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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Workers make lacquerware in Bagan. Businesses like this should be enabled and supported, the government says. **PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE**

‘Pragmatic approach’ needed for SME emergence: VP U Myint Swe

To develop small and medium enterprises in Myanmar, a “pragmatic approach” should be used and encouragement should be given for the emergence of new businesses focusing on export and innovation, said Vice-President U Myint Swe, Chairman of the SMEs Development Work Committee.

U Myint Swe made the

comment at the committee’s meeting 1/2017 held yesterday in the meeting hall of the Ministry of Industry in Nay Pyi Taw.

Present at the ceremony were the Vice-Chairman, Union Minister U Khin Maung Cho, and committee members—Union Minister U Kyaw Win, Dr. Myo Aung, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, Chief Minis-

ters of Regions and States, committee members, professional experts, economists, Permanent Secretaries, departmental heads and responsible officials.

“National economic development includes 99 per cent of SMEs, which play an important role as the main driving engine in upgrading national economic capability. Provided that SMEs

develop, employment, income and Union government’s tax revenue will automatically develop. If so, inland currency flow will normally be running smoothly. Out of 12 national economic policies, the second includes “to support SMEs that will help acquisition of jobs and economic development.”

SEE PAGE-10

Two reporters, two policemen arrested in Yangon

TWO Reuters journalists were arrested on Tuesday evening in Yangon for illegally obtaining and possessing government documents, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

Two policemen allegedly involved in the case were also arrested, said the MPF.

“Wa Lone, also known as Thet Oo Maung Maung, and Kyaw Soe Oo, also known as Moe Aung, with the Yangon-based Reuters News Agency, were arrested for possessing important and secret government documents related to Rakhine State and security forces (with the intent) to send them to a foreign news agency,” said the news release from the MPF.

The two journalists obtained the documents by deception from the two policemen, who came back from Rakhine State after serving security duties in Maungdaw and Buthidaung in Rakhine State, said the MPF.

The two journalists have been charged under the Myanmar Government Secrets Act.

The statement said that actions would also be taken under the same Government Secrets Act and police law against Police Captain Moe Yan Nang and Police Sergeant Khin Maung Lin.—Myanmar News Agency ■



BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

Awarded by EUROMONEY 2017

2nd steering committee meeting held on rule of law and human rights

THE second steering committee meeting for the project on the rule of law and human rights, presided over by U Tun Tun Oo, Union Attorney General, and H.E Mr Peter Lysholt Hansen, Ambassador of Denmark to Myanmar, was held at the meeting hall of the Office of the Union Attorney General at 1pm yesterday.

At the meeting, the Union Attorney General noted, "According to the MoU signed between the Office of the Union Attorney General and the Embassy of Denmark on 1st December in 2016, the project on rule of law and human rights was being implemented. In 2017, the Embassy of Denmark conducted trainings on the code of ethics for prosecutors, and justice standards and training on legislation and legal research. In addition, computers for use on the job, and machinery to be used in the training, were supported. For this, I would like to express my thanks."

The Union Attorney General added, "It brought about many



Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo and Denmark Ambassador held a meeting for the project on the rule of law and human rights. **PHOTO: MNA**

benefits to the Embassy of Denmark, helping in the tasks of the combined committee of rule of law and justice, led by the Union Attorney General. Cooperation will be increased."

Further, the Ambassador of Denmark to Myanmar disclosed, "It was a great pleasure to have access to help in the tasks of rule of law in Myanmar. In 2018, support for books on technical knowledge for libraries, training

concerning research works, the process of prosecuting, and tasks on legislation will be conducted. Also, helping in the tasks of rule of law will be increased."

Present at the meeting were the permanent secretary, directors-general and deputy directors-general, personnel from the Denmark Embassy, and invited guests from the International Commission on Jurists. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Second day of 2017 mid-year Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium held

THE 2017 Mid-year Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium is continuing for the second day at Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the exhibition, 190 lots of gems and 6,685 lots of jade were sold through an open tender system at the emporium, where both local and foreign merchants observed the jade lots displayed throughout the hall and put their proposals into the tender boxes. A total of 3,999

local and foreign merchants from 1,339 gem companies, including China, Thailand, Macao and Canada, have registered to attend the mid-year Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium.

Base prices for gem lots are set at 500 euros, while uncut jade lots are set at 4,000 euros. Base price for cut jade lots are set at 1,000 euros. The Mid-year Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium will continue until 21 December.—MNA ■



Gem stones evaluated at the Mid-year Gems and Jade emporium. **PHOTO: MNA**

India efforts to improve Myanmar's internet

NEW DELHI — Seeking to deepen its ties with Myanmar and other ASEAN member countries, India is currently working on projects in the region to help develop the group's digital connectivity infrastructure.

India, which has announced a credit line of \$1 billion (Ks1.35 trillion) to promote projects that support physical and digital connectivity between India and ASEAN's 10 member countries, has also proposed a "Work Plan 2018" to further boost digital cooperation with the group, according to India's Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council, known as TEPC.

"For increasing broadband penetration, projects have been undertaken in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Viet Nam using India's cost-effective Gigabit Passive Optical Network technology," said Rakesh Kumar Bhatnagar, director general of TEPC. "India is also setting up the Center of Excellence for Software Development and Training in some of the ASEAN countries."

According to Bhatnagar, India recently proposed the India-ASEAN ICT (information

and communication technology) Work Plan 2018, which includes future projects in the areas of capacity building and training in telecom/ICT and regulation, and establishing centers of cyber security and high-performance computing labs, among others, to further boost cooperation between India and ASEAN.

In a presentation made during the ASEAN-India Connectivity Summit 2017 in New Delhi on Monday, TEPC said ASEAN countries such as Laos, Vietnam and Myanmar have sought India's cooperation in the areas of ICT, cyber security, e-governance, big data and cloud computing center solutions. Laos, where a TEPC team had paid an official visit, has made a request for projects under the credit line in the areas of telecommunication and an internet center, development of a computer emergency response center and network security, according to TEPC's presentation document.

"We are seeking India's cooperation to set up a center of excellence in software development and training...and also working with India on another digital project," Thavisak Manodhan, director general of the

Department of Information and Communication Technology at the Laotian Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, said at the summit.

Meanwhile, Myanmar formed a digital economy development committee this year and is also "working closely with India in the field of digital connectivity," Soe Thein, director general of the Department of Posts and Telecommunications at Myanmar's Ministry of Transport and Communications, told the summit.

India offered the \$1 billion credit line during the 13th ASEAN-India Summit in Kuala Lumpur in November 2015, and later circulated a set of project proposals to ASEAN countries in 2016, including the establishment of a regional high-capacity optical fiber network, a national rural broadband network, digital villages in rural and remote areas, and capacity-building programs.

ASEAN is India's fourth-largest trading partner, accounting for 10 per cent of the country's total trade. Bilateral trade with ASEAN countries, which was \$2 billion in 1992, is now running at \$70 billion in 2016-17.—Kyodo News ■

Human Rights Commission inspects camps

THE MYANMAR Human Rights Commission, led by U Yu Lwin Aung and Dr. Myint Kyi, met with Muslim villagers in Ngakhura Camp and offered assistance to them.

During the meeting, members of the Myanmar Human Rights Commission asked about the villagers' difficulties and pledged to provide assistance to them.

Following the meeting, they inspected schools, monasteries

and a clinic, which are to be built in the region. The new village of Myawady is to house Kamei, Dainet and Chin ethnic villagers in 140 new houses being built by the Chin State Government, Magway Region Government, Daw Khin Kyi Foundation and Department of Border Areas Development. Commission members also travelled to Kanyintan village in the evening and inquired about the situation in this area.—MNA ■



Wa Lone, also known as Thet Oo Maung, (right) and Kyaw Soe Oo, also known as Moe Aung (left). **PHOTO: MPF (News on Page-1)**

President U Htin Kyaw and wife arrive in Japan



President U Htin Kyaw and First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin are welcomed by family members of Myanmar Embassy in Japan on 13 December. **PHOTO: MNA**

MYANMAR President U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su Lwin arrived in Japan yesterday morning to attend the Universal Health Coverage Forum, which will begin today.

The President and wife

were welcomed at Narita Airport by Mr. Hiroto Izumij, Special Advisor to the Japanese Prime Minister; Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Thurein Thant Zin, Japan's Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Tateshi Higu-

chi and officials from Japanese Foreign Affairs, Myanmar military attaché Brigadier-General Saw Min, and officials from the Myanmar Embassy.

The President and party went to pay respects to Kam-



President U Htin Kyaw presents gift to Professor Sato Takao in Japan on 13 December 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

akura Buddha Statue and took documentary photos together.

Then the President and party signed the guest books and presented gifts to Professor Sato Takao and the staff of City Office.

Later, the President and his wife met Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Thurein Thant Zin, the Military Attache, as well as family members of the Myanmar Embassy.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Literary Conference 2017 in Yangon

LITERARY Conference 2017, under the theme of “Free Literature and Free Voice”, was held yesterday morning at Myanmar Convention Centre-MCC on Mindhama Road, Ward 4, in Mayangone Township, Yangon.

The festival attracted about 200 participants, among them writers, artists, and cartoonists from across Myanmar.

Following the conference, group literary talks were held in six different venues.

Thura Zaw led a group discussion titled “For the Future of Children's Literature”, with Writer Thakatho San Tint Naing, May Zon Aye, Maung Khit Tun and Soe Nant Thar (Pulaw) joining in the discussion.

Ko Lay (Innwa Gonyee) led a group discussion titled “From Classic to Novelty” with writers Maung Ngwe Htet, Maung Hmaing Lwin (Innwa), and Ko Htet (Ye Oo) participating.

Thargyi Maung Zaya led the group discussion under titled “Today's Social Media” with writers Myint Kyaw, Nay Ye Ye and Naing Maung participating.

Dr. Tha Tun Oo led the group discussion titled “The Conditions of Local and International Publications”, with writers Thant Thaw Kaung, Myo Aung (Bota-

ny), Daw Wai Thi Ei and Ko Myint Tun (Quality) participating in the discussion.

Nyi Pu Lay led the group discussion titled “How To Introduce Aesthetic Literature To the Classrooms”, with Yarthet Pan (Taungoo Hall), Chaw Ei Man (Mandalay), Mi Chan Wai, Ngwe Kyal Zin, and Wonyan Kha participating.

