PAGE-8 (OPINION)

PAGE-3

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State Counsellor: Good results must emerge from this meeting and all leaders are to strive towards this with courage and determination

GLOBAL NEW LIGHTOF MYANMAR

Union Gov't, NCA Signatory EAOs hold special meeting

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Attaining basic principles for forthcoming Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong among issues discussed



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and leaders from Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement Signatory Ethnic Armed Organizations attend a special meeting between the Union Government and NCA Signatory EAOs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

SPECIAL meeting between the Union Government and the signatories of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday and Chairperson of the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivered an address.

The meeting was attended by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe, Chairman of the Peace Commission Dr. Tin Myo Win, Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, Secretary of the Peace Commission (Retired) Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, Representative of Pyithu Hluttaw U Aung Soe and Representative of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aung Kyi Nyunt, responsible person-

nel of the Government and the Tatmadaw, Chairman of the Karen National Union(KNU) Saw Mutu Sae Poe, Vice Chairman Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win, Chairman of the Restoration Council of Shan State(RCSS) U Yawd Serk, Secretary U Sai Ngin, Patron of Pao National Liberation Organization (PNLO) Khun Okka and Vice Chairman Khun Myint Tun, Chairman of the Chin National Front (CNF) Pu Zing Cung, Vice Chairman Dr. Salai Lian Hmung Sakhong, Vice Chairman of Arakan Liberation Army (ALP) Khaing Soe Naing Aung, Member of the Central Committee Saw Mya Yar Zar Lin, Chairman of All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF) U Than Ge, Vice Chairman U Myo Win, Chairman of the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA) Saw Moe Shay, Secretary of the Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army-Peace Council (KNU/KNLA-PC) Dr. Naw Kapaw Htoo, Vice Chairman of the New Mon State Party (NMSP) Nai Han Thar and member of the Central Committee of (NMSP) Nai Aung Ma Ngay, Chairman of the Lahu Democratic Union (LDU) Kyar Khun Sar, Secretary Kyar Saw Lamon, representatives of the NCA Signatory Ethnic Armed Organizations and officials.

The special meeting began with an address delivered by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

SEE PAGE-2

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL 71st Independence Day to be observed with five objectives PAGE-10



NATIONAL

Dr. Aung Thu attends ASEAN agriculture, forestry ministers meeting in Viet Nam PAGE-11



NATIONAL

UNSG Special Envoy meets with communities in Buthidaung, Maungtaw in Rakhine State PAGE-11

16 OCTOBER 2018 THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Union Gov't, NCA Signatory EAOs hold special...



Representatives of the Union Government and leaders of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement Signatory ethnic armed organizations pose for documentary photos at the first session of their special meeting in Nay Pyi Taw. **Photo: MNA**

FROM PAGE-1

(Address of the State Counsellor is covered separately on page 3)

Afterwards, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered the address.

(Address delivered by Senior General is separately covered on page 5)

Afterwards, on behalf of the NCA Signatory EAOs, Chairman of the KNU Saw Mutu Sae Poe delivered an address.

(Address delivered by Saw Mutu Sae Poe is separately covered on page 7)

Afterwards, the State Counsellor, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and leaders and representatives of the EAOs had documentary photos taken and the first session of meeting came to an end.

The second session of the peace talks was held

in the afternoon and Vice Chairman of KNU Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win and Director-General of the Office of the State Counsellor U Zaw Htay acted as advocates.

During the meeting, the peace makers discussed time and procedures and the measures to be taken for attaining basic principles in forthcoming Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong in 2018 and next two conferences in 2019, making the current peace dialogue simple and easy, model to be practised after reaching agreements between leaders at political dialogue, and seeking cooperation matters for inclusiveness of all EAOs who have not yet signed the NCA in peace making process.

The meeting continues today to discuss matters, such as self-determination and non-secession from the Union, adopting principles for establishing a unified Tatmadaw, and general issues. — MNA



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi greets KNU Chairman Saw Mutu Sae Poe in Nay Pyi Taw.



Chairman of Lahu Democratic Union Kyar Khun Sar arrives at the meeting between the Union Government and signatories of NCA.



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing welcomes U Yawd Serk, Chairman of the Restoration Council of Shan State/ Shan State Army.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi greets Chairman of DKBA Saw Moe Shay in Nay Pyi Taw.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi greets Chairman of Lahu Democratic Union Kyar Khun Sar in Nay Pyi Taw.



State Counsellor, Commanderin-Chief, KNU Chairman hold sideline meeting

CHAIRPERSON of the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Karen National Union (KNU) Chairman Saw Mutu Sae Poe held a meeting on the sideline of the special peace talks meeting at the Shwe San Ein Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. — MNA

State Counsellor: Good results must emerge from this meeting and all leaders are to strive towards this with courage and determination

Following is an opening address delivered by National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) Chair State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at a special meeting between the Government and Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement Signatory Ethnic Armed Organizations at the third anniversary of signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) at Shwe San Ein Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday:

I cordially greet all the distinguished guests who are attending the special private meeting.

Everyone at today's meeting will know the importance of this meeting to our peace process. Today is also the third anniversary of the day on which the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement was signed. Anniversaries were held in the past years, too, but this year we are meeting to discuss how to overcome the difficulties faced in implementing the NCA signed between the government and ethnic armed organisations (EAOs) and thus we are on the verge of setting up an important milestone.

Leaders in this meeting hall had played an important role in the peace process and today's meeting is a proof that we are striving towards moving forward instead of turning around in our journey towards national reconciliation and peace. Because of this, I would like to thank all who are attending this meeting as well as all who had strived towards organising this meeting successfully.

Giving priority to peace process

If we look at the challenges our people are facing today, we will find different difficulties, such as transition to democracy, building a democratic federal Union, national economy, Rakhine State issue and geopolitical matters, in addition to the peace process. Our government is giving priority to the peace process to establish the Union that our people had cherished and valued. Strengthening the cessation of conflicts and achieving success in the political dialogue by going forward is very important for the entire peace process. It is natural to have differing views and understandings in the political dialogues. Especially in a country like ours where there were historically no political dialogues ever, we will have to take time to resolve the political problems. However, it is important that we gradually go forward step by step in a timely manner.

If good results decline in the dialogues, more hindrances and obstacles will appear in our path towards peace. We'll face more instigation between the dialogue partners. There'll be hindrances, like the whole process needs to be changed. This is well known by all who are participating in the peace process as well as those who are watching the peace process with interest.

We all know that the political dialogue path that we are walking on is effective, practical and successful. Where are the weaknesses? We have to collectively search, discuss, amend and control them always. Because of the decline in reaching political agreements, there shouldn't be tensions and decline in trust. No one should blame or criticize another. I solemnly want to say to all to stay united. If we face and overcome the difficulties and challenges together, I'm fully confident we'll be successful.

Present situation not unusual

In order not to affect the political dialogue and not to increase tension by arguing back and forth, we are temporarily avoiding with full understanding the matters that we were unable to resolve. There'll be a time when the 70-year long political problems and other directly related matters had to be resolved, and it is not unusual that we are in the present situation. We must not be dejected or faltering. All need to be careful that such matters do not delay and holdup the political dialogues.

If we study the political dialogues held internationally, when these political dialogues are stalled, there'll be impatience and there'll be those who are within or without the groups participating in the dialogues who want to disturb the dialogues through theories and ideologies. The result of the decline in trust causes more tension and carries a fifty percent possibility of degenerating back to armed conflicts. As the time taken for political dialogue lengthens ten-



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. PHOTO: MNA

sions and conflicts between ethnic nationals rises. Therefore, we have to recognize that there is a problem. We have to strive towards resolving the problem. It is important for us to have the political will and wish that this problem mustn't be avoided and must be resolved. Today's meeting came about because we have the firm political will and wish to resolve this matter through face to face dialogue.

It is the nature of peace process and political dialogues to have a situation where we come across difficulties and are not going either forward or backward and become stalled. It is not easy and smooth sailing to resolve problems that had existed for long. I think we all understand this. Based on the political agreement reached at the 20th **Century Panglong Conference** held by my father 70 years ago, we were establishing a Union together. Today, we are focusing on the 21st Century Panglong Conference, and based on the political agreement from that conference, we are striving toward constructing a democratic federal Union. Our goal is to reach political agreements and to establish a democratic federal Union. By collecting these political agreements, a firm Union agreement is to be signed and based on this Union agreement, future governments are to continue the implementation.

Watched with keen interest and expectation

During the past few days, our Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) political party groups had made an announcement hoping for success in this meeting. EAOs in northern Myanmar that hadn't signed the NCA had also made an announcement welcoming and supporting this meeting. Similarly, today's meeting is watched with keen interest and expectation by ethnic nationals all over the country. These hopes and expectations are not only on the table in front of us but also in our hearts, too.

We need to look back and review our peace process truth-

fully and courageously. In the political dialogues that were held, people brought the policies and views of the leaders in this room and were arguing with one another on each other's policies and views. If a decision is required, political dialogue attendees had to return to these leaders. All were trying to force their leader's policies and views on others to accept it. Today, all those leaders are at this table. While all leaders are at this place, I want to say three important points.

First is the unresolved matter of self-determination and non-secession. If we accept the situation as its stands. non-secession is not a problem. We also have repeatedly said that we'll firmly establish the democratic federal Union consistently demanded by our ethnic nationals. During the second session of the 21st Century Panglong Conference, agreement was reached on the self-determination portion that was linked directly to the non-secession. But it was left aside.

Here non-secession is important. But also the will not to secede and to establish together a Union that need not be seceded from is also important. We need to recognize the historical facts on the causes of the worries. However, it is also important to get out of the grasp of the past and walk towards a future that is good for all. In balancing the past worries of everyone, we need to truthfully view the situation of the 21st Century. We must face towards the future. We need to think about international geopolitics as well as the state-wise geopolitics. According to the democratic ideals, the original owners of the state power are we, the people. As such, all need to note that actually implementing the democracy and federal rights lays in we, the people, too.

