they visit West Brom on Tuesday.

"We have to stay together, not just as a team but as a club, the fans as well," he said.

"We are just trying to stay positive. It's very hard to after a performance like that, but it's what you have to do. We are going to have drops like this, so you have to try to stay positive and bounce back."—Reuters ■