U San Win (Archaeology) led the group discussion titled “Culture in Aesthetic Literature”, and writer U Aye Cho (M.A), Thura Zaw and Khin Thu Thu Win joined in the discussion.

Myay Hmone Lwin led the group discussion titled “Emergence of Publication and Selling; Tax, Transportation, and the New Publication System”, and Myint Tun (Quality), U Htin Lin Kyaw (Township Internal Revenue Officer) and Phyu Mar Myint (City Mart Holding Co, Ltd) discussed the matter.

Writer Pandora led the group discussion titled “Outlook on Young Women Poets”, and Writer Shwe Poe Eain (Bago), Nayade, Hnin Thit and Myu Par discussed it. Writer Khaing Mya Kyaw led the group discussion under the title “Literature of National Races”, and Writer Naing Maung Toe, Oo Oo Hla

Saw (Maung Khaing Aung) and Daw Nu Mya Zan discussed the theme. Writer Tharawon (Pyay) led the group discussion under the title “Development of Aesthetic Literature and Promotion of the Book Market”, with writer Saung Win Lat, Htin Lin Oo and Thae Aung participating.

Writer Htet Myat led the group discussion titled “Current Political Literature and its display”, with writer Tun Zaw Htay, Dr. Yan Myo Thein, Thein Than Oo and Naung Kyaw participating.

Writer Shwegu May Hnin led the group discussion under the title “What and Why Literary Talks?”, and Soe San Thit, Aye Mon Kyaw (Phar Kant), Tin Mi Khaing and Kyaw Zin Ko Ko discussed it.

Writer Min Chan Mon led the group discussion under the title “Reviews on National Literary Awards”, and Writer Aung Zin Min, Maung Khaing Lat, Maung Yint Mar (Kyaung Gone) and Yekhaung Memaung discussed it.

Writer Hein Lat led the group discussion under the title “Criteria of Standard Translation”, and Writer Ye Mya Lwin and Taw Kaung Min discussed it.

Writer U Aye Cho (M.A) led the group discussion under the



Group discussion titled “The Conditions of Local and International Publications” held at Literary Conference 2017 in Yangon. **PHOTO: HLA MOE**

title “Myanmar School Lessons and Raising Morality”, Writer U Ngwe Toe, Wah Wah Htin Lin, Maung Phone Pyae (University) and Khin Maung Htay (Education) discussed it

Cartoonist Win Aung led the group discussion under the title “Development of the Cartoon Generation”, and cartoonist Ngwe Kyi, Soe Thaw Tar, Maung Maung Fountain and ATH participated.

Writer Myo Myint Nyein led the group discussion under the title “Reviews on Current Magazines” and Writer Win Nyein, Pyi Thwe Naing and Tin Tin Oo discussed it.

This conference, aimed at getting different points of view,

hopes the discussions will spark new, imaginative ideas.

Group discussions of literary conference will continue until 16 December and the outcome of the discussions will be submitted to the Ministry of Information with the approval of the participants.

Attendees at the conference were writers, artists, cartoonists and other invited guests from the Myanmar Writers Association, Upper Myanmar Writers Association, Myanmar Literature Lovers Association, Myanmar Poets Union, Myanmar Writers Union, Myanmar Writers Club, Myanmar Cartoonists Club and Myanmar Translation Network. —Zawgyi, NandaWin ■

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Meiktila mountaineering team to climb mountain over 7,800 ft. high



Meiktila mountaineering team at the summit of East and West Side Viewing Mountain which is over 7,800 feet high in southern Shan State. **PHOTO: MYANMAR DIGITAL NEWS**

THE mountaineering team in Meiktila, Mandalay Region will climb East and West Side Viewing Mountain which is over 7,800 feet high in Southern Shan State.

"The Meiktila hiking and mountaineering team includes 60 members and will start a hiking trip at the gathering point of the Bogyoke bronze statue at Nagaryone Pagoda, Meiktila Township on 16 December. They

will stop at a village at the base of the mount for the night and they will start the climb on 17 December in the morning. The mountaineering trip is the fifth for the team and they prepared for the climb one month in advance" said the executive member of mountaineering team U Aung Kyaing.

The purpose of the climb is to get young people more interested in healthy activi-

ties and steer them away from bad habits including drug use. Mountain climbing also gives them a chance to appreciate the natural scenery. The Meiktila mountaineering team has the most members in upper Myanmar. The team first climbed the Hasin Mountain which is over 6280 feet in July. And then the 2nd climb was at the Mount Popa which is 4981 feet which occurred on August and the 3rd

climb was at Myinmahti Mountain, Kalaw in September. And the 4th climb was at Pyatkhayay Mountain, Kume in October.

The team was mainly sponsored by the pharmaceutical industry. The climbing team will donate money and other much needed items to the children from both Mittayaykyi monastery care school and mountainous villages.—Myanmar Digital News ■

More than 1,300 people buy farmers' life insurance in Sagaing Region

MORE than 13,000 people bought farmers' life insurance in the Sagaing Region, according to the Sagaing Region Myanmar Insurance office. Due to the farmers' life insurance awareness training conducted by Myanmar Insurance in Monywa, Sagaing, Kalay and Shwebo districts in Sagaing Region, 1,034 farmers from Kalay District, 109 farmers from Monywa and 224

farmers from Shwebo district purchased life insurance said U Tin Maung Than of the Sagaing Region Myanmar Insurance office. "The farmers' life insurance is being sold to farmers beginning from 1st October. We don't want to coerce any farmers into buying life insurance packages. We will highlight the advantages and importance of buying life insurance. We want them to make

their own decision whether or not to buy insurance," he added.

"We believe that farmers will buy insurance if they are aware of the benefits of insurance. Not only farmers and their families, but also those who are working in this industry are eligible for this insurance service. We pay compensation depending on the accident. There are two types of insurance—farmers' life

insurance and snake insurance for farmers," said an official from Sagaing Region Myanmar Insurance office. Insured amount ranges from a minimum 100,000 kyats to a maximum 5 million kyats, and those aged from 16 to 60 are eligible to buy insurance, said U Tin Maung Than of the Sagaing Region Myanmar Insurance office.—Myo Win Tun (Monywa) ■

Fishery training to be provided at Yangon University

ACCORDING to a report in yesterday's Myawady Daily, plans call for opening a fishery university in the country, in which training courses relating to fisheries will be offered at Yangon University.

Currently, authorities are choosing the location to construct the fishery university. Therefore, the authorities have granted permission to provide specialized subjects to be taught to first and sec-

ond year students of Fishery University beginning in 2018.

During this period, Fishery University will be built, and upon completion of the university, students will be moved to the new university. Currently, Yangon University has set up teaching aids and assistance.

Initially, the university will accept only 50 students per year. The entrance requirements are not based

upon matriculation marks, but by selecting students who are interested in the fishery subject.

Upon graduation from the university, students can seek jobs directly. In order to put in place the fishery university in the country, officials from concerned departments, university teachers and fishery experts held a discussion during the third week of November 2017.—GNLM ■

Gun and three bullets seized in Kalay Township

A local police force seized a double-barreled gun and three bullets during a house search, according to the statement issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Following a tipoff, the police raided the house of U Kai Za Khaing in Kyokyarkwin Village, Kalay Township in Sagaing Region and discovered a double-barreled gun and three bullets under his bed on 12 December. The weapon possessor is being questioned by the local police department.—Myanmar Digital News ■

Vehicles at knockdown price selling steadily in Yangon market



A seller waits for customers at a saloon for newly imported cars in central Yangon. PHOTO: REUTERS

MOST cars offered at bargain prices are selling well in the Yangon automobile market, as of early December. Vehicle owners continued to sell cars at prevailing market prices during the past months, but they have been scaling down prices since early December.

The automobile market had cooled in the past two months, as automobile dealers purchased vehicles at a high price and will merely benefit from the trade, if they reduce the price.

Commencing next month, vehicles will be imported under the new vehicle import policy. Dealers cannot guess customers' taste in cars and are waiting for the correct time to sell their cars at a high price.

"It is such a heavy investment with the cars in hand, as the price is on the rise while there is nearly no demand in the market.

Therefore, some are forced to sell their cars at low profits, causing some turbulence in the

market. We are not finding car deals at prevailing market prices. Most of the deals are based on reduced prices, rather than actual market prices," said Ko Zayar Tun, a car dealer.

Cars have been recently selling at a cost of between Ks20 to 40 million. Buyers from towns outside of Yangon have also been seen in the market.

Price of slips in return for the deregistration of old cars declined 60 per cent over previous months, said car dealers.

The slip is also on the verge of zero demand in the market. Slip prices for cars with 20-year permits decreased from Ks13 to 12.3 million last week. The price is more likely to decline below Ks12 million in the following weeks.

Only vehicles with left-hand drive are to be imported under the 2018 vehicle import policy. It is hard to guess what will become of automobile market conditions for right-hand drive autos, said car dealers. How-

ever, car prices are expected to remain on the rise, since model year 2014 would be the oldest cars under the 2018 vehicle import policy. Right-hand drive is expected to control a certain market share in 2018.

As tax rates on imported cars are not revised under the new policy, ordinary people will be far removed from owning these cars, according to market observers.

Those buyers who can afford to spend Ks40 million on cars are interested in left-hand drive, rather than right-hand drive. Yangon licensed cars are preferred in the market. Currently, the market is witnessing a transfer of dealerships, rather than buyers.

Permits for individual imports are due by 15th December. Nevertheless, the slip price appears to be declining, and it is hoped it will continue declining after the deadline has passed for individual import permits.—Min Thaw ■

Meeting held to discuss fishermen's living status and inshore, offshore fishing licences

FISHERMEN from Dala Township are reportedly facing difficulties due to the lack of licence for inshore and offshore freshwater fishing, causing a loss of revenues for those involved in freshwater fishing.

Although the Freshwater Fisheries Law was instituted, by-law has not developed yet. Starting from 1995-96, fishing licences were no longer granted in the Yangon Region. Inshore and offshore fishermen were often caught by the Fisheries Department, and their fish and

fishing equipment were confiscated.

By-laws should be formulated so that they could be free to catch fish and pay taxes and duties levied on fishing. It is also a way of increasing the productivity of fishermen, said U Tun Yin, representative from No.1 constituency of Yangon Region.

About 600 viss (a viss is equal to 1.6 kg) of freshwater fish are caught daily, and more than 18,750 viss of fish are caught each month. About

225,000 viss of fish are caught per year, said U Htway Tin, representative from No.2 constituency of Yangon Region.