Second point is how we will establish the Union that we all want by how we achieve political agreements. All will have their own standard Union format.

State Counsellor: Good results must emerge from this meeting and all leaders are to strive towards this with courage and determination

FROM PAGE-3

All the groups will have thoughts and dreams of a federal Union format that is all conclusive with good systems and policies. We need to think practically on how we will implement our federal dream. The excellent and outstanding federal dream is on one side and today's 2008 Constitution is in existence as a fact on the other side. Between these two sides, it is possible for the causes of armed conflicts to be resolved step by step. We can reach a stage where it is possible, practical and convenient to implement and establish it. We will be able to setup progressive milestones in our democratic federal Union journey. This is what I meant to say on possibility, practicality and progressing step by step.

Deciding politically important issues courageously

The third point is the ethnic nationals we represent, the people we face, and the grassroots level people we are responsible for. We all need to be responsible. In other words, we all need to be courageous. We all should have confidence in ourselves to establish democracy and federal related basic principles, pledges and agreements, while leaders capable of making decisions are in attendance in this meeting. We all need to have faith and trust in the peace process path we are going through. It is especially important for all to have the faith and trust that the outcomes of the political dialogues can be practically implemented. If decisions could not be made courageously in a meeting where leaders who can make the decision are present, it is to be noted that we are not doing our job and are letting down our peoples. We need to have the courage to fight in the battlefield and sacrifice our lives. But we also need the equally important courage in deciding politically important decisions for our country with goodwill.

Portions of the agreements that came out of 21st Century Panglong Conference are a proof that the path we took is correct. We must not deviate from our path. We will go forward without turning back is also being shown by attendance of all leaders at this meeting. We all need to work hand in hand together and accept the existence of difficulties and unresolved matters where agreements are yet to be reached. We need to discuss and negotiate how to overcome these difficulties. In conducting the discussions, it is important that we must not only open our hearts but we must also open our minds. I would like to urge all that we must be courageous in our responsibility toward our people and the people we are facing.

In conclusion, I thank the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief, deputy Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief and leaders of EAOs. The leaders of EAOs that are not present in this meeting are also in our mind. I, as well as the people, will think how good if they could be present here.

Actually if the source of the armed conflicts are discussed and resolved in the political roundtable, it is not difficult to stop and eradicate armed conflicts. Meetings create familiarity, understanding and trust and strengthen common causes and expectations. Our peace commission and Tatmadaw leaders are striving for groups not present today to participate.

Leave the past behind by taking lesson from it. Try to quickly join us on our table. From here, I want to urge all the groups who are not able to participate yet to strive toward reaching the discussion that includes all that our people want to see.

We are not standing still. To prove that we are going forward, good results must emerge from this meeting and all leaders are to strive towards this with courage and determination. Please expose and share your worries. I'll conclude by saying that we will work and think together on removing and resolving those worries.

(Unofficial Translation)

Dinner hosted in honour of Ethnic Armed Organization leaders

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended a dinner held in honour of Ethnic Armed Organization (EAO) leaders who have signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) with the Union Government. The dinner was held at the Shwe San Ein Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The dinner was also attended by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe, Chairman of the Peace Commission Dr. Tin Myo Win, Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, Secretary of the Peace Commission (Retired) Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, Representative of Pyithu Hluttaw U Aung Soe, Representative of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aung Kyi Nyunt, responsible officials of the Government and the Tatmadaw, Chairman of the Karen National Union Saw Mutu Sae Poe and Vice Chairman Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win, Chairman of the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) U Yawd Serk and Secretary U Sai Ngin, Patron of the PaO National Lib-



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and leaders of Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement Signatory Ethnic Armed Organizations enjoy dinner at the Shwe San Ein Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

eration Organization (PNLO) Khun Okka and Vice Chairman Khun Myint Tun, Chairman of the Chin National Front Pu Zing Cung and Vice Chairman Dr. Salai Lian Hmung Sakhong, Vice Chairman of Arakan Liberation Party (ALP) Khaing Soe Naing Aung and member of the Central Committee Saw Mya Yar Zar Lin, Chairman of All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF) U Than Ge and Vice Chairman U Myo Win, Chairman of the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army Saw Moe Shay, Secretary of the Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army-Peace Council Dr. Naw Kapaw Htoo, Vice Chairman of the New Mon State Party Nai Han Thar and Member of the central committee Nai Aung Ma Ngay and Chairman of the Lahu Democratic Union (LDU) Kyar Khun Sar, Secretary Kyar Saw Lamon.

The State Counsellor, the Commander-in-Chief, and leaders of the ethnic armed organizations enjoyed the dinner together. — MNA ■

Commander-in-Chief: Any attempt to make unilateral demands in the name of peace talks poses a hindrance to the peace process

Following is an opening address delivered by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaingat a special meeting between the Government and Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement Signatory Ethnic Armed Organizations at the third anniversary of signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) at Shwe San Ein Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday:

TODAY is the third anniversary of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) reached between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and ethnic armed organizations (EAOs). First and foremost, I would like to extend greetings that may all representatives of NCA signatory ethnic armed organizations and officials who are attending the retreat have mental well-being and enjoy peace and tranquility.

The nationalities of the country know that the current anniversary is more significant than the anniversaries of the previous two years both in character and essence. I have noticed greater aspirations and interest for peace of the national people. At this moment, we are gathering here, serving the historic duty to fulfill the wish of the peace-loving people. We of the Tatmadaw are exerting utmost physical and intellectual efforts to shoulder the historic duty well and restore eternal peace and strengthen democracy.

Gathering greater momentum for the peace process

At the previous NCA signing ceremonies, there were speeches and dinner, which was only a little bit noteworthy than a normal commemorative ceremony. But this year is more significant, with the involvement of follow-up talks. We are going to gather greater momentum for the peace process. I have already explained the resolution of the Tatmadaw to complete the peace process in 2020 in my address at the opening ceremony of the previous Union Peace Conference. Here, I would reiterate that the Tatmadaw will present the eternal peace to the people who are desirous of it after fully realizing the resolution.

The government is working under the goal of adopting more basic principles by holding the conference for three times in 2018 and 2019. The previous conferences have already adopted 51 basic principles for political, economic, social and land and environment sectors, and they have been formed as parts of the Union Agreement. Those principles can be adopted thanks to the benefits of NCA and the adherence to its roadmap. It is not an easy task to reach accords among the warring factions through face-to-face discussions. It is the result of collective talks under the spirit of oneness. Basic principles should be adopted in accordance with the 11-point

be a difficult issue at the conference. Our Three Main National Causes is to be always kept in the fore at the political dialogue held after abandoning the armed struggle line. So, it needs to realize the issues that go against the objectives — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and per-



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. **PHOTO: MNA**

fundamental rules of the Chapter I of the NCA. So, I would suggest that fundamental rules must be thoroughly understood. The first point is an accord which is a clear explanation of the way the Union, based on democracy and federal system, will be established, as it is the cornerstone of the current peace process and aspired much by the national races. It has three objectives, three basic factors and a three-point guarantee which must be followed compulsorily.

An accord has been reached on building the Union, based on democracy and federal system, in accordance with the results of the political dialogue. The three objectives are non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty which in reality are "Our Three Main National Causes." The foundation is formed with deterrent principles—liberty, equality and justice. Democracy, equity and self-determination are guaranteed. All must aware of the fact that the said guarantees can be realized through the strict observance of Our Three Main National Causes. Now I will deal with "non-secession" which is said to petuation of sovereignty - must be avoided at the very start of the talks. Section 10 of the 2008 Constitution of Myanmar has clearly stated that no part of the territory constituted in the Union shall ever secede from the Union. So, the word "non-secession" is a term or assurance truly required for the eternal peace. The anniversary sessions of the Peace Conference, including the present one is initiated by the peace overture extended by the administration of President U Thein Sein in 2011. At the dialogue with EAOs according to the "The Invitation for Peace Talks" issued on 18 August 2011, the peace processes began only after the initial accord to accept **Our Three Main National Causes** and to stay away from raising the issue of secession. Therefore, it doesn't need to dispute whether to insert the agreement "non-secession". I would like to say that the agreement must be inserted in line with the principles of NCA and the principles of the Constitution 2008. Law, rules and disciplines are defined as "exhortation" and "prohibition". The Union Agreement in implying the law mentions exhortation and dos. So also, only then, will it be endowed with descriptions on prohibitions and don'ts. The root cause of inserting the prohibition "non-secession" does not mean that it does not believe national brethren as criticized by some organizations. I would like to say it aims to ensure full guarantee in the long run, to build trust and to join hands with them on the path of eternal peace without doubt.

An ideology of sharing power and sovereignty

The Union System or the Federalism is an ideology of sharing power and sovereignty to unite diverse regions, states, ethnics and tribes. It is visible that the Federalism cannot be taken as definite, and practising of such system cannot be the same in various countries. The Union System can be practised under the Coming Together Federalism, the Putting Together Federalism and the Holding Together Federalism. Our country is a family which had been practising the Holding Together Federalism during the monarchial era before falling under the British colonial rule. At a time when King Thibaw, the last dynasty of Myanmar, was captured by British, 500 followers led by the person waited at Phayagyi of Mandalay for taking back the king from British. He was a Shan Chieftain namely Nyaungshwe Chieftain U Saw Maung. Therefore, British colonialists worried about unification between Bamar and ethnics. British practised various administrative systems and laws such as the Shan States Act of 1888, the Kachin Hill Tribes Regulation-1895, the Chin Hill Regulation-1896 for prevention of the unification in order to cause divisiveness between ethnic regions and the central region of Myanmar. Diarchy ruling system which was practised from 1921 to 1937 did not accept participation of ethnic regions, and the legislative council set the ratios for those elected from general constituencies, those from Indians, Kayin ethnics, half-breed British citizens and British citizens with the purpose of disintegration in racism. It can be seen that British colonialists arranged practice

of divide-and-rule system in the mainland of Myanmar without satisfaction to instigate the hilly and plain regions. The 91-department administration in Myanmar divided the general constituency, Kayin ethnic constituency, Indian citizen constituency, half-breed British citizen constituency, European citizen constituency and chettyar association constituency join the Lower House. Other ethnics did not participate in it separately.