Two discussion were held with over 650 local fishermen on 12th December.

Yangon Hluttaw representatives had a closed discussion with fishermen and will report on their difficulties to the regional government.

If needed, this report will be submitted to the Union Government.—Naing Lin Kyaw (Dala) ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

SUNDAY SPECIAL

Three dead, one hurt in IED explosion in Maungdaw Tsp

"Sunday Special" အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈) မျက်နှာပေါင်သော

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ရန်ကုန်
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ကလေး
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India-Myanmar-Thai friendship car rally begins Myanmar leg in Myawady

The India- Myanmar- Thailand friendship driving festival ceremony was held in front of Grade One Hotel on 13 December.

At the ceremony, U Htoo Lwin, Deputy Commissioner of Myawady district, delivered the opening speech, followed by U Htoo Lwin and U Kyaw Win, assistant director of Myawady District Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, cutting the ribbon to open the ceremony.

The India- Myanmar- Thailand friendship driving festival was held, in a bid to boost economic and tourism industries.

An Indian tour group, consisting of 42 members, visited Myanmar via the Tamu border gate on 27 November.

The group followed the route from Kalay, Bagan-Man-dalay-Yangon and Mawlamyine. On 3 December, the group reached Myawady town, Kayin



The India-Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Car Rally started the first leg of its Myanmar journey yesterday in Myawady after touring Thailand. **PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG**

State. The Indian tourists later left the country, heading to Thailand via the Myawady border gate.

They visited Thailand on

12 December. On 13 December, they returned to Myanmar via the border gate. They then visited Kyaikhtiyo- Yangon- Mandalay- Bagan-Kalay-Tamu via

the Myawady border gate. The tour group returned to India through the Tamu border gate on 19 December.—Htein Lin Aung (IPRD) ■

Thai tourists visit Nay Pyi Taw via Myawady border gate

There are unique natural scenes, eco-tourism sites and archaeological sites in Myanmar, and there is now a culture-based tourism industry by which tourists can observe the traditions and cultures of ethnic people. With these attractive sites and scenes, larger numbers of tourists are visiting Myanmar.

Tourists are arriving by air, sea and road. Moreover, tourists are also coming to Myanmar in vehicles, motorbikes and bicycles.

A Thai tour group comprising 13 tourists visited Nay Pyi Taw through the Myawady border gate on 12 December, travelling with their own motorbikes and cars. They visited Myanmar through the arrangement of Khaing Lin Tun Travel and Tours Co., Ltd, and under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

The tourists also visited Nay Pyi Taw Thabyaygone market, and toured the Hlut-taw area, while purchasing souvenirs and taking photos.

The tourists went followed the route Hpa-an – Kyaikhtyioe – Nay Pyi Taw – Bagan – Poppa – Pyay – Yangon – Bago – Maungmagan – Htee Khee from 10 to 17 December. The tourists left the country, heading to Mae Sot town, Thailand via the Htee Khee border gate on 17 December.—Phyo Ko Lin (Nyaung Wine) ■

Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda sees fees of Ks 3 billion over 4 years

Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda, one of the most revered pilgrimage sites in Myanmar, collected some Ks 3 billion in entrance fees from tourists over a four year period, according to a report yesterday in the Myawady Daily.

“Between 1st November, 2013 and 26th November, 2017, tourists visited Kayikhtyio Pagoda, paying entrance fees of over Ks 29,687 lakhs,” said a pagoda trustee.

Moreover, Mon State gov-

ernment has collected over Ks 2.2 million for area business licenses from 94 business, including restaurants and public toilet businesses, which operate near the Kaykhtyio Pagoda site. The state government also collected over Ks1 million for hotel business licenses from eight hotels.

The Mon state government has also collected Ks 255 million for income tax and commercial taxes from the shops, hotels, guest houses and mountain ve-

hicle businesses during the last fiscal year.

Before November 2013, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture collected entrance fees at Kyaikhtiyo, but transferred that authority to the Mon State government’s municipal committee. As the number of foreign visitors has grown, entrance fees have become an important source of revenue for the state.

“Admission to Kyaikhtiyo is only charged to foreigners, but

foreign monks and diplomats are exempted. The largest number of foreigners to visit in the last six months were from Thailand, with a significant number also from Vietnam, China, Japan, the United State and Europe,” said the pagoda’s trustee.

Previously, the pagoda site charged Ks 6,000 entrance fee for each tourist. Beginning from 5 October, 2017, authorities increased the entrance fee to Ks 10,000 per person.—GNLM ■

Australia hands over Rigid Hull Inflatable Rubber Boat to Myanmar

A ceremony to hand over Rigid Hull Inflatable Rubber Boat, provided by Australian Border Force (ABF) for Myanmar Maritime Police Force was held at the latter’s office in Seikkan Township, Yangon Region yesterday morning. The intention is to effectively perform maritime security and law enforcement activities in Myanmar.

The ceremony was attended by the Head of Transnational Crime Department Police Brig-

Gen Aung Htay Myint, Head of Maritime Police Force Police Brig-Gen Nay Moe Thit, Commander of Yangon Region Police Force Police Brig-Gen Win Naing, Australian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Nicolas Copel, Mr. David Ness, Mekong Regional Director for the Department of Immigration and Border Protection, Mr. Nathern Minchin, Inspector, Australian Border Force in Yangon, Mr. Jared Tagart, Superintendent, Australian Federal Police and

other officials.

Mr. David Ness, Mekong Regional Director for the Department of Immigration explained the purpose of handing over the boat and Head of Maritime Police Force Police Brig-Gen Nay Moe Thit spoke words of thanks.

Officials concerned from both sides signed the documents related to the boat and the guests were given with the souvenirs.—Myanmar Digital News ■

Stimulant pills, motor bike seized in Tantike village, Taninthayi Region

Police from the Myanmar Anti-Narcotic Association (MANA) seized stimulant drugs, priced at some Ks 60 million, from a driver on a motorcycle in Tantike Village, Taninthayi Region, yesterday morning.

Officials reportedly apprehended the suspect, named Zaw Htay, 30, after he abandoned his motorbike and attempted to run from police.

Acting on a tip, police officials discovered the suspect at a junction in Tantike Village.

While being questioned, the suspect revealed that drugs were concealed in the foot pedals of the motor bike.

Zaw Htay will be prosecuted for violating the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, according to officials.—Nan Thayi, Htein Win (IPRD) ■

Sittway observes Rakhine National Day with traditional “Kyin” wrestling Competitions

TO mark the 43rd Rakhine State Day, Rakhine traditional “Kyin” wrestling competitions kicked off at 9 am yesterday at the Wingabar Grounds in Sittway, Rakhine State.

The ceremony was opened with the cutting of a ribbon by the Chairman of Rakhine State Convening Committee and minister for finance, revenue, planning and commerce U Kyaw Aye Thein, Secretary of the Kyin Competition, U Aung Saw Mra, and chairman of the town-elders association, U Maung Tha Sein, followed by a demonstration of Kyin wrestlers. In honour of Rakhine State Day, Ma Mi Su Wai, representing Vati Layat in Rakhine State, demonstrated motor-bike riding with five pots on his head while traveling across the sports ground, and was awarded K 5



Rakhine men play kyin, a traditional form of wrestling, at the Rakhine State Day in Sittway. **PHOTO: TIN TUN (IPRD)**

lakhs by U Kyaw Aye Thein.

U Aung Saw Mra noted, “Rakhine State Day is annually

observed, under the leadership of the Rakhine State Government, with traditional Kyin wrestling

competitions. The sport has been separated into gold and silver events. Winners in the gold

events will be presented with K 20000, with the loser receiving K 15000. Winners in the silver events will be presented with K 10000, with the loser collecting K 6000. Competitions will be held on 13, 14 and 15 December. It is expected that at least 40 wrestlers will compete in the gold events, and 320 in silver events.”

First prize will be awarded with 4 ticals of gold, and second and third prize with 3 ticals of gold, whereas in the silver events, first prize winners will be awarded 3 ticals of gold, second prize with 2 ticals of gold and the third prize winner will receive ¾ ticals of gold. The Kyin Wrestling Competition was attended by high ranking officials of the Rakhine State Government, township department heads, wrestlers and Kyin fans.—Tin Tun [IPRD]

Monsoon paddy harvested in Rakhine State by Agricultural Mechanization Department

AREAS of Rakhine State that were affected by terrorist attacks had difficulties harvesting monsoon rice, prompting the Agricultural Mechanisation Department to deploy harvesters.

A total of 6,520 acres in Myothugyi, Ohntaw, Kanpu, Kyaungtaung, Alethankyaw, Nwayonetaung, Wah Cha, Tandar, Myinloat, Kyikanpyin, Thihokyaung, U Daung, Laungdon, Aung Sit Pyi, Sa-baegone, Thapyaytaung, Zawmatat, Dohtan, Yawthitkay, Kyaukpadu, Tat U Chaung, Duchiyarton, Thayaygonton, Thawanchaung, Ngkuya, Indin, Thinbawgwe, Kanyinton and Nyaung Chaung villages in Maungtaung Township were harvested from 26 October to 12 December.

Additionally, rice fields in seven village groups in Sittway, such as Chaungnwe, Partalat, Thinganet, Kywitay, Kankawkyoung, Mangan and Naryee-kan villages, were harvested using harvesting machinery, according to the Department of Agricultural Mechanized, with an estimated 448 acres completed from 30 October to 12 December.

Similarly, 617 acres in Pyahla, Hsinyoshae, Myatye-ikkyoung, Gwasone, Layhnyinthar, Youtchaung, Ahlaezay and Theinnyo villages in Mrauk U Township were harvested from 5 November to 12 December.

Additionally, 324 acres in Htaungshae, Kinseik, Mawywa, Pharpyaw, Taung Thaik,

Ngapukwa and Winzar villages, and U Soe Tint ward in Minbya Township, were harvested from 7 November to 12 December.

A further 420 acres in Phonenar, Lanmadaw, Daungtawyo, Kardi, Saphothar, Ahpoukwa and Garpu villages in Kyauktaw Township were harvested from 8 November to 12

December, while 299 acres in Chinkharlein and Khotone villages from Yathedaung Township were harvested from 8 November to 12 December.

Also, 96 acres in Thapyuchaung village in Buthidaung Township was harvested from 10 November to 12 December.—Myanmar News Agency



Harvester seen at a paddy field in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

Aid delivered to Maungtaung Rescue Camp in Maungtaung

GOODS donated by the Government of India for repatriated people at five locations in Maungtaung Town were delivered yesterday by officials from the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. “We came and delivered 30 kind of goods per pack to repatriated people in the rescue camps of Maungtaung Township. Today, we distributed the goods to five places in Maungtaung town. We have plans to donate goods to other places”, said Director of Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Dr Aung Thurein.

A total of 646 packages, including 166 packs of goods to a Hindu rescue camp in No 1 BEHS, 134 packs to a rescue camp in Htwe Ohode Nout, 195 packs for Hindu and Rakhine ethnic people in Sasana Beikman, 42 packs for the ethnic people in Alhotaw Pyae monastery, and 145 packs for Islamic people within 4 miles were delivered. About 30 home and kitchen appliances, including mosquito netting, rice, sugar, edible oil and soaps, were included in the list of donations. Similarly, 30 goods of over 500 packs have been supplied in Buthidaung Township, and other townships in Rakhine State.—Myint Maung, Zeyar

We must remove false allegations with truth

In regard to the events in Rakhine State which took place recently, most Myanmar nationals and those who always study carefully and objectively analyze the actual situations in Myanmar will understand the true situation of what actually happened there.

Presently, most countries, some people and organizations failed to make a fair and objective assessment of the recent events in Rakhine State. Some countries tried to intervene in the internal affairs of Myanmar based on fake news and false allegations.

As regards their interventions, their stock reply is just to repeat humanitarianism and violation of human rights. Instead of helping to solve problems, their actions are like adding fuel to the burning flame. Those who are making false allegations and blaming Myanmar are in fact one-sided and biased. It is not strange that certain institutions representing many nations are totally biased as well. Though they will usually neglect the truth and come out strongly in favor of the refugees with their self-proclaimed name, we feel that we should respond to these false allegations so that the truth can be made known to the world.

As a matter of fact, the Rakhine State affair is not an issue between religion and race. It was the consequence which

Very recently, in an interview made by the India-based news website—Scroll in, Bertil Lintner...

On August 25, ARSA extremist terrorists attacked 30 border police outposts in Rakhine State. Later, a spoke-person for ARSA said in an interview that the attacks were aimed to invoke a response. These attacks were made to gain international attention and to get more money from funders in West Asia, mainly Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Another reason is to encourage many more angry young men to join them. And, he disclosed that all three aims had been achieved as expected.

Now we all know very well that the last attack was launched by ARSA extremist terrorists intentionally. Undeniably, local nationals, Hindus and Muslims suffered a great deal in terms of loss of lives and property. Those victims were just pieces on the chessboard played by ARSA extremists.

Yet, those who are trying to hide the truth will never reveal their evil plans or wicked designs. Instead they are repeatedly shouting out aloud at the top of their voices, words like humanitarianism and violation of human rights to suit their agendas. Therefore, we must also find out the truth and put an end to these false allegations. ■

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their works to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon or by email to **dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com** with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Real name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).— Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar news office

Time is Up to Encourage the SMEs in Myanmar!

By Than Phyto Naing [Kany-inky]

DEVELOPMENT Law for SMEs was promulgated by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw under law no/23 in 2015. In article 5 of the chapter 4 it was prescribed concerning the formation of the central committee and its duties. In accordance with the law, a central committee for the development of SMEs was formed just at the time when the incumbent government commenced to take office. With its formation, it is included in the article 7 to form a working committee to implement the tasks laid down by the central committee.

Neo-Working Committee Reformed

Later after formation of the central committee, under notification 1/2017 on 29th November a working committee was formed headed by Vice-President 1 as chairman with 40 members including Union Ministers for Industry, Commerce and Planning and Finance, Chief Ministers of Regions and States, Deputy Ministers from other Ministries, entrepreneurs, professional experts.

Duties laid down in accord with prescriptions in the law

It was found that duties of the working committee include submission to the central committee concerning facts and figures necessary for upgrading SMEs, helping to overcome the matters hindering small enterprises, helping to link with inland and external markets for market expansion, upgrading by educating after linking with local and foreign organizations for technical assistance to train workers into skilled workers and to create job opportunities and



PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

mainly to link with governments and institutions for acquisition of monetary aids from home and abroad.

Facts included in the national economic policy

On the study of encouraging SMEs from private sector, it was found to have included in serial number 6, 7 and 8 the creation of the economic type that is in harmony with mechanized agricultural sector and for agricultural, livestock breeding and industrial sectors to proportionally develop for multi-development, abundance of food and upgrading exports, for every citizen to freely run economic enterprises



PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

they want, to separately draw policies for increasing foreign investments, to implement activation of patents and intellectual property rights to revitalize rule of law and stability of monetary system which will help for the long-term development of families, farmers and economic enterprises.

Current situations of SMEs in the country

Currently, as for the national economy there are only a few foreign investments in the country. SMEs that will produce more import substitution as well are slow in movement. According to the statistics, K 30 billion including foreign loans were lent to only 180 entrepreneurs, starting from 2012. As per the last statistics, there were more than 200000 SMEs registered in the country. And, interest rates exceeded 8 percent, it was learnt.

At the time when the former government took office loans were taken from JICA at the interest rate of 0.001. Why did it rise up to such amount after passing Central Bank, MEB and other related banks? It was a great wonder for the people.

Matters which are really worth encouraging wholeheartedly

What we want to say is that it is urgently needed to bring about the economic development by encouraging SMEs in the country in accordance with the designations included in the duties of the working committee according to the economic policies laid down by the State, without looking forward to foreign investments in the midst of current situations the country is facing—a great need in power supply, skyrocketing real estate prices, incompatibility of investment law and companies' act with the last situations and weakness in rule of law.

Lending money to more than 200000 SMEs at low interest rate and cooperating with other countries for techniques and markets can increase national outputs.

Potential benefits

With the increasing amount of import substitutes, commodity prices will decrease. Availability of formerly imported good inland by Myanmar currency can lift up Myanmar currency's value, thus keeping inflation rate under

control. Citizens will have more opportunities for jobs. Simultaneously, per capita income and GDP percentages can rise up. Thus, poverty can be alleviated and Economic Indicator will also increase to some extent.

Ministries' implementation of economic policy

On the other hand, our country is an agro-based nation, comprising of 70 percent of rural populace. Myanmar abounds with a vast area of arable land for growing and creeks, ponds, rivers and shallow part of sea for breeding fish and prawns. Provided that agriculture and breeding can be implemented effectively within 4-5 months, we can depend upon these sectors for national export. What we mainly need is subvention, techniques and markets.

In the past we had ever experienced of rapid plunge of paddy prices. But as the government managed to open markets by linking with other countries, it caused paddy prices to recover into the normal stage. This year also the government could bring about legal trade through

linkage between governments at the time when prices of pulses remarkably dropped, overcoming the difficulties pulse farmers suffered.

Need to build up smokeless industries

Another one is to upgrade tourism industry, the smokeless industry. Places where foreigners frequent must be implemented as the national economic enterprises. In a recent news item, there were 105029 foreign tourists in all coming to Kyaukhtyoe Pagoda in Mon State from January to 30th November, fetching K 700 million from the tourists, it was learnt. Throughout the previous year, local pilgrims amounting to 2.2 million came there. Similarly, Mandalay Palace attracted over 200 foreign visitors daily, fetching K 2 million daily from them.

That is K 60 million from them the whole month. The money entered into the budget funds of regional governments, not into the budget fund of the Union Government.

Regional governments' cooperation will lead to national economy

On the other hand, Regional governments are still demanding for the budget allotment of the Union Government. So, the regional governments should change their policies which are worth changing in accord with their respective policy.

To sum it up, local businessmen, farmers, animal farming entrepreneurs were not sufficiently subsidized. This may lead to the bad condition for the country. And now is the time to solve the problems of unemployment, skyrocketing commodity prices and shortage of job opportunities.

These should be cured in time. As for the government, the regime is strong in the sector of politics but weak in implementation of economic development. Accordingly, during the period of one and half year when the incumbent government took office, the Union Government should have made efforts to be well convinced of the people's actual situations so that economic change can be made if necessary. ■

(Translated by Khin Maung Oo)

POEM

To Little Poetry Bird

Where art thou, little Poetry Bird?
Where art thou gone?
Oft you flutter in my cage of heart,
and sing soothing songs for me,
and the surging pangs of my heart ebb away.
I need you now, little Poetry Bird,
not to ease the heart ache of mine alone,
but to sing,
Sing over hills and vales,
Sing a full-throated song
over the ills of the society.
Come.
Come back to me, little Poetry Bird.

Zaw Tun

Myanmar Revises Poverty Measure to Reflect Needs of Population in 2015

A third of Myanmar's people are poor, says joint Myanmar-World Bank report

The Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance H.E. U Set Aung joined the World Bank Vice President for East Asia and Pacific Ms. Victoria Kwakwa in a launch event for the second volume of the Myanmar Poverty Assessment.

The new report, jointly produced by the Ministry of Planning and Finance and the World Bank using the 2015 Myanmar Poverty and Living Conditions Survey, is the second of the two-part Myanmar Poverty Assessment, which recommends a revision and rebasing of poverty estimates to reflect changing consumption patterns in Myanmar. The revised poverty measures used in Myanmar include durables such as mobile phones and updated calorie estimates courtesy of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Consistent with the findings of the first assessment, poverty has declined significantly since 2004, falling from an estimated 48.2 percent to 32.1 percent in 2015. Using the new measures, some 15.8 million people live in poverty in Myanmar.

“Having a more detailed understanding of the characteristics and profiles of those most in need and the constraints they face enable us to prepare appropriate responses – and help reduce poverty for everyone in Myanmar,” said U Maung Maung Tin, Director-General, Planning Department of Ministry of Planning and Finance.

Poor households tend to have fewer working age adults and more dependents, and fewer resources that can generate income, such as land or farming tools. The extreme poor are disproportionately in the agriculture sector as casual laborers or as small holder farmers, and have few alternatives for income. The report highlights the economic impact of health and weather related shocks, estimating that half the country suffered from such shocks over a twelve-month period and 4 percent of potential work days were lost due to ill-health. Coping strategies such as reducing spending on food or adding more debt can impact the families' ability to bounce back and ultimately affect long-term growth.