Consequences of divideand-rule system caused disunity among ethnics and tribes, triggering the armed conflicts. In the time of parliamentary democracy when the worst time in internal armed conflicts of Myanmar from 1948 to 1958 after Myanmar had regained her independence, the diversities of political, racism, ethnic affairs and dogmatism triggered conflicts based on armed struggle lines against successive governments. It is noticeable that international community belittled Myanmar as "Yangon government" at that time. It can be said that the sparks of internal armed conflicts did not start between the Tatmadaw and ethnic armed groups but between the relevant government and ethnic armed groups based on root cause of the armed conflicts and starting time. The Tatmadaw taking responsibility of defence organization safeguarded the State and sovereignty of government. Nowadays, I would like to say the one-sided conclusion over internal armed conflicts which is a problem happening between the Tatmadaw and ethnic armed organizations is inappropriate and incredible.

Panglong Spirit and Panglong Agreement

Our country was divided into pieces in colonial rule. Before regaining independence, all the parts of regions were united to sign the Panglong Agreement to be able to regain independence together. In looking back the history of Panglong, everybody can know the Panglong Agreement did not easily come out.

Commander-in-Chief: Any attempt to make unilateral...

FROM PAGE - 5

General Aung San himself was thoughtful to return from the Panglong Conference and secure independence for only mainland due to instigations and one-sided demands. He ordered personal assistant Bo Tun Hla to call the airplane for return. At a time when ethnic people and students gathering around Panglong heard news that the General would return home, they went round there by chanting slogans "Unite Shan and Bamar" and "Don't want colonialists". Thanks to their moves, the Panglong Agreement could be signed. At present, some persons said it needs to forge the Panglong Spirit and follow the Panglong Agreement. What is Panglong Spirit? I understand however difficult we are, we need to hold together. On my view, the Panglong Agreement is an agreement holding-together for our national brethren in holding-together for many years to recognize more strengthening of unity.

The Panglong Agreement consisted of nine paragraphs only. Each paragraph and line from the agreement did not have any letter in meaning of the secession. It comprised how to unite and how to regain independence. The paragraph which is mostly criticized and referred to is the last sentence of fifth paragraph. The sentence is "Full autonomy in internal administration for the Frontier Areas is accepted in principle. Everybody may notice the phrase "internal administration". On the other hand, it means the Self Governing. We all agreed the Self Determination in the NCA. So I said NCA is wider than the ceasefire and I dubbed NCA is a single way of the Union in order to end the armed conflicts in the Union. Especially, it needs to take care of no derailment from the route to Our Three Main National Causes and guarantee of non-secession in enjoying the rights and guarantee of Self Determination.

In carrying out the peace processes, sub-para (d) of Paragraph 22 of the NCA mentions "We agree that all decisions adopted by the Union Peace Conference shall be the basis for amending, repealing and adding provisions to the Constitution and laws, in line with established procedures." The

procedures means the process for the amendment of the Constitution in Chapter XII of the Constitution. It can be seen that although amendment and adding provisions can be done for the Constitution, it does not allow redrawing. Endeavours of us lead to the eternal peace through the nationwide ceasefire. I have frequently said there is no importance than peace in the peace talks. All discussions mainly lead to the peace and ending armed conflicts. It is not for political game. Any attempt to make unilateral demands in the name of peace talks poses a hindrance to the peace process. We agree in principle on amending and supplementing the really necessary provisions of the constitution with the aim to achieve lasting peace. But it would be difficult for us to agree on amending and supplementing the constitution and other laws with intent to serve self-interest and abuse the NCA. It can be witnessed in 2015 that rights and privileges were given by amending and adding 34 points in the region or state legislative list from Table-2 of the constitution (2008) and 20 points in the provision for collecting taxes by regions or states from Table-5. Measures will be taken for further amendment or supplement if necessary. According to the wishes of some national races after the 2015 election, the right to elect region or state chief ministers through the majority votes from parliamentary representatives in region or state parliaments is another issue we need to consider. In the government, secretaries are appointed under ministers so that there could be no delays in handling administrative machinery whenever political situation changes. Likewise, we must consider assigning duties to region or state governors in addition to chief ministers and ministers. Such a system is successfully being adopted by our neighbouring India, a large federal democratic country.

phrase in line with established

Honest and fair politics

There have been stronger voices over difficulties in taking over and assuming State duties under the State Constitution (2008). The 2008 Constitution gives guarantee to the country. The participation in the election is political parties and candidates give guarantees to voters. Parliament and the government are to successfully implement the facts described in the Constitution. Under the former President U Thein Sein government, the country was also ruled in line with this constitution. The then government successfully underwent democratic transition and uplifted national economy to a certain degree. There were landmarks in the fields of international relations and internal peace. The incumbent government has also come to power after being elected and forming a government in accord with the constitution. Unless this constitution (2008) meets democratic norms and international standards and the major institutions fail to abide by it, I assume that there is no way the current government became the ruling party from the opposition party. Here, I would like

> Regarding self-determination and self-administration, wishes, opinions and rights of ethnic minorities in concerned regions and states must also be taken into consideration.

you to point out and invite open discussions if there are any violations of the rights for political parties and organizations, the rights for the citizens and the rights for federalism, which are the essence of the constitution, and any discrimination against national races. Political revenge and democratic bullying will hinder national development. We should take lessons from political revenges in some countries. We must be careful about abolishing the existing laws or enacting new laws before we reach a safe situation just because of political revenge. At the beginning of democracy, security, peace and stability are the most important things. Nothing is as important as ethnic affairs and national interests. Although there is a saying that all is fair in war and politics, I want honest and fair politics.

In demanding self-determination and self-administration for federal Union system. it should be aware that in any region or state in the Union, people belonging to various ethnic groups live collectively, and it not the case that a particular ethnic group live separately. For example, according to 2014 national population census, there are over 1.6 million people in Kachin State, where Bamar make up 29.2 percent, Shan, 23.6 percent, Jinghpaw, 18.97 percent, Lisu, 7 percent, Rawang 5.5 percent, Lowaw, 3.33 percent, Lachit, 2.89 percent, Zaiwa, 1.57 percent while other ethnicities make up around 8 percent. Though there are eight major ethnic groups, there are over 130 tribes. Democracy is about implementing the wishes of the majority in line with law with respect for the wishes of the minority. Regarding self-determination and self-administration, wishes, opinions and rights of ethnic minorities in concerned

regions and states must also be taken into consideration.

Emergence of NCA

Regarding ethnic armed organizations (EAOs), all need to sign the NCA (Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement). The NCA emerges at the request of ethnic armed groups. We are not using the NCA as a weapon. We never coerce EAOs by taking advantage of the NCA. In implementing the works in accordance with the Constitution, the same should go for all groups.

Holding political dialogue without ceasing fire can trigger more disputes. It is like fighting a political war besides the military front. EAOs took up arms and demanded national equality, self-determination and self-administration from successive governments. They have been agreed in principle in the NCA, and are being discussed at political talks. Those wishing to get political power

should set up official political party and contest for election, those wishing to do business should set up a company, and those wishing to serve in the services to defend the country should join the Tatmadaw, which is the official armed organization of the country. Ignoring this fact and building political power, armory, forces and territory with the force of arms and the bullying of ethnics on the pretext of peace should be assumed as opposing the democracy which people aspire, opposing the federal Union, and having intent to exercise warlordism. Anything that goes against the wishes of the people must be averted through various means. As doing businesses by taking up arms during the peace talk amounts to creating the right by putting pressure, it is not suitable. The NRPC will make arrangements for the needs of the EAOs during the peace talk. They need to consider their views on armed struggles.

The government and Tatmadaw have equally treated EAOs. They adopt the same stance toward KNU, which is strong and which have clashed with the Tatmadaw for many times, and CNF and ALP, which are less strong and barely clashed with the Tatmadaw, and let them sign the NCA. Expanding political power, armory, forces and territory under the cover of NCA will only have negative impact on already stable regions and ethnic areas, so there is a need to avoid this. Regarding RCSS (SSA), MTA led by U Khun Sa surrendered to the government which was formed under the pretext of politics and security and entered the legal fold on 5 January, 1996, and it split and went underground at the end of January. It is clashing with other EAOs as it is building up political base, weaponry, size and enormously expanding its territory after signing the NCA. The NCA shouldn't be misappropriated. If there is misappropriation, the Tatmadaw, which is responsible to protect the lives and property of ethnic people, will not just stand by and do nothing. It can be seen that there is no fighting in most of the places where NCA signatories are allowed to be stationed. Why? It is because officials of the both sides comply with the NCA.

Future infrastructure development

- * Negotiations have been made in cooperation with the IFC of the World Bank Group for the development of the Yangon elevated road project in 2019, with a view to address the traffic issues in Yangon. Such development is being pursued with the expectation of not only addressing traffic issues but also to create job opportunities.
- * During the next two and a half years, construction of over 10,000 rooms are planned, out of which over 4,000 rooms are to be constructed through different PPP models and over 6,000 rooms by private companies.
- * Urban projects in 33 cities across the country have been implemented and planning for additional urban projects are being developed in cooperation with state and regional governments.
- * Urban projects and industrial cities are being developed in some big cities like Yangon and Mandalay within three years for systematic development of urban housing.