“Now with a better understanding and consensus on the levels and distribution of poverty in Myanmar, the World Bank is in a better position to support Myanmar's efforts to reduce poverty and promote inclusive growth for all,” said Victoria Kwakwa, World Bank Vice President for East Asia and the Pacific. “Inclusion so that growth and opportunities benefit the poor and near-poor is critical for peace and prosperity.” The poverty assessment is part of a series of analytical works outlined in the Country Partnership Framework (CPF), the World Bank Group's first full strategy for Myanmar in 30 years. The strategy supports reforms that promote growth in rural areas, invests in services that work towards better nutrition, health, education, infrastructure, and more jobs. —World Bank ■

‘Pragmatic approach’ needed for SME emergence: VP U Myint Swe

FROM PAGE-1

Accordingly, the tasks of acquiring human resources, technical development, innovation, monetary resources, infrastructure development, acquisition of markets, reasonable tax collection and procedures and favourable economic environment must be implemented by laying down the principles for the development of SMEs”, Vice President U Myint Swe said.

“As defined by SMEs Development Law, SMEs development central committee held its 1/2017 meeting on 1st March 2017, making 15 resolutions so as to effectively support SMEs, servicing enterprises and trade. Decisions are now being implemented. SMEs Central Committee has been formed with the President as Chairman, the State Counsellor as Joint-Chairperson, Vice-Presidents as Vice-Chairmen and 19 Union-level members, five from the private sector, 24 altogether. Out of SMEs De-

velopment Central Committee’s 11 responsibilities for bringing about the development of SMEs in accord with the principles of article 6, SMEs Law, formation of steering committee and designation of duties, assignment of duties to agency, fund management committee and other teams are included in sub-section j and k.”

The SMEs work committee was formed on 29th November in accord with the decision of SMEs central committee under SMEs Law chapter 5, section 7, sub-section A. It was composed of 40 members, with 32 from the government, including Vice-President 1 as chairman, economists, intellectuals, and eight persons knowledgeable about SMEs.

“Being the first meeting of the work committee, discussions from respective sectors are invited. Under section 8, 14 responsibilities were laid down. Our steering committee needs to perform the tasks in a practical way in performing the de-



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the SMEs Development Steering Committee meeting 1/2017 held yesterday at the Ministry of Industry in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

velopment of SMEs. It is very important to exploit monetary resources, human resources, intellectual resources and regional resources. In market economy, building up profit margin to survive for some period of time than building up profit margin to reach the highest level is really sustainable development,” said the Vice-President.

“In performing SMEs development, there are major parts and subordinate parts, concerning SME Development Framework. Major parts are related to low budget deficit, stability of money exchange and interest rate. So, in bringing about SME development, cooperation is needed between related departments and organizations.”

Afterwards, Union Minister U Khin Maung Cho, Union Minister U Kyaw Win and Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo reported on plans for development of SMEs.

Chief Ministers from regions and states also took part in the discussion, which ended with concluding remarks by Vice President U Myint Swe. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Dr Pe Myint receives Facebook policy director and Chief Representative of JICA Myanmar

Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint received Facebook Asia Pacific policy director Ms Mia Garlick and Chief Representative of JICA Myanmar Office Mr. Masayuki Kawasawa separately at the Ministry of Information office yesterday.

During the meeting with the Facebook Asia Pacific policy director, they discussed Facebook community standards, policy on counter-terror-

ism, fake news on Facebook, and action to be taken against hate speeches on Facebook.

During the meeting with Chief Representative of the JICA Myanmar Office, they cordially discussed the improvement of the cooperation plan between the Ministry of Information and JICA and affairs in regards to a representative from MRTV taking excursion trips to Japan. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint meets Facebook Asia Pacific policy Director Mia Garlick on 13 December. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing arrives back home from Nepal



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party visit a UNESCO World Heritage site Patan Durbar Square in Kathmandu, Nepal. **PHOTO: MNA**

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party, who were in the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, met with officials and their families from the Embassy of Myanmar in Kathmandu, Nepal on Monday evening and contributed gifts to the officials’ families.

The Senior General also met with officials from the Nepal-Myanmar Friendship Council at the meeting room of the Embassy.

The delegation headed by the Senior General also visited several sites in the city of Kathmandu, including a homage visit to the Swayambhunath pagoda in Kathmandu.

They also visited Patan Durbar Square, a UNESCO World Heritage site, observing the Patan Museum and other archaeologically significant buildings in the city.

The delegation also paid homage to the Buddhanath Stupa.

The Senior General and party departed for Nay Pyi Taw from Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu, Nepal Wednesday afternoon and arrived in Nay Pyi Taw in the evening.

The Senior General was welcomed by Vice-Senior General Soe Win and Tatmadaw officials and Nepal Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Bhin K Udas and wife at the Airport in Nay Pyi Taw. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Putin submits deal with Syria on expanding Tartus naval base for State Duma approval

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin has submitted to the State Duma (lower house of parliament) an agreement with Syria on expanding the Russian Navy's base in Syria's Tartus. The information is available in the Duma's digital database.

"The duration of the agreement is 49 years, it can be automatically prolonged for a period of 25 years in case none of the parties send a written notification to the other at least one year before a period expires concerning its intention to terminate the agreement," the document reads.

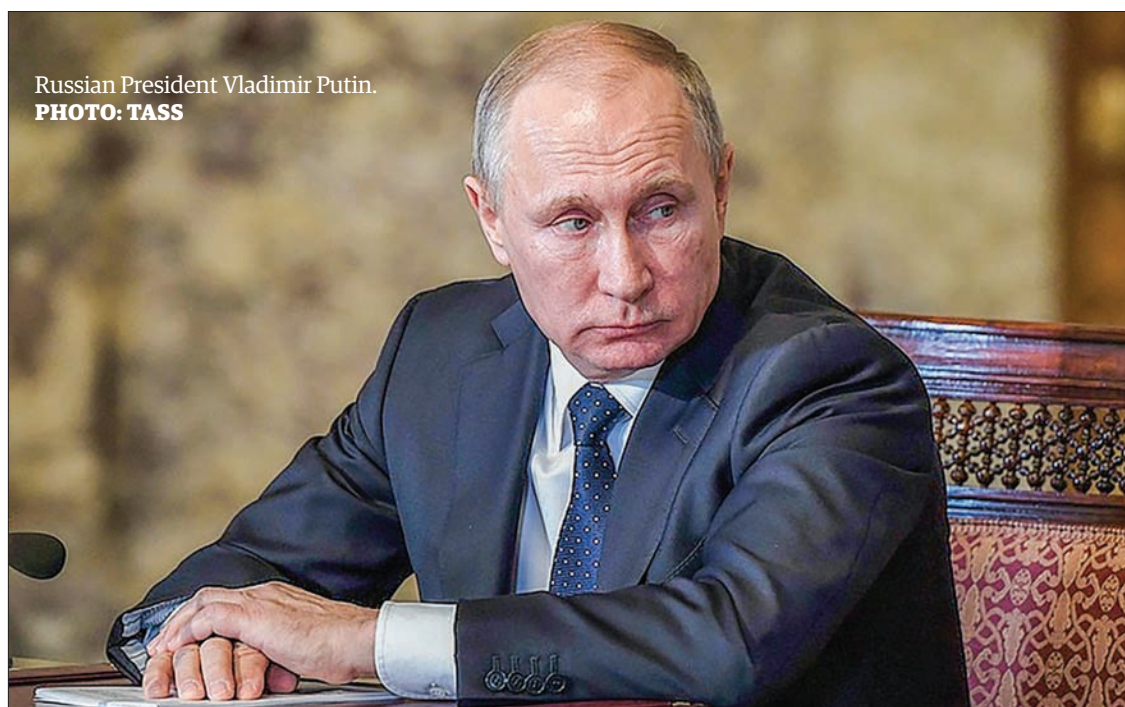
According to the agreement, Russia will use joint facilities free of charge.

"The naval base has full

immunity from Syria's civil and administrative jurisdiction. Its movable and immovable property is immune from search, seizure and other proceedings," the document adds.

Besides, the agreement stipulates that Russia will operate the naval base. "Russia has the right to send the necessary number of troops to maintain the naval facility," the document says.

On Monday, Putin visited the Hmeymim air base in Syria, announcing that the most well-trained terrorist groups active in the country had been defeated, and ordered the Russian Defence Ministry to begin the withdrawal of a significant part of the Russian troops from Syria.—Tass ■



Russian President Vladimir Putin.
PHOTO: TASS

At least 39 Yemenis dead in Saudi-led raid on police camp in Sanaa — official

DUBAI — Saudi-led coalition aircraft struck a military police camp in the Houthi-controlled Yemeni capital Sanaa on Wednesday, killing at least 39 people and wounding 90 more, including some prisoners, an official and witnesses said.

The strike is part of an air campaign by the Western-backed coalition on the Iran-allied Houthis that has escalated since the Houthis crushed an uprising last week led by former Yemeni president Ali Abdullah Saleh and killed him.

One official in the camp said the coalition aircraft had launched seven raids on the camp, located in the eastern part of Sanaa, where some 180 prisoners were being held.

The official said rescue

teams had pulled out 35 bodies from the rubble, while the rest were not accounted for.

It was the latest in a string of air raids the coalition has conducted on Sanaa and other parts of the country, sometimes causing multiple casualties among civilians.

A spokesman for the Saudi-led coalition could not immediately be reached for comment on the report. The coalition denies that it targets civilians.

The United States and Britain provide political backing as well as weapons and logistical support for the Saudi-led coalition, which has been fighting since 2015 to restore Yemen's internationally-recognized president, Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, to power.—Reuters ■

Zuma abused judicial process with watchdog report challenge, says court

PRETORIA — South Africa's High Court ordered President Jacob Zuma on Wednesday to pay for an attempt to block an inquiry into claims of influence-peddling in his government, describing the lawsuit he filed as an abuse of the judicial process.

In the latest in a series of judicial blows to Zuma's scandal-tinged administration, High Court Judge President Dunstan Mlambo said Zuma should be held personally liable for the costs of the court challenge.

The judicial inquiry was recommended a year ago in a report by the Public Protector, the country's anti-graft agency, whose release Zuma had sought to block through the courts.

The president then filed another court application challenging the right of the report's author, former Public Protector head Thuli Madonsela, to call for the inquiry. Ordering Zuma to pay the costs of that challenge, Mlambo said the president's conduct was "clearly objectionable ... and amounts to clear abuse of the judicial process." It was not immediately clear if Zuma would appeal. The report focused on allegations that Zuma's friends, the businessmen and brothers Ajay, Atul and Rajesh Gupta, had influenced the appointment of ministers. Zuma and the Guptas have denied all accusations of wrongdoing.