(Excerpted from the report on the current work of the Union Government, delivered at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 19 September 2018)

KNU Chairman: We need to find practical solutions for issues which are political as well as directly connected to the establishment of the Federal Democratic Union

Following is an opening address delivered by Karen National Union (KNU) Chairman Saw Mutu Sae Poe at a special meeting between the Government and Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement Signatory Ethnic Armed Organizations at the third anniversary of signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) at Shwe San Ein Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday:

Your Excellencies,

- State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi
- Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing
- Leaders and Representatives from Ethnic Armed Organizations

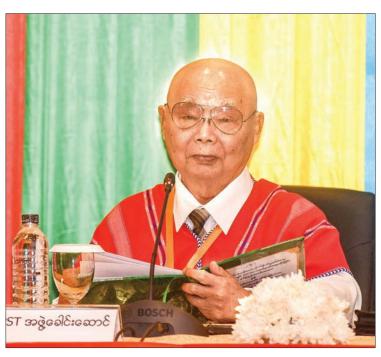
I'm deeply honored to have the chance to deliver the opening speech on behalf of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement Signatory Armed Organizations at the Third Anniversary of the Signing of the NCA and the First Informal Meeting Among the Top Leaders from the Government, Tatmadaw and Ethnic Armed Organizations. I'd like to extend my greetings and warm wishes to you all.

The NCA is concerned not only with the ceasefire. It also entails the united political goal of ending the 70 years long civil war and rebuilding the Union.

Chapter (1) of the NCA explicitly describes how to achieve this united political goal of rebuilding peace and the Union.

Especially in Section (1) of Chapter (1) Basic Principles, four united political goals for all of us are described.

The first united political goal prescribed in the NCA is Our Three Main National Caus-



Karen National Union (KNU) Chairman Saw Mutu Sae Poe. **PHOTO: MNA**

es of non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of national sovereignty. This is the united political goal proposed by the Government and Tatmadaw.

The second united political goal is the principles of liberty, equality and justice. We cannot build liberty, equality and justice without universal principles of empathy and understanding. Therefore, these universal principles are the united political goal that we all desire. The third united political goal is the spirit of Panglong. We first build this union with the spirit of Panglong. Now we need to rekindle this spirit to rebuild peace. We need to build a federal democratic union to be able to achieve peace. That is the reason why we are implementing political dialogue and the Union Peace Conference -21^{st} Century Panglong.

The fourth united political goal is the guarantee of full democratic rights, national equality and the right to self-determination. This is what the ethnic armed organizations have been asking for through armed through the armed revolution for over 70 years.

We agreed by signing the NCA to establish a union based on the principles of democracy and federalism in accordance with the outcomes of political dialogue integrating the four united political goals. However, we have faced challenges when conducting political dialogues to implement the united political goals laid out in the NCA. Some would call them deadlocks.

The major deadlock faced in each level of the political dialogue today is the gap in views between the ethnic armed organizations and the government and Tatmadaw on issues of self-determination and non-secession. We need to find practical solutions for these issues which are political as well as directly connected to the establishment of the federal democratic union.

When trying to identify federal principles necessary for our country, we need to identify federal principles directly related to national equality, right to self-determination, minority rights, development of state constitutions and sharing of power. Non-secession is not necessarily pertinent in identifying federal principles. If there are concerns, I'd like to explain the nature of the right to self-determination that we want.

What we are asking for is the right to self-determination practiced by the states within a union guaranteed by adoption of state constitutions. The state constitution we are asking for is one that is developed in harmony with the Union Constitution and inclusive of mechanisms to solve constitutional disputes.

Your Excellencies

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Leaders and Representatives from Ethnic Armed Organizations and all ethnic people,

The armed conflict that has plagued our country for over 70 years since independence needs to stop now. Let us end the armed conflicts.

Let us try to involve the non-signatory organizations of the NCA in the current peace process.

Let us try to find ways to allow the future generations walk among us and participate inclusively to build the peaceful and developed future federal democratic union.

Thank you all.

Restoration of peace through allinclusiveness

CTOBER 15 is the third anniversary of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). We warmly welcome the 0+10 meeting taken part by the Union Government, the Tatmadaw and the ethnic leaders for further progress of the peace process to fulfill the aspirations of all the people of Myanmar. The NCA is the foremost and the most important part of the peace-building task, and also the first step towards eternal peace.

Further steps forward were then laid through trust and compromises, amidst confrontations and difficulties. During the past three years the NCA produced excellent results that pushed the peace processto reach a higher level. But there may still be some unresolved issues.

The involvement of the Union Government, the Tatmadaw and the ethnic leaders in the 10+10 meetings in which answers were sought through coordinated efforts is indeed encouraging. Now

66 The NCA opens the door towards the involvement of all stakeholders in the peace process, creating a platform where answers can be found through all-inclusiveness. Common solutions were achieved from the accords, by putting aside the differences.

talks are in progress for the smoothness of the peace process accelerated by the leaders from the government sector and ethnic leaders at previous sessions of the Union Peace Conference: 21st Century Panglong.

Talks are under way towards broader realization of the results of the NCA. The NCA brings two favourable conditions. The first one is the decrease in the number of war victims and internally displaced persons as the number of armed conflicts dropped to almost zero. So, agreements in the interest of the states, regions and the Union can be sought through negotiations.

The NCA opens the door towards the involvement of all stakeholders in the peace process, creating a platform where answers can be found through all-inclusiveness. Common solutions were achieved from the accords, by putting aside the differences. The NCA saw a lot of continuous political dialogues during the three years, and a total number of 51 accords were reached as a segment of the Union Accord.

But it is not a satisfactory level, as there remain some issues obstructing the peace process. Now, they are finding the answers to these issues. At the third session of the Union Peace Conference, the participants agreed to hold three more sessions up to 2019. A resolution has been made to adopt the basic principles for democracy and federal system.

We must build the public-aspired Democratic Federal Union through all-inclusive meetings. We fully believe the meetings will focus on national reconciliation and building of a peaceful human society where equal rights are guaranteed.

THE United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) celebrates World Food Day each year on October 16, the day on which the Organization was founded in 1945. World Food Day 2018 will mark the 73rd anniversary of FAO's founding. Events are organized in over 150 countries across the world, including Myanmar, making it one of the most celebrated days of the UN calendar. These events promote worldwide awareness and action for those who suffer from hunger and for the need to ensure food security and nutritious diets for all. Thus, FAO has set out various themes for the World Food Day event since 1980, and now the theme for the World Food Day 2018 is "Our Actions are our Future. A #Zero Hunger World by 2030 is possible." It is a call for increased action to achieve Zero Hunger by 2030.

Today, over 820 million people are suffering chronic undernourishment, and 70 per cent of the world's poor live in rural areas where people's lives depend on agriculture, fisheries or forestry, according to the latest FAO 2018 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report. That's why Zero hunger calls for a transformation of rural economy. A profound change of the global food and agriculture system is needed if we are to nourish the 815 million people who are hungry today and the additional 2 billion people expected to be undernourished by 2050.

Right now, our soils, freshwater, oceans, forests and biodiversity are being rapidly degraded. Climate change is putting even more pressure on the resources we depend on, increasing risks associated with disasters, such as droughts and floods. Many rural women and men can no longer make ends meet on their land,

By Lokethar

GOVERNMENT servants are people who are hired and paid from the budget of the government to carry out duties and functions, according to their positions. They are accountable to their organizations as well as to the public for the satisfactory performance of such duties and functions. This is true of all government servants from the lowest to the highest level or position. They are also supposed to be 'apolitical', that is not interested in or connected with politics. They may vote in political elections based on their perception of which candidate, they consider will perform best, their

16 OCTOBER 2018 THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

16 OCTOBER 2018 THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

World Food Day 2018

By Maung Maung (FAO, Retired)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

16 October 2018 **World Food Day**

Our Actions are our tulure. A **#ZeroHunger** world by 2030 is possible.

forcing them to migrate to cities in search of opportunities. Poor food security is also causing millions of children to be stunted or too short for their age, due to severe malnutrition. It is time to rethink how we grow, share and consume our food. If done right, agriculture, forestry and fisheries can provide nutritious food for all and generate decent incomes, while supporting people-centered rural development and protecting the environment

"Zero hunger" is one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG Goal 2 - Zero Hunger). SDGs are a collection of 17 global

campaign pledges for the benefit

goals set by the United Nations General Assembly. The SDGs are part of Resolution 70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly: "Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." That has been shortened to "2030 Agenda." In other words, Zero Hunger means working together to ensure everyone, everywhere, has access to safe, healthy and nutritious food they need.

The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustain-

inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice. The Goals interconnect and in order to leave no one behind, it is important that we achieve each Goal and target by 2030. To achieve it, we must adopt a more sustainable lifestyle, work with others, share our knowledge and be willing to help change the world - for the better. The official World Food Day (WFD) ceremony on 16 October at FAO headquarters will be an opportunity for leaders and key global players in the drive to achieve Zero Hunger, to remind the world that Zero Hunger is still possible if we can

able future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty,

> the line to change their modus operandi.

Not only that, the concerned are government servants who have got into the "rut" of doing things as they have been doing for years (may be even decades) so that they just can't change. For such people, training and development for attitudinal change has to be undertaken. This is of course much more difficult. Maybe incentives to change attitudes and behaviour could help. But

of the State and the people. Government servants are guided by laws, rules and regulations. Not only that, they have to follow operating procedures laid down by their organizations with

the approval of the government. That's the only way things will go on working in spite of changes in the government or position of the incumbent or expansion/ improvement of the functions which is a natural process in any growing and live organization.

If due to changes in the political atmosphere, the political appointees charged with head-

ing the ministries, lay down the government servants down for the more stubborn governnew political objectives in line with the existing laws, it is incumbent on all the government servants concerned to abide by government servants will need such objectives. After all, the to be retrained to follow the government servant is to serve new procedures. Besides there faithfully any government that

is in power. However, doing so may entail changes in operating procedures which should be reviewed by the chief executive/ director general/ managing director of the organizations concerned, with the approval of the concerned minister of course. Unless this is done it may not be possible for







come together and take account of lessons learned, best practices and all evidences available.

Our Actions are our Future

Investments in agriculture are crucial to increasing the capacity for agricultural productivity, and sustainable food production systems are necessary to help alleviate the perils of hunger. Agriculture is the single largest employer in the world, providing livelihoods for 40 per cent of today's global population. It is the largest source of income and jobs for poor rural households. Governments must create more opportunities for

greater private sector investments in agriculture, while boosting social protection programmes for the vulnerable and linking food producers with urban areas.

Smallholder farmers need to adopt new, sustainable agricultural methods to increase productivity and income. Ensuring the resilience of rural communities requires an approach that is mindful of the environment that leverages the power of technological innovation and creates stable and rewarding employment opportunities. But employment and economic growth aren't enough, especially for those who endure conflict and suffering

Everyone has a role to play in achieving Zero Hunger, but countries, institutions and people need to work together to reach this goal. Establish Zero Hunger partnerships, share knowledge and resources, develop innovative strategies and discover new opportunities to contribute to the fight against hunger. By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality. Now is the time to get back on track.

The world can achieve Zero Hunger if we join forces across nations, continents, sectors and professions, and act on evidence. Ultimately, we all need to make our concerted efforts to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

Reference:

http://www.fao.org/world-foodday/theme/en

The role of government servants in effecting change

ment servants who just refuse to change, voluntary resignation, retirement, or removal would be the only options.

Another point to note is the selection procedures of government servants. It was the procedure in the "olden days" for the then Public Service Commission to select government servants to "Gazetted Posts". Government servants of lower ranks who aspired to "Gazetted Posts" had to take the Public Service Examinations and be successful to be appointed to such posts. But then things gradually changed

so that any government servant from the lower ranks were appointed due to their long length of "service". Of course "service" should be a requirement, but so is innovation, initiative and the desire to excel in performance. These are not usually the traits of "plodders" and "apple polishers" who have reached the higher levels through long service.

Now that the Public Service Commission is back in action, we hope to have government servants, especially in the mid- and higher levels, to be well qualified, adaptable to change and be more forward looking in carrying out their duties and functions so as to effect changes that are needed for the democratic reform.

President's Office continues announcement of illegal drug arrests, seizures acting on tip-offs

The Office of the President issued Press Release No. 19/2018 vesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 13 October.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent o the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 13 October.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 17 October issue of The Global New Light of Myanmar. -GNLM



(d) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 16 (b) sub-section (9) of the Union Government Law, following persons have been appointed as Deputy Ministers of the Ministries shown against each of their names.

(1) U Kyi Min	Deputy Minister
	Ministry of Religious Affairs and
	Culture
(2) Dr. Ye Myint Swe	Deputy Minister
	Ministry of Natural Resources and
	Environmental Conservation
(3) U Hla Maw Oo	Deputy Minister
	Ministry of Ethnic Affairs

Sd/Win Myint President Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Office of the President Order 37/2018 6th Waxing of Thadingyut 1380 ME 15 October 2018

Appointment of member of Nay Pyi Taw Council

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 285(b) sub-section 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, section 22 of the Union Government Law and section 4 of Nay Pyi Taw Council Law, U Nyi Tun has been appointed as the member of Nay Pyi Taw Council.

> Sd/Win Myint President Republic of the Union of Myanmar

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Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the first coordination meeting of the central committee for holding the 71st Independence Day ceremony. **PHOTO: MNA**

71st Independence Day to be observed with five objectives

THE 71st Independence Day will be observed nationwide on 4th January next year in accordance with the five national objectives, according to the first coordination meeting of the Central Committee for Holding the 71st Independence Day ceremony.

Speaking at the meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, Vice President U Myint Swe, in his capacity as the chairman of the committee, said nine sub-committees will be formed with a view to successfully holding the Independence Day Ceremony and related events in a politically meaningful way with the five objectives.

The five national objectives are: to safeguard and protect the non-disintegration of the Union and the non-disintegration of National Solidarity and Perpetuation of Sovereignty by all ethnic people with their collective strength; to work hard for emergence of a constitution which meets the democratic norms and can guarantee a democratic federal union; to effectively fight and prevent against the use drugs which damage the health and morality of the citizens; to strive continually for equitable development of all regions and states and to support the Union Government's efforts for the development of a market oriented system and private sector.

Myanmar gained her independence on 4th January, 1948.

"All the entire mass of the people are obliged to strive in unity for perpetuation of our independence which we gained through the unity of the all national races led by Bogyoke Aung San and for development of the Union," said the vice president.

"The independence day is held every year with a view to keeping up the patriotic spirit of our next generation after they understand that we gained our independence due to he sacrifice of our people," he said.

As per annually-held formalities, there will be morning and evening events attended by State Leaders, Government Leaders, diplomats, local and international non-governmental organizations, and invited guests.

The ceremony will be held in two sessions, and in the morning session ceremony for hoisting the national flag, ceremony for saluting the national flag will be held and the Independence Day message sent from the President will be read. In the evening session, a State-level dinner party will be hosted.

Festive games will be held in regions and states on Independence Day and public buildings will be illuminated on the day.

The Ministry of Information will broadcast stories and songs related to the country's Independence Day and historic songs and make sure that cover articles and special commemorative articles are put in

the newspapers and journals, said the Vice President. "It is necessary for sub-committees to coordinate with each other in implementing the assigned duties," he said. There was a need to avoid weaknesses and shortcomings by proper coordination among the sub-committees based on past years' experiences and sub-committee heads need to monitor and oversee sector-wide works, said the Vice President.

16 OCTOBER 2018

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Following his remarks, leaders of the nine sub-committees gave power-point presentations of their respective tasks.

The meeting was attended by Union Ministers Dr. Pe Myint and U Kyaw Tin, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr. Myo Aung, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Myint Maw, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Aung Thu, U Win Maw Tun and Dr. Tun Naing, Permanent Secretaries of the ministries, senior military officers and officials. - MNA

Myanmar Snakebite Project (2014-2018) completed

MYANMAR Snakebite Project, victims," said Union Minister of quality antivenom not only development in the sector. a four-year project aimed at saving the lives of people who die each at the hands of venomous snake bites in Myanmar, officially completed vesterday following the country gained achievements in saving lives and production of anti-venom.

"Thanks to this project, we have witnessed progress in production of anti-venom and save the lives of snakebite for Industry U Khin Maung Cho at a ceremony to mark the successful completion of the project and opening of the workshop on sustaining the results of the project held at Grand Amara Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Myanmar, which used to import anti-venom due to insufficiency of the life saving injection, has achieved in production for local distribution but also for export.

In his remarks, the Union Minister expressed thanks to the experts of the Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH) which carried out the project that aided snakebite victims in Mvanmar by upgrading care facilities and the quality and availability of antivenom and offered future cooperation in research and

During the Myanmar Snakebite Project 2014-2018, Myanmar could produce antivenom meeting GMP guideline with the aid of Australia experts.

According to statistics in 2016, about 10,000 snakebite incidents occur every year across the country, especially in rural areas, with a morality rate of 10 per cent.— MNA

Commander-in-Chief: Any attempt to make unilateral...

FROM PAGE - 6

It is undeniable that the resultant peace has enabled locals to work for their social improvement, and those regions have developed compared to the past. Therefore, the sooner permanent peace is achieved, the better the social well-being of people will be. I therefore would like to urge you to jump onto the democratic path without hesitation. And people are also anticipating to achieve permanent peace as soon as possible.

Abandoning armed struggle

The stage we have to undergo to end armed conflicts and achieve eternal peace is security reintegration. Regardless of political system, every country has a single army for state defence. EAOs, when they get self-determination and self-administration granted in accord with the law in self-administered region

and regions and states, have to abandon armed struggle. If they want to continue serving defence duty, they have to join the Tatmadaw. They will be awarded appropriate ranks depending on criteria for service personnel and their qualification. Today's Tamadaw was born of Myanmar's independence struggle. The Thirty Comrades led by General Aung San constituted the embryo of the Tatmadaw. The Tatmadaw originated from the Burma Independence Army (BIA) formed on December 27, 1941. In the time of the Fascist Japan, the strength of Tatmadaw got reduced, and the BIA was transformed into the Burma Defence Army (BDA). The Patriotic Burmese Forces (PBF) was disbanded when the British entered the country for second time in 1945. It tried to replace it with the so-called Burma Army formed in India when the British escaped the war. The entire people opposed that plan. A proposal pertaining to "Tatmadaw" was submitted at Nay Thurein Conference for the continual existence of the Tatmadaw. Ceremonies supporting the proposal submitted to the Nay Thurein Conference were held in Mandalay, Sagaing, Myingyan, Pyinmana, Taungoo, Bago, Thayawady and Hinthada on a grand scale. For the formation of the MyanmaTatmadaw, the British signed the Kandy Pact on September 7, 1945. For the formation of Tatmadaw (Navy) and Tatmadaw (Air), Letyar-Freemen Contract was signed between Bo Letyar, a member of the Thirty Comrades and John W Freemen on August 29, 1947. Bama Air Force was formed on December 15 and Bama Navy on December 24. Respective parts of the current Myanmar Tatmadaw, battalions and units emerged in accord with the

government's gazettes and the formation order of the State. Our Tatmadawmen join the army with own desires and are not performing the duty under a quota system. Military officers are appointed under the government's gazettes. Servicemen are appointed in accordance with the designated qualifications and the military service rules. They have to be loyal to the State based on the hierarchical administrative system. These existences, gazettes and rules and regulations are the things to be abided by all military servants. The formation of defence units in every states and the appointment that goes beyond the military service rules, without step-by-step military duties are the thoughts that turn back. In addition, the Tatmadaw has agreed to make reforms which are in conformity with the democracy system in principle. All EAOs first need to

sign the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) and make security integration.