President of South Africa, Jacob Zuma gestures as he speaks during the Energy Indaba conference in Midrand, South Africa on 7 December, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

... and amounts to clear abuse of the judicial process." It was not immediately clear if Zuma would appeal. The report focused on allegations that Zuma's friends, the businessmen and brothers Ajay, Atul and Rajesh Gupta, had influenced the appointment of ministers. Zuma and the Guptas have denied all accusations of wrongdoing.

The High Court is due to rule later on whether Zuma can be legally compelled by the Public Protector to set up the inquiry.

On Friday, the same court ruled that Zuma's appointment of a state prosecutor was not valid and should be set aside immediately. Zuma is appealing that ruling.—Reuters ■

Saudi King Salman says determined to confront corruption

RIYADH — Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz said on Wednesday his government was determined to confront corruption with "justice and decisiveness" as the kingdom pushes ahead with its vision to wean the kingdom from dependence on oil.

In a televised speech to the

country's consultative Shura council, Salman also said Saudi Arabia will work to enable the private sector to become a partner in development.

Security forces rounded up members of the political and business elite, including princes and tycoons, in early November

in what Riyadh said was a crackdown on corruption that was also seen as helping Crown Prince Salman tighten his grip on power.

In a speech focused on economic issues, Salman said the kingdom was pushing ahead with its "Vision 2030" economic reform plan to find new sources

of revenue for the OPEC powerhouse.

But he said that corruption was one of the main threats to economic development.

"We have decided, with God's help, to confront it (corruption) with justice and decisiveness so that our country

can enjoy the renaissance and development that every citizen aspires for," he said.

"Thus was our order to form a higher committee for public corruption issues headed by the crown prince, and thanks be to God that those are a few (people)."—Reuters ■

Strategic submarines Borei to enhance Russia’s nuclear potential — Navy’s commander

MOSCOW — The potential of Russia’s naval nuclear force will grow as more nuclear-powered Borei project submarines continue to be built, the Navy’s commander-in-chief Admiral Vladimir Korolyov said on Tuesday.

“Maintaining the combat potential of the strategic naval force by commissioning Borei-A and Borei-B missile-carrying submarines at the proper level will be the main guideline for the fleet’s development,” Korolyov said at a joint meeting of the coordinating council of veterans’ organizations and the Navy’s command.

Korolyov briefed the Navy’s veterans on the outlook for the development of the Russian Navy under the state program for armaments in 2018-2027. There are plans for building up the combat



potential of the general purpose forces by creating ships for operations in the ocean, distant sea and littoral zones, upgrading vessels currently in service, providing advanced aircraft for Russia’s Naval Aviation and coastal missile complexes for the

on-shore naval units, and increasing the groups of ships carrying high accuracy weapons.”

As the chief of Russia’s General Staff General Valery Gerasimov said earlier, work is already in progress on creating strategic nuclear-powered Borei-B

submarines.

Currently, the Russian Navy incorporates three strategic nuclear-powered Borei submarines (project 955) — The Yuri Dolgoruky, The Aleksandr Nevsky, and The Vladimir Monomakh. They are armed with solid propellant inter-continental ballistic missiles Bulava.

Each submarine can carry up to sixteen such missiles. Another five Borei-A submarines are being built. The keel of the last submarine in the series, The Knyaz Pozharsky, was laid in December last year.

Earlier, the CEO of the Central Design Bureau Rubin, which developed Borei, Igor Vilnit, told TASS the project would be worked on further after the series of upgraded submarines Borei-A was delivered.—Tass ■

British city Sheffield lifts licence suspension on Uber

LONDON — The northern English city of Sheffield has lifted a suspension on Uber’s operating licence after it provided satisfactory answers to questions about the taxi app’s management, the city council said on Wednesday.

Earlier this month, local officials said Uber’s licence had been suspended after it failed to respond to requests. Uber said it had not received the correspondence the council referred to as it had been sent to the wrong address.

Local officials in Sheffield will now consider a

new licence application submitted by the Silicon Valley firm.

“The new application, made by Uber in October, to operate private hire cars in Sheffield is being considered and a decision will be made in early 2018,” the council said in a statement.—Reuters ■

Britain cannot renege on Brexit commitments — EU’s Barnier

STRASBOURG — Britain cannot renege on commitments made to ensure Brexit talks with the European Union move on to discussions on the future relationship between the two, the EU’s chief Brexit negotiator told the European Parliament on Wednesday. European Union leaders are expected this week to judge that “sufficient progress” has been made on the rights of citizens, the Brexit divorce bill and the Irish border to allow negotiations to move to the next phase.

The agreement, presented in a joint report last Friday, have since been undermined by Brexit minister David Davis’s comment that it was more “a statement of intent” than a legally binding. “We will not accept any going back on this joint report. This progress has been agreed and will be rapidly trans-



lated into a withdrawal accord that is legally binding in all three areas and on some others that remain to be negotiated,” EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier told EU lawmakers.

The European Parliament was due to vote on Wednesday on a motion urging EU leaders to allow the next phase of EU negotiations to start, albeit with a line criticising Davis.

Barnier said a lot more further steps were required to secure an orderly withdrawal. “We are not at the end of the road, neither regarding citizens’ rights nor for the other subjects of the orderly withdrawal. We remain vigilant,” he said.

Barnier said the next phase of talks would focus on a “short and defined” transition period and initial discussions on a future relationship, which he stressed would not erode the EU single market and its four freedoms, including free movement of people.—Reuters ■

Notification on changing Pesticide Distributor

Regarding with the following pesticides produced by UPL Limited (Formerly United Phosphorus Limited) foreign producer, registered at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, shall change it original domestic distributor Agro Power Co., Ltd. to Vanida Myanmar Co., Ltd and UPL Limited shall onward import pesticides and distribute the product through new distribution.

Sr.	Trade	Type of Poison	Type of Registration	Register No.
1.	Imidagold	Imidacloprid 17.8SL	Full	F2017-1273
2.	Pulsar	Lambda-Cyhalothrin 5 EC	Full	F2017-1274
3.	Ferogin	Fipronil 5% SC	Full	F2017-1275

Therefore, it is to notify that if any objection would like to object on changing of distribution may submit it to Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Cereals Provention Division, West Gyogon, Insein within two weeks from the date of Notification.

Address : Agro Power Company Limited
No. 452, Thumana St, 16/3 Qtr, Thingangyun Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar.
Phone No. 09-5012662, 09-254501450

Philippine Congress gives Duterte green light to extend martial law in south

MANILA — Philippine lawmakers on Wednesday overwhelmingly backed President Rodrigo Duterte's plan to extend martial law for all of next year in Mindanao, an island he called a "flashpoint for trouble" and atrocities by Islamist and communist rebels.

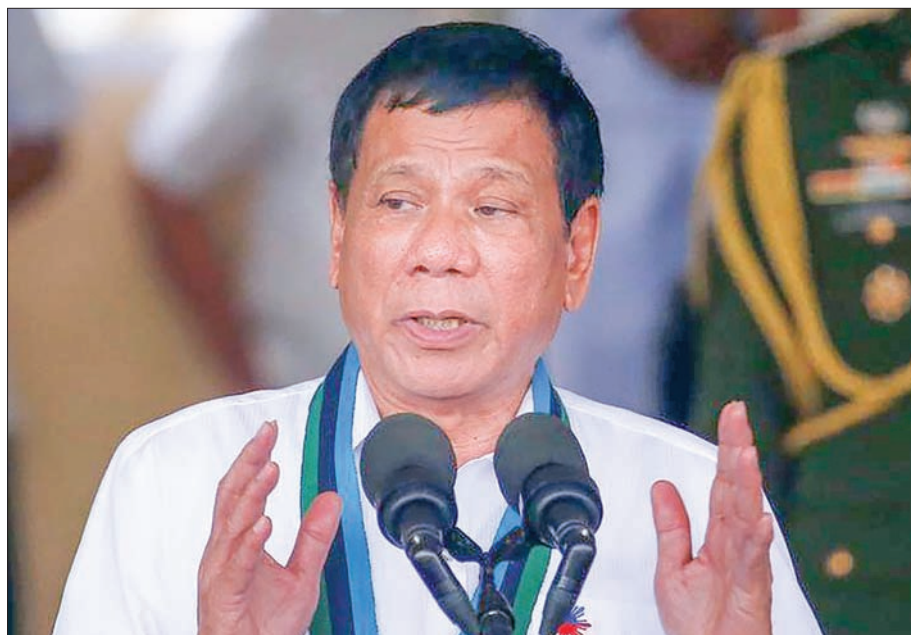
The extension, until Dec. 31 next year, would mark the longest period of martial law since the 1970s era of late strongman Ferdinand Marcos, one of the darkest and most oppressive chapters of the country's recent history.

At a joint session of Congress, 240 out of 267 lawmakers agreed with Duterte on the need for tough measures to stop Muslim militants recruiting fighters and preparing a new wave of attacks after occupying Marawi City for five months this year.

Duterte thanked Congress for its support and said the communist New People's Army and militants loyal to Islamic State were equally threatening.

"There is a need for me to come up with something, otherwise Mindanao will blow apart," he told reporters.

The government worries that mountainous, jungle-clad Mindanao, a region the size of South Korea that is home to the Muslim minority, could



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte. PHOTO: REUTERS

attract international extremists.

The Marawi City assault was the Philippines' biggest security crisis in decades, killing more than 1,100 people, mostly militants. The armed forces took 154 days to win the battle, and 185 extremists are estimated to still be at large.

Duterte enjoys massive public support, but his frequent threats to expand martial law are contentious in a country that suffered nine years of oppression under Marcos before his ouster in 1986.

Marcos was accused of inventing security threats to justify tightening his grip on power and crushing detractors. Duterte has frequently praised the leadership of

Marcos.

Duterte's opponents lament his authoritarian streak and speculate that his end game is to emulate Marcos by declaring martial law nationwide, as he has often threatened.

Asked several times on Wednesday if he was prepared to go that far, he said, "It depends on the enemies of the state."

Minority lawmakers said the extension of martial law was illegal because Duterte had cited security threats, rather than rebellion or invasion, the conditions under which martial law can be invoked.

Duterte scoffed at the notion that the conflict in Mindanao, his home for most of his life, did not constitute rebellion.

"There is actually rebellion in Mindanao, it is ongoing, the fighting is going on," he said.