In conclusion, I would like to urge all concerned to-:

-Carry out the works with a view to fundamental principles of the NCA agreed in laying down basic principles for peace process and the fundamental principles of the 2008 Constitution.

-need to pay special awareness of the fact that the process is not intended for the shortterm peace and the peace that will last during a tenure of the government. We should see it for the long term.

-Ethnic armed groups which have not signed the NCA yet are urged to sign the NCA by valuing the people's desires for peace. I would like to urge signatories to the NCA to continue sticking to the peace process in good faith. Thank you, all.

Union Minister attends ASEAN agriculture, forestry ministers meeting in Viet Nam

The 40th meeting of the ASE-AN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry, the 18th meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry plus three, and the 6th ASEAN – China Ministerial meeting on SPS Cooperation were held at Melia Hanoi Hotel in Hanoi, Viet Nam, from 11 to 13 October, and were attended by Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu and officials.

The Union Minister signed an MoU for the collaboration of ASEAN countries and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations(FAO), an MoU on the collaboration for agriculture between ASEAN and the People's Republic of China, and an MoU on the ASEAN plus ThreeEmergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) Agreement with ASEAN ministers,on behalf of Myanmar.

Similarly, the Union Minister signed an MoU on cooperation in agriculture between the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation of Myanmar and the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism of Brunei Darussalam.

During the meetings, they exchanged views on the progress made in the food, agriculture and forestry sector, the cooperation processes on re-



Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu poses for a documentary photo with other ministers at the ASEAN meeting on agriculture and forestry in Viet Nam. **PHOTO: MNA**

gional development in the ASE-AN, review session on research and cooperation of information system and technical networking, and future processes were coordinated.

During the meeting period, the ASEAN member countries endorsed the main processes to implement in the food,agriculture and forestry sector in 2019,the Multi Sectoral Framework on Climate Change,the programme works related to the ASEAN Genetically Modified Food Testing Network (2018-2019),the ASEAN Guidelines for Organic Certification, ASEAN Standards for Mature Coconut, Soursop and Taro, ASEAN Diagnostic Protocol for gardening products and other fruits and ASEAN Standards on Animal Vaccines.

They adopted ASEAN Good Animal Husbandry Practices (ASEAN GAHP) for pigs,ASE-AN Roadmap for Enhancing the Role of Agricultural Cooperatives in the Global Agricultural Value Chains2018-2025, and the ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry.

They noted promoting and advocating gender equality in food, agriculture and forestry programmes, the implementation of forest management and forest law enforcement in ASEAN countries. They endorsed ASEAN Tuna Eco-labelling (ATEL) Policy Paper on the Establishment of ASEAN Regional Eco-labelling Scheme, duties and responsibilities of contact people, responsibilities of leading committee and the strategic of action for food and animal food in ASEAN region (2018-2023). —MNA

UNSG Special Envoy meets with communities in Buthidaung, Maungtaw in Rakhine State

MS. CHRISTINE Schraner Burgener, United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy on Myanmar, accompanied by Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung and Rakhine State Minister U Aung Kyaw Zan, left Sittway for Maungtaw by helicopter yesterday morning.

They proceeded to Buthidaung by car and met with local communities at the Buthidaung Township General Administration office.

After the meeting, the UNSG Special Envoy visited Buthidaung Myoma Municipal Market and township People's Hospital.

The Special Envoy and party also met with local communities at Maungtaw District General Administration Office.

At the meeting, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung presented cash assistance to women from the Hindu community who lost their family members in the terrorist attack in August 2017.

Before returning to Sittway, Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener and party met with Mro ethnic people at Kaigyi Village. —Kyaw Ye Aung ■

Union Supreme Court sits to pass judgment and hear cases

CHIEF Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo and all Supreme Court judges sat at Union Supreme Court room number 1 yesterday morning and heard two special civil appeal cases and three special

criminal appeal cases, and passed judgment on 17 special civil appeal cases.—MNA

Border Affairs Ministry holds coord meeting

MINISTRY of Border Affairs held a coordination meeting at the ministry yesterday, reviewing the development works implemented in the first six-month period of the 2018-2019 fiscal year and discussing works to be carried out in coming period of the fiscal year.

It was attended by Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Than Htut, the permanent secretary and directors-general of the ministry and officials of the regions and states.

Speaking at the meeting, Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung stressed the need to be free from corruption in constructing infrastructures at border areas, saying that the projects of the ministry should ensure transparency.

Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Than Htut, the directors-general of the ministry reported on strong points and weaknesses of the projects implemented by the ministry, future plans for human resource development and instructions and policies of the Union Government.

Region/state/district/ township-level officials, rectors of the Yangon and Sagaing University for Development of National Races of the Union and attendees suggested projects to be implemented for regional development.—MNA

tions and then inspected

the M&A Data Center Fa-

cilities on the fifth floor of

international-level data

center, was established at

Vantage Tower construct-

ed by Myint & Associates

Construction Co., Ltd on

Pyay Road, 5¹/₂ Miles in

Yangon. The data center

was built with the aim of

providing faster convey-

ance and receiving of in-

formation and data trans-

fers and greater archival

security to keep up with

the developing technol-

ogy sector in Myanmar.

obtained Tier III Certif-

icate after it was scruti-

nized by the American-

based Uptime Institute.

—Yi Yi Myint 🔳

M&A Data Center

M&A Data Center, an

Vantage Tower.

Deputy Minister meets with officials from Myint & Associates Telecommunications Ltd

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun met with officials from Myint & Associates Telecommunications Ltd at Vantage Tower, Pyay Road, in Yangon yesterday morning, where they discussed about linking data center/ servers of departments and tasks under the Ministry of Information.

During the meeting, MPRLE&P Group of Companies General Manager U Myo Tin delivered the opening speech and Myint & Associates Telecommunications General Manager U Thein Soe Htaik explained about their tasks and accomplishments. The Deputy Minister

and his party asked ques-



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun inspects the M&A Data Center Facilities on the fifth floor of Vantage Tower. **PHOTO: HLA MOE**

Dy Minister leaves for Greece to attend forum

DEPUTY Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Mya Lay Sein left from Yangon International Airport at 2 am yesterday to attend the Peace and Sport Regional Forum, to be held in Rhodes City, Greece on 18 October. The delegation led by Dr. Mya Lay Sein was seen off by the Principal of Sports and Physical Education Institute (Yangon) Director U Soe Aung and Sports and Physical Education Department (Yangon) Director U Aung Moe. —MNA ■

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TankmixIT

Reg. No.4/5314/2018 (25.5.2018)

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Dated 16th October 2018



CBM Governor attends 2018 Annual Meetings of IMF, World Bank Group Boards of Governors

GOVERNOR of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung and officials attended the Annual Meetings of the Boards of Governors of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group held in Bali, Indonesia, from 10 to 13 October.

The meetings were held at Bali Nusa Dua Convention Centre in Bali, Indonesia, on 10 October and the Governor and representatives were present. In the meeting, MD and Chairman of the International Monetary Fund, Ms. Christine Lagarde delivered the opening remarks and Director of the Asia and Pacific Department at the IMF Mr. Changyong Rhee reported about the sustainable economic development and economic stability with the title, "The ASEAN Way: Sustaining Growth and Stability". Ministers of finance and development, and central bankers discussed matters related with the progress of development in the ASEAN region and current issues.

Simultaneously, the CBM Governor and officials attended the meeting of Southeast Asia voting group of the governors on 11 October. In the meeting, Southeast Asia Executive Director for IFM Mr. Juda Agung and Executive Director at the Board of the World Bank Group Mr. Andin Hadiyanto reported the progress of Southeast Asia Voting office and the governors delivered the remarks. Then, Economic Counsellor Mr. Maurice Obstfeld from IMF and Chief Economist Ms. Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg from World Bank Group reported on "Trade Wars: Implication to the Global and Regional Economy". Then the presented governors exchanged views and discussed.

On 12 October, the Governor of the CBM and officials were present at the 2018 Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank Group and MD and Chairman of the International Monetary Fund, Ms. Christine Lagarde and President of the World Bank Group Mr. Jim Yong Kim delivered the opening remarks in the meeting.

The delegates to Myanmar attended the

30th Myanmar Ophthalmological Conference held

SPREADING modern treatments to eye diseases, promoting friendship between ophthalmologists, and exchanging practical and theoretical knowledge with international ophthalmologists were some of the motives in holding the 30th Myanmar Ophthalmological Conference in Novotel Hotel, Yangon yesterday.

The opening speeches were separately delivered by the Rector of University of Medicine 1 Dr. Zaw Wai Soe, who is also the Director-General of the Department of Medical Research for Lower Myanmar, the Chairperson of the Myanmar Medical Association Prof. Dr. Rai Mra, and the Chairperson of the Myanmar Ophthalmological Society Prof. Dr. Khin Ommar Khine.

Next, Prof. Dr. U Nay Win, the Chairperson of the Myanmar Medical Professional Association, spoke under the topic "Quality Care and Patient Safety".