Congressman Tom Villarin said martial law would cost a huge amount of money, calling broad support for it a "death blow to our democracy".

"We have made martial law the new normal, absent of any proof of invasion or rebellion," he said. "Martial law now desensitizes the people to wrongly equate it with good governance and democracy."

In his request to Congress on Monday, Duterte had argued that a little-known operative active in Mindanao, Abu Turaifie, was "said to be" Islamic State's potential point man in Southeast Asia.—Reuters ■

Drug kingpin sentenced by Thai court to 25 years in jail, son given death penalty

BANGKOK — A suspected drug kingpin in northern Thailand was sentenced by a court to 25 years in prison on drug dealing charges on Wednesday.

The Criminal Court ruled Lao Ta Saenlee, 77, and his wife, Asama Saenlee, 67, guilty of trading one kilogram of methamphetamine for 550,000 baht (about 16,176 US dollars) to a police detective,

who disguised himself as a drug dealer, in Mae Ai district of Chiang Mai province last year.

Lao Ta, known as a surrogate of drug warlord Khun Sa, and his wife would have been given a life sentence if they had not confessed to the charges, police said.

Besides, the couple were demanded by the court to pay 2.5 million baht (about 73,529 US

dollars) in fine each.

Meanwhile, Wicharn Saenlee, 41, a son of Lao Ta, and Baramee Barameequakul, 38, an employee of the drug kingpin, were sentenced to death penalty on charges of trading 19 kilograms of methamphetamine for 11 million baht (about 323,529 US dollars) to another police detective, who disguised himself as a drug dealer, in Chiang

Mai last year, the police said.

Besides, a fifth suspect, identified as Rappheekarn Photphetcharaluck, 57, a woman employee of the drug lord, was sentenced to life in jail for similar drug dealing charges.

All the five drug suspects have vowed to fight for themselves in the Appeals Court at a later date.—Xinhua ■

PUBLIC NOTICE

Ms. CHO MAY SOE holder of MYANMAR passport No. MA713565 issued at MOHA YANGON on 23.06.2014 valid up to 22.06.2019 and Mr. L. AIAZ MOHAMMED holder of INDIAN passport No. G9531378 issued at CHENNAI on 15.07.2008 valid up to 14.07.2018 intend to marry each other. In case of any objections, please contact Marriage Officer, Indian Embassy Qatar within 30 days of publishing.

(cons.doha@mea.gov.in, Fax-00974-44672684, Tel-00974-44255777)

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SIMA PERFECT VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SIMA PERFECT VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.12.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA

Phone No: 2301185

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 14.12.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT
(S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV XIN SI LU VOY. NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XIN SI LU VOY. NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.12.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIT T-3 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES
(S'PORE) PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

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‘The Last Jedi’ seeks balance in a ‘Star Wars’ galaxy in tumult

LOS ANGELES — Light faces dark, old faces new and there’s a struggle to find a balance in the Force when “Star Wars” returns with “The Last Jedi,” the sequel that places Luke Skywalker and his sister Leia at the center of an emotional adventure.

“The Last Jedi,” written and directed by Rian Johnson, sees new characters that were first introduced in 2015’s “Star Wars: The Force Awakens” return alongside franchise veterans, as the Resistance, led by Carrie Fisher’s General Leia, fights the menacing First Order trying to control the galaxy.

“Because it’s a new chapter and because it’s the one where we have to start challenging the characters, it gets to go to intense places,” Johnson told Reuters in a recent interview.

“The Last Jedi,” out in theaters worldwide from Wednesday, is the eighth installment of the long-running “Star Wars” saga that George Lucas kicked off with 1977’s “Episode IV: A New Hope.”

Rey (Daisy Ridley) desperately tries to convince a stubborn Luke (Mark Hamill), who has sequestered himself on a remote island and given up the ways of the Jedi, to join the rebel fight, which is losing hope against a powerful First Order helmed by the tyrannical Supreme Leader

Snoke (Andy Serkis).

Johnson places a spotlight back on the Force, the supernatural energy that runs through the galaxy and which a young Luke was taught to harness by Jedi Master Yoda in 1980’s “The Empire Strikes Back.”

The older Luke has rejected the Force and the Jedi after one of his former pupils, Ben Solo (Adam Driver), turned to the dark side.

“The good guys really come up against a wall and everyone faces challenges in this movie that they didn’t expect,” Hamill said. Rey harnesses the Force and finds that it connects her through visions to Ben, now the tormented villain Kylo Ren. She tries to convince him to embrace the light, while he attempts to lure her to the dark side. “This is about balance in general. It’s sort of about taking away labels and ... finding the middle ground and understanding more that in a war, both sides are losing,” Ridley said. The film also shines a spotlight on Fisher, who died last December, shortly after she completed work on the film. “The Last Jedi” does not conclude Leia’s story, which will be left to the filmmakers of 2019’s “Episode IX.” Early reviews for Walt Disney Co’s “The Last Jedi” were mostly warm on Tuesday, and Boxoffice.com projected that



Actors Daisy Ridley and Mark Hamill pose for photographers as they arrive for the European Premiere of ‘Star Wars: The Last Jedi’, at the Royal Albert Hall in central London, Britain on 12 December, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

the film would gross \$185 million to \$215 million in North America in its first weekend, one of the biggest film debuts in history.

Johnson said that, like previous “Star Wars” films, he

wanted to bring levity to “The Last Jedi,” from Poe Dameron (Oscar Isaac) mocking the uptight General Hux to Leia’s scathing put-downs and Chewbacca’s annoyance with fuzzy

new creatures, the Porgs.

“To me, a ‘Star Wars’ movie is a fun adventure. You have the opera but you also have to have the bubblegum,” Johnson said. —Reuters ■

S Korean girl group TWICE tops local music charts with Heart Shaker

SEOUL — South Korea’s girl group TWICE on Tuesday topped local music streaming charts with its new song Heart Shaker.

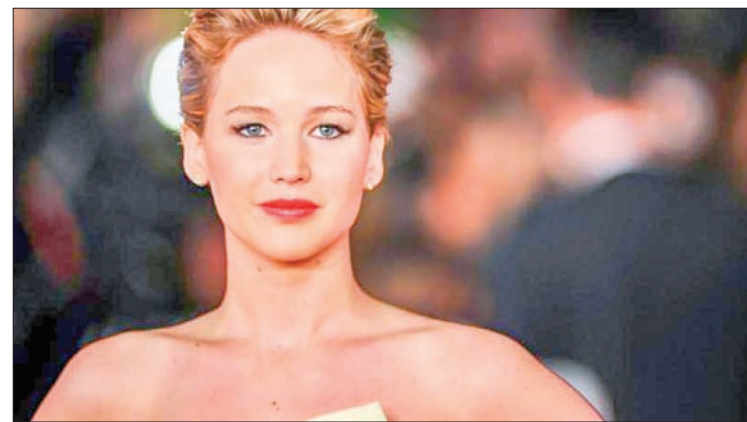
Heart Shaker is a lead song of the nine-member act’s new album Merry & Happy, the re-issue of October’s TWICETAGRAM album. It is the female act’s fourth single of this year in South Korea.

The new song was released at 6:00 pm local time Monday and ranked No 1 as of 8:30 am on Tuesday at eight local music streaming charts, including Melon, Genie, Olleh Music, Mnet.com, Bugs and Naver Music, according to Yonhap news agency report.

Only 14 hours after the music video was unveiled, it racked up over 7.4 million views on You-

Tube. Heart Shaker became the girl group’s seventh hit since the release of its first song Like Ooh-Ahh in 2015.

Among the act’s music videos, Knock Knock, Signal and Likey have recorded over 100 million views. On 29 November, the TWICE won Song of the Year Award at this year’s Mnet Asian Music Awards with Signal. —Xinhua ■



Actor Jennifer Lawrence. **PHOTO: PTI**

Lawrence to collaborate with ‘Call Me by Your Name’ director

LOS ANGELES — Actor Jennifer Lawrence is set to star in a 19th century true-crime drama to be directed by “Call Me by Your Name” helmer Luca Guadagnino.

Titled “Burial Rites”, the film is based on the Hannah Kent novel of the same name, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

The film follows Agnes Magnúsdóttir (Lawrence), the last woman to be publicly executed in Iceland in 1830.

Magnúsdóttir was sentenced to death for killing two men and setting fire to their home, with the story taking place as she awaits confirmation of her death sentence by the high court. —PTI ■

“Coco” continues to dominate Chinese box office

BEIJING — Disney’s universally-acclaimed “Coco” continued to dominate the Chinese film market in the week ending on 10 December, earning 344 million yuan (about 52 million US dollars), China Film News reported on Tuesday.

“Paddington 2,” a big-

screen adaptation of the family classic about a bear lost in a big city, came in second taking 104 million yuan at the box office in its debut week. Third place went to domestic film “The Big Call,” earning nearly 37.6 million yuan since its release on 8 December. Warner Bros and DC Entertain-

ment’s “Justice League” landed in fourth place, generating nearly 30.5 million yuan in the last week. It has made 684 million yuan since its release on 17 November. Rounding out the top five was “Loving Vincent,” which grossed nearly 28.7 million yuan in its first week. —Xinhua ■

Ancient Roman Pantheon to start charging entry fee in 2018

ROME — Visitors to Rome's Pantheon, one of the ancient world's best preserved monuments, will have to pay an entry fee from next May unless they are going there to pray, Italy's culture and tourism ministry said on Monday.

Now a church, the vast cylindrical former temple whose undamaged exterior wall supports a 43.3 metre-high (142 ft) dome with a circular skylight at its summit, drew 7.4 million visitors last year.

The new 2 euros (\$2.36) per person charge is part of a drive to squeeze more profit from Italy's cultural assets, and the ministry said tourist visits would also be suspended during religious services. Part of the ticket revenue will be spent on maintaining the site, where Ro-

man statesman Marcus Vipsanius Agrippa commissioned a temple in honour of Emperor Augustus in around 27 BC. The Pantheon's current form and six-metre thick walls date from the early part of the reign of Emperor Hadrian, who came to power in AD 117. The building survived the Barbarian attacks on Rome and was transformed into a Christian church in 609.

Among those buried in there are the Renaissance artist Raphael and two Italian kings.