30th Myanmar Ophthalmological Conference held in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: LU LU**

This was followed by the usual processes of the annual ophthalmological conference and a paper reading session on 28 topics including cataracts, eye diseases in children, cornea-related diseases, and laser surgeries were conducted in the afternoon. Held in the conjunction with the conference were over 40 exhibition booths displaying apparatuses and items related to ophthalmology for sale.

Asked about the conference, Prof. Dr. Khin Ommar Khine said vision is the most important for everyone and loss of vision renders a person unable to feel the benefits of progress. She said exchanging modern, effective treatment methods between doctors will lead to better treatment for people.

Prof. Dr. Nay Win also spoke about the conference, saying that quality care and patient safety exists in the world and in Myanmar. Everyone is responsible, he said,

explaining that just as a doctor is responsible for treating patients safely and effectively, patients need to be understanding of doctors, too. He added that patients should cooperate with doctors to look after their own health.

meeting of Ministers of

finance and development,

central bankers and sen-

ior officials from Asia-Pa-

cific countries and they

exchanged views and dis-

cussed on the current eco-

nomic development and

main economic topic of

Asia-Pacific countries on

13 October at 8am. Then

the delegates attended In-

ternational Monetary and

Financial Committee-(IM-

anmar delegates met

with Vice Minister H.E.

Mr. Ryozo Himion from

International Affairs for

the Financial Services

Agency-(JFSA) and offi-

cial from Monetary and

Capital Markets Depart-

ment and discussed re-

lated to the development

of finance sector of Myan-

mar. — MNA 🔳

Additionally, the My-

FC) Plenary at 10am.

Dr. Nilar Thein, the Joint-Professor of East Yangon General Hospital, also attended the conference and said the paper reading sessions described how doctors can safely deliver effective treatment to patients, as well as preventive measures. She said the conference is beneficial as the knowledge gained here will be applied when the doctors return home and spread and apply it in their community. Dr. Yi Lin, an ophthalmologist from Man-

thalmologist from Mandalay Region, said the conference was a delight as it provided exchange of treatment methods and information and the chance to catch up with fellow doctors. — Nandar Win

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE M.V MCC HALONG VOY. NO. (1825/1826)

NATIONAL

13

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC HALONG VOY. NO. (1825/1826) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-10-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

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Union Minister U Han Zaw receives 14th Annual JICA President Award

THE awarding ceremony of the 14th Annual JICA President Award from JICA, Japan, to Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw was held at the Assembly Hall of the Ministry of Construction, Nay Pyi Taw at 8am yesterday.

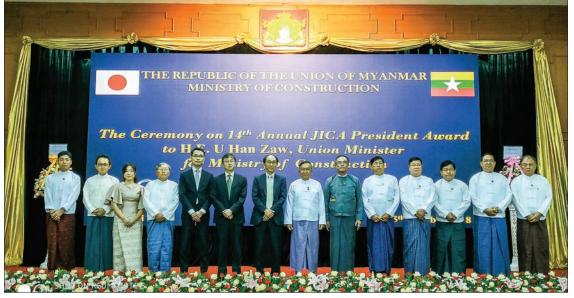
Additionally, the first negotiation meeting of the Yangon elevated expressway and Yangon Outer Ring road projects were held at the meeting room of the ministry at 10 am and Chairman of the steering committee Union Minister U Han Zaw delivered the opening remarks.

Then, the secretary of the steering committee of the Yan-

gon elevated expressway and Yangon Outer Ring road projects, Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin, reported and explained about the process of the Inner Ring Road and Outer Ring Road projects, companies, organizations and technology, F/S and the process to proceed.

Union Ministers U Thant Sin Maung, U Win Khaing and U Khin Maung Cho and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein discussed various topics in detail.

The aims of the projects are for the development of Yangon and reduction of traffic jams. — MNA



Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw poses together with attendees at a ceremony of the 14th Annual JICA President Award from JICA. **PHOTO: MNA**

SOCIAL

Rolling Stones "reappear" in Havana

HAVANA — The British rock band "The Rolling Stones" reappeared in Havana's famous Plaza Vieja, or the Old Square, more than two and a half years after their legendary free concert at Havana's sports complex. But this time they didn't arrive by plane or even by cruise ship.

Their appearance came through an exhibit by two young Cuban photographers Yander Zamora and Roberto Ruiz, photojournalists for the newspapers Granma and Juventud Rebelde, who covered the 25 March, 2016 concert.

The exhibit of photos mounted on gigantic canvas were part of the celebrations for the Week of British Culture in Havana, which showed both the musicians and the audience during that historic concert.

"It was a very unusual concert, not only because 'the Rolling Stones' are a legend of the rock and world music, but also because it was agreed that to cover the event, the photographers would be there only for the first three minutes or the first two songs," Zamora, 37, told Xinhua.

"We had to take pictures of the audience and the musicians in a short time. What you are seeing today is the result of more or less three minutes of work," Zamora said. Last year, Zamora won the King of Spain Journalism Award in the photography category for his shot "Arrival of Air Force One," published in different newspapers in March 2016.

The photo was made while covering the historic visit of former U.S. President Barack Obama to Havana for Granma, an event that almost coincided with the presence of the British rockers in the capital of the island.

"The Rolling Stones" lineup, Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Ronnie Wood and Charlie Watts arrived in Havana a day before their concert at the Sports City and just two days after Obama flew back.

Ruiz recalled the tension he felt during the concert to get the photos because of the limited time to shoot. "Everything was very fast, we could only work when the first two songs were performed. And that caused a lot of tension in us because we were looking for the best angles for the images," said Ruiz.

Although both photographers worked separately during the concert, they decided to join efforts at the request of the British Embassy in Havana. That joint effort is now on display at the Old Square, where over the centuries-old cobblestones, fans of all ages, both Cuban and foreign, gather to recapture a bit of that unforgettable night.

As they browse the exhibit, nearby speakers pump out classic songs of "the Rolling Stones," such as "It's only rock 'n' roll (But I like it)," "Start me up," "You can't always get what you want" and "(I can't get no) Satisfaction." —Xinhua



British rockband the Rolling Stones with their singer Mick Jagger and Ronnie Wood (r) perform at the Esprit arena during the Rolling Stones tour "Stones - No Filter" in Duesseldorf, western Germany on 9 October, 2017. **PHOTO: AFP**

British royals arrive on landmark trip Down Under

SYDNEY — Prince Harry and Meghan touched down in Sydney on Monday, kicking off a bumper Pacific tour that is the British royals' first major outing abroad as a couple. The Duke and Duchess of Sussex made a low-key arrival to a wet and wintery Australia after a weekend spent celebrating the marriage of their relative Princess Eugenie and following an overnight commercial flight with Qantas.

They were seen leaving the airport with staff, looking relaxed, as Meghan clutched a pair of purple binders and Harry carried a brown and green manbag.

Their more-than-two-week official visit will take in multiple stops in Australia, Fiji, Tonga and New Zealand — all parts of the Commonwealth, a group of predominantly former British colonies. Queen Elizabeth II is still the head of state in Australia although there is significant support for the country becoming a republic.

Recent polls show Australians fairly evenly split on the issue, with only the slimmest of majorities in favour of ditching the British Queen and nominating an Australian head of state.

During the trip, the royals plan to pet koalas, watch soldiers perform the haka and attend the Invictus Games, a multi-sport tournament for military service personnel and veterans who have been wounded or suffered injury or illness that opens on Saturday 20 October. The whole visit will be keenly watched by the British and Australian media.

Meghan, a photogenic US actress, married the grandson of Queen Elizabeth II in May, becoming the newest royal to attract media obsession in Britain and beyond.

The 37-year-old made waves recently by bucking protocol and closing her own car door. **Koalas and joeys**

The couple will be accompanied by a staff of 10 and a substantially larger swarm of reporters from all the major British papers and TV broadcasters.

The official visit begins on Tuesday in Sydney, where they will be welcomed by Australia's Governor-General Peter Cosgrove — the queen's official representative — and his wife Lynne.

The royals will meet two koalas and their joeys at Sydney's Taronga Zoo.

After sailing Sydney Harbour and visiting the famous Bondi Beach, meeting flying doctors, attending functions at the Invictus Games and meeting Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, they jet off to Fiji on 23 October.

Meghan will get a chance to speak at a UN women's empowerment in marketplaces event and meet some female vendors in the project in the Fiji capital Suva.—AFP

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 15

Children drowning in 'digital diet of pizza and sweets'

CANNES (France) — Children are being swamped by the visual equivalent of "pizza and sweets" in "a digital Wild West", some of the world's top kids television programme makers have warned.

With YouTube replacing Disney as the most-loved brand among young children in the US, and streaming giants encouraging binge viewing, a whole generation risk being brought up on cultural junk food, they say.

Public service broadcasters like Britain's BBC and PBS in the US are some of the last ramparts "looking out for kids and parents" in an industry where Internet giants and toy and games makers increasingly hold sway, a gathering of top executives at Cannes on the French Riviera heard this weekend.

Several speakers at the MIP-Junior, the world's top children's entertainment market, warned that kids' welfare is being risked by their exposure to unsuitable content and "algorithms run for maximum profit".

The debate comes as US President Donald Trump is threatening to slash the PBS budget and the France 4 children's channel is being controversially forced online by the French government despite research showing eight out of 10 children still mostly watch TV.

Alice Webb, the head of the BBC's network of children channels and online content, said YouTube's "incredible popularity with children raised a huge de- by is pizza and sweets," she said. bate which is only just beginning about screen time and how safe or appropriate different platforms are."

'YouTube not for under 13s' YouTube, she declared, "is

not a platform for the under 13s."

Last year, Webb told AFP that with many children effectively being "babysat in front of screens", the tech and entertainment industries needed to take a hard look at their impact on young minds.