Caring for art and architecture dating back thousands of years has long posed a challenge for a country that is responsible for more UNESCO world heritage sites than any other and has long-standing problems of bureaucracy and low public funding.—Reuters ■



An interior view of the ancient Pantheon in downtown Rome, Italy on 11 December, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS



Myanmar's main provider of International Fitness Brand, NatRay Wellness brings its Schwinn Fitness product launching ceremony was held on 9 December at the Nat Ray Wellness Showroom in Shwe Kaba Housing. During the ceremony, Schwinn Fitness introduced its Cardio Series including 570 series treadmill, crosstrainer, upright bike as well as Bowflex Max trainer M5. It will promote 20% discount from 7 to 27 December. PHOTO: GNLM

Lena Pillars in Yakutia to welcome tourists all year round

YAKUTSK — The Lena Pillars Nature Park, a World Heritage Site in Yakutia, is planning to welcome tourists all the year round from 2018, the park's deputy director told TASS. "In 2017, we launched pilot winter tours to the Lena Pillars," Alexander Dyachkovsky said, adding that 4,500 people came to the park in the off-season. According to him, the Lena Pillars are a very popular tourist site in the high

season when the site was visited by some 14,500 tourists. "Summer tourism is well developed and our task is to develop winter tourism," Dyachkovsky said. According to him, the peak of the tourist flow to the nature parks is observed from mid-February to April. "We are ready to receive extreme tourists in the colder months when temperatures plunge to minus 40-50 degrees Celsius," Dyachkovsky said. The pillars are natural

rock formations stretching for 524 kilometres along the banks of the Lena River in Yakutia. The pillars are 150-300 metres high, and were formed in some of the Cambrian period sea-basins. A prehistoric camp was unearthed in this area in the mid-1980s. The most popular site in the natural park are Labydia rocks with an observational platform. From 2014 the number of visitors to Labydia doubled to some 13,000.—Tass ■

Marquis de Sade erotic novel, or some quantum theory? You choose

PARIS — Fancy some 232-year old pornography, written in the Bastille and hidden behind a stone? Or something more intellectually stimulating? How about mathematical equations sketched by quantum theory pioneers Erwin Schroedinger? Or poems from the pen of Arthur Rimbaud?

All yours if you have the money. One of the world's largest collections of historic letters, musical scores, notes and manuscripts — including the Marquis de Sade's Bastille-written "120 Days of Sodom" — will be auctioned in Paris later this month.

The vast collection was assembled by Aristophil, a French company set up in 1990 that raised funds from investors and art lovers, granting them in exchange a share in a trove of documents, drawings and objets d'art acquired around the world.

Aristophil's founder, Gerard Lheritier, appeared to be doing well, earning the moniker "the king of manuscripts". But the firm went bankrupt in 2015 having spent hundreds of millions of euros on some 130,000 pieces.

Lheritier, 69, was detained and put under investigation for fraud, a charge he has denied.

The entire collection is now being liquidated, a process that is expected to take six years spread over more than 200 auctions, partly to avoid saturating the market and suppressing prices.

All will be handled by auctioneers Aguttes, with the first taking place at the Drouot auction house in Paris on 20 December.

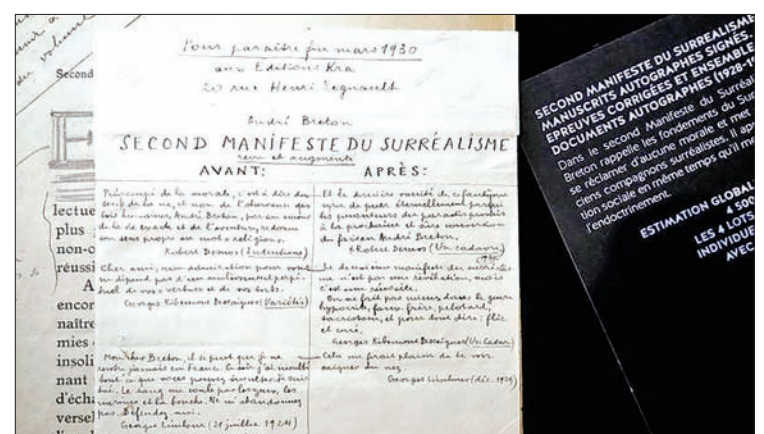
Among the most high-profile lots is de Sade's manuscript, written on 33 pieces of scroll while he was imprisoned in 1785.

"It's a book written on a

12-metre (yard) long roll which if it's rolled up tightly can be hidden in your hand," said Claude Aguttes, the chief auctioneer. "Sade used to hide it every night behind a stone in the Bastille."

When he was forcibly taken from the prison in 1789, the scroll, a pornographic novel telling the tale of four noblemen who resolve to experience every sexual perversion, was left behind and only later discovered. It is expected to sell for between 4 million and 6 million euros (\$4.75-\$7.10 million).

Other lots include a 40-page first-hand account of the sinking of the Titanic by survivor Helen Churchill Candee, whose dramatic testimony helped inspire the movie "Titanic". There are original manuscripts by Alexandre Dumas and Honore de Balzac, emotional correspondence from Admiral Nelson and Napoleon I,



Rare documents of the passenger liner "Titanic" about its shipwreck are displayed at the Hotel Drouot auction house in Paris, France on 23 November, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

and operatic scores drafted by Richard Strauss, among many others. The first sale is expected to raise between 12 and 16 million euros. The bidding will be closely watched by the 18,000 people who invested in Aristophil and lost everything. They hope to recoup some of those losses via the liquidation, but the prices may never match what Lheritier paid — he said the Marquis de Sade's manuscript cost 7 million euros,

but it is not expected to reach that sum. Among the most notable 20th century pieces are four manuscripts by Andre Breton, a founder of surrealism, that are being sold together for the first time. They include his famous definition of the movement from the Surrealist Manifesto.

The manuscripts together are expected to sell for between 4.5 and 5.5 million euros, the auctioneers estimate.—Reuters ■



Myanmar U-21 national footballers seen undertraining at their training ground in Viet Nam yesterday. **PHOTO:MFF**

Myanmar to play Vietnam U-21 today in Viet Nam's Than Nien Cup

THE Myanmar U-21 national football team will play Vietnam's U-21 team in Viet Nam's Than Nien Newspaper Challenge Cup this afternoon at 3:30pm at the Can Tho stadium in Ninh Kieu District in Can Tho City, Viet Nam, according to the Myanmar Football Federation webpage.

Myanmar will likely use its stellar players against the powerful Vietnam team, including goalkeeper Phone Thitsar Min, Kyaw Tun Tun, Ye Yint Aung, Win Moe

Kyaw, Than Htike Zin, Myat kaung Khant, Zeyar Naing, Kyaw Myint Win, Aee Soe, Zwe Thet Paing and Zin Min Tun. In a previous match, Myanmar battled Vietnam U-19 to a 1-1 draw, making today's match a must win in order to advance to the next level of tournament play. In preparation for today's match, the Myanmar U-21 footballers took the training exercises in their training fields ground in Vietnam yesterday evening, said MFF.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

MFF Grassroots Football Festival 2017 starts in Dawei

KyawZin Lin

WITH the aim of identifying, nurturing and training the next generation of youth footballers, the MFF Grassroots Football Festival 2017, organised by the Myanmar Football Federation, kicked off at the Dawei Region Sports Stadium yesterday morning.

Taking part on yesterday's event were about 300 children and 40 football coaches, who taught football skills through demonstrations to local children who have expressed an interest in playing football.

During the ceremony, officials from regional governmental departments, the Sport Department, Education Department and district administration, along with the joint secre-

tary and technical director of the MFF U Tin Myint Aung, former star goalkeeper U Tin Aung and other responsible persons opened the Grassroots Football Festival by cutting a ceremonial ribbon.

After the children were taught new and innovative football skills and techniques by the coaches, the festival concluded at about 11 am.

Similar grassroots football festivals are held year round across Myanmar including the Mandalay Region, Shan State, Mon State, Yangon Region and Bago Region. Many local children who are studying in the Basic Education level can gain benefits from the clinics in their development of health, sports knowledge and opportunities to further their football skills. ■

Man City keen to strengthen defence in January

LONDON — Premier League leaders Manchester City plan to strengthen their defence in the January transfer window to avoid a lack of squad depth as they compete on multiple fronts, manager Pep Guardiola has said.

Injured defenders John Stones, Vincent Kompany and Benjamin Mendy are all expected to return next year, leaving Guardiola with limited options as his team target domestic league and cup honours, along with the Champions League.

"In that department we have too few players and to handle all competitions we are in trouble, real trouble if this is the case. But I can't assure anything. We're going to see what will happen in January," Guardiola told a news conference on Tuesday.

"Maybe we are thinking of looking at another central defender because of Vincent's



Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola. **PHOTO:REUTERS**

problems, John Stones is four or five weeks out. And we miss an important player like (Benjamin) Mendy." Guardiola has turned to midfielder Ilkay Guendogan and Eliaquim Mangala in the absence of his first-choice defenders, with the duo helping City to a 2-1 win over second-placed Manchester United last Sunday.

City have ridden a record 14-game winning streak to establish an 11-point lead at the top of Premier League and have been drawn against Swiss side Basel in the last 16 of the Champions League after winning their group.

The league leaders travel to relegation-threatened Swansea City on Wednesday.—Reuters ■

Allardyce concerned by Everton's long injury list

LONDON — Everton manager Sam Allardyce is concerned that the club's long injury list could derail their recent upturn in fortunes during a congested Premier League festive period.

Winger Yannick Bolasie is the only one of Everton's seven injured players close to a first-team return with the Merseyside club looking to extend their unbeaten

run after two wins and a draw in their last three games.

"We've got Maarten Stekelenburg, Leighton Baines, Seamus Coleman, Ross Barkley, Ramiro Funes Mori, James McCarthy, Yannick Bolasie — all out," Allardyce told reporters ahead of Wednesday's league trip to Newcastle United.

"A lot of big players miss-

ing from this squad. We're still getting results and will improve even more when these players get back.

"We need to integrate them back into the squad as soon as possible... I'm looking forward to it."

Everton have climbed out of the danger zone and into 10th position under Allardyce but he

is determined to keep the players focused during a packed schedule, cancelling the club's festive celebrations.

"It is not needed at the moment and because of the position we were in when I first arrived here," Allardyce said.

"I told the players I will pay them back when they come out of Christmas and into January in

a better position ...

"The party is off until there is a period of time when we are in a very good position and I can tell the lads they can have the relaxing time that they deserve." Following Wednesday's trip to Newcastle, Everton will play five more league games in the space of two weeks.—Reuters ■