"We need to have this conversation now because we don't want to be saying to ourselves in 10 years time, 'What did we do to our children?""

Luca Milano, of Italy's Rai Kids network, said public service broadcasters were key in holding the line to keep children safe and ensure they are not exploited.

"Without them, children would not be exposed to anything like as much original or world expanding educational content," he said, citing Rai's ground-breaking new miniseries "Jams" — the first kids show to tackle sexual harassment - and its animated drama "Andra and Tati" about two sisters who survive Auschwitz.

Tiphaine de Raguenel, of France 4, said public broadcasters were battling a tsunami of commercial junk.

"If you want children to love vegetables, it is very difficult to do so if all they are surrounded

US's Harris, L3 merging to form a

'Digital Wild Wild West'

Never has it been more important to have a "safe space for wholesome content" in an environment that "feels like a digital Wild Wild West", said the BBC's children's animation chief Jackie Edwards.

Her boss Webb insisted that as well setting standards for quality, public broadcasters "provide some sort of balance to the echo chambers we see in the digital world.

"When you search for one thing, you find more and more of the same thing.... so we are there to keep the breadth, the space, the possibility and the originality." she said.

"It is not my job to point fingers, but there are many shows that will never get made (commercially) because they do not have a toy associated with them."

The BBC is planning to spend a quarter of its children's budget on digital, she said, including its new mobile app CBBC Buzz, which she compared to a "modern version of loo roll and a paint brush, encouraging them to get creative."

However, Webb said the broadcaster was going to produce fewer shows but "do them bigger so they can cut through and make a greater impact" in the cluttered digital world.

"It is about making sure really important shows are seen by children," she said. —AFP ■



Following its smooth liftoff, the Soyuz's booster malfunctioned between the first and second stages of separating, whereupon the crew was forced to abort the flight and switch to ballistic descent. PHOTO: TASS

Expert says crewless ISS poses risk of station's loss

the International Space Station (ISS), when the current crew leaves it and the new expedition fails to arrive, is fraught with serious consequences as it poses the risk of the station's loss, Editor-in-Chief of Cosmonautics News journal Igor Marinin told TASS on Friday.

"Such option [the station's deactivation] has never occurred. This happened once or twice with the Mir orbital outpost and this was very dangerous. This is because any failure in the absence of a crew threatens with serious consequences. The station may even be lost. This is what happened to the Salyut-7 [Soviet space station]," Marinin said.

The expert also explained what the station's deactivation meant. "All the devices are switched off: all the life support systems, lighting and partially heating. The temperature is lowered to avoid higher humidity. And it [the station] operates in an automatic mode."

Each cosmonaut and each astronaut studies documentation, which stipulates the option of the station's deactivation. Such actions are stipulated both for the US and Russian segments of the ISS, the expert said.

The expert said, however, he hoped that it would be possible to avoid the scenario of the crewless ISS because if the suspension of manned flights lingers on, the current crew can stay longer in orbit and return to Earth aboard the Soyuz spacecraft docked to the ISS. "Simply the term of the current crew's stay will be extended. The spacecraft has the endurance of 210 days and theoretically it can be extended to 220 days. So, the crew can be returned in February, for example, rather than in December," Marinin said.

MOSCOW — Deactivation of Roscosmos official says leaving ISS crewless would be 'undesirable'

> The International Space Station may be left without a crew and leaving it unmanned is a stipulated option but specialists will try to avoid this scenario, Roscosmos Executive Director for Manned Programs Sergei Krikalyov said on Friday.

> "Theoretically, the ISS can be left without a crew. An unmanned mode is stipulated. We will do everything possible to prevent this because the station was created for manned flights. The procedure to deactivate the station is prescribed but it is undesirable and we will try to avoid it," Krikalyov said.

> "The stay of the current crew on the space station may be extended by several days," the Roscosmos official said.

> "Perhaps, we will extend the mission by several days but we can't do this for long. We will try to speed up the launch of the next crew," he noted.

Soyuz launch incident

A Soyuz-FG carrier rocket with a manned Soyuz MS-10 spacecraft blasted off from Kazakhstan's Baikonur Cosmodrome to the International Space Station (ISS) on Thursday, at 11:40 a.m. Moscow time. On board the spacecraft were Russian cosmonaut Alexei Ovchinin (the commander of the Soyuz MS-10) and NASA astronaut Nick Hague.

Following smooth liftoff, the Soyuz's booster malfunctioned between the first and second stages of separating, whereupon the crew was forced to abort the flight and switch to ballistic descent. The manned Soyuz MS-10 spacecraft ended up landing in the Kazakh steppe. —Tass ■



The Mobius aircraft system seen here, which can be piloted by a pilot or remotely, was designed by defense technology firm L3, which on Sunday announced a merger with another big defense firm, Harris Corporation. PHOTO: AFP

WASHINGTON — Harris and L3 Technologies, two American companies specializing in military communications and technology, announced their merger on

Sunday, giving birth to a giant in the sector.

The merger "of equals" will be achieved through a share swap, according to a joint communique. L3 shareholders will receive 1.30 Harris shares for each L3 share.

When the merger has been finalized — both companies' boards have approved it, but governmental approval is still required — Harris shareholders will control a 54 percent share of the combined company, while L3's will hold the remaining 46 percent. Harris was recently selected to provide the electronic "brain" for the US military's next-generation F-35, a multi-role fighter-bomber plane, as well as for more than 1,500 portable communication systems for the army.—AFP ■

16 SPORT

Myanmar to demonstrate warm-up against Bahrain on 16 October

AS part of preparations for participating in the 2018 Suzuki Cup, Myanmar national selected men's football team will demonstrate a friendly match against Bahrain national team in Bahrain, according to a source from Myanmar Football Federation.

The friendly match will be held in Bahrain's national sports center at 10.45 pm Myanmar local time on 16 October.

Myanmar national men's football squad had left Yangon International Airport for Bahrain on 14 October.

After playing the warmup match against Bahrain on October 16, Myanmar national men's football squad will leave for Qatar to of conduct a camp training.

Myanmar national men's football squad lost to Indonesia 0-3 in an away friendly match on 10 October. Similarly, Myanmar played the home warm-up match against Bolivia on 13 October, facing a loss with the same result as against Indonesia. —Htut Htut (Twantay)





FIFA Programme Workshop held in Myanmar

MR. SAM MARTIN (FIFA) and Mr. Justus (Genius Sports), officials of FIFA Connect Programme under the control of the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), paid a visit to Myanmar, according to a source from Myanmar Football Federation (MFF).

The officials met with officials from the MFF, Myanmar

National League, professional football clubs of the MNL and women's football professional clubs during which they introduced them to FIFA Connect Programme.

The FIFA Connect Programme enables players, coaches and sports facilities to be registered, enables to carry out the transfer of local players and international ones.

Among the Southeast Asian Nations, FIFA Connect Programme is being used only in Singapore. The MFF will start using FIFA Connect Programme beginning from November. Myanmar will be the second ASEAN country to have successfully applied to FIFA Connect Programme. —Htut Htut (Twantay)

English players overworked after World Cup, says Southgate

SEVILLE (Spain) — Gareth Southgate believes English players have been hampered by the Premier League starting so soon after the World Cup.

England's top flight began on Friday August 10, less than a month after England had been knocked out by Croatia in the semi-finals in Russia. The first divisions in France and Italy began on the same weekend, but La Liga in Spain kicked off on 17 August and the Bundesliga in Germany on August 24. "When you see the league, a lot of teams haven't started yet at their maximum. There have been lot of injuries across our league," Southgate said on Sunday.

"I don't really understand why our league started so early, but they did, and it was a really difficult situation for the clubs. "Some of the clubs couldn't field a team without...look at Tottenham, who had so many players in the semi-finals of the World Cup. "It was an impos-

sible situation for their coaches really." England f a c e Spain in the UEFA N a t i o n s League on Monday,

England's manager Gareth Southgate gives a press conference at the Benito

Villamarin stadium in Sevilla on 14 October, 2018, on the eve of the UEFA Nations

League football match between Spain and England. PHOTO: AFP

hoping to improve on their 2-1 defeat at Wembley last month, when the scoreline did not do Spain's dominance justice. Spain then thrashed Croatia 6-0 and can seal top spot in Group 4 with a victory in Seville, while England are scrapping to avoid relegation.

"We know their technical ability," Southgate said. "But we have to cause them problems with the ball. We can't just defend for 90 minutes. "We were more comfortable in the last 30 minutes at Wembley, but we have to do that earlier in the game, be brave enough to use the ball well, and cause them problems." England have switched from a three to a four-man defence since the World Cup, in an attempt to exert more pressure higher

up the pitch.

Spain have also changed tack under Luis Enrique, who has instilled a more direct, attacking approach since taking charge following the disappointing performances at the World Cup. — AFP



Myanmar to participate in Jimo International Futsal Cup 2018

MYANMAR Futsal squad, on a friendly tour to China, has planned to play four friendly matches in Qingdao, the People's Republic of China (PRC) on 16 October.

China organized the Jimo International Futsal Cup 2018 in enabling Myanmar Futsal squad to take part in friendly matches.

Jimo International Futsal Cup 2018 will be held in Zhonglain Lohas Park Sport Center in Qingdao from 16 to 19 October. It is designed as a round robin play. The first-placed and the second- placed teams will have to fight for the final match, while the third-placed and the fourthplaced ones will have to play for the third place.

Myanmar will play against Shen Zhen at 11.30 am Myanmar local time on 16 October, Qingdao Chen Xi at 11.30 am Myanmar local time on 17 October and Qingdao Football Association at 8.30 am Myanmar local time on 18 October.

The final match will be held at 11.30 am Myanmar local time and the third place match at 8.30 am Myanmar local time on 19 October.—Htut Htut (Twantay)