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Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe talks to Muslim villagers gathering near the border to flee to Bangladesh yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Inter-faith prayers for peace in Myanmar

By Ye Khaung Nyunt & Zaw Gyi (Panita)

THE YANGON Region National League for Democracy held a mass prayer ceremony in Yangon yesterday, attracting about 30,000 people from different faiths.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein lit a candle to commence the ceremony with inter-faith prayers at Aung San Stadium with Buddhists, Muslims, Hindus, Christians and others taking part.

Dr Bhaddanta Iddhibala, Chairman of the Yangon Region Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, appealed for loving kindness and truth for the world with peace, praying "Be free from killing one another, be free from causing pain to one another, be free from destroying one another, be free from looking down and jealous each other."

Muslim leaders Alahaj Mofti Mohamad, U Ko Lay and Hafiz Mufti Ali (a) U Kyaw Kyaw, also prayed for peace. "Citizens should collaborate in friendship and work for the country," Ali said. "Freedom of life, freedom of education, freedom of religion, it is absolutely necessary for the country to fulfil all these rights."

SEE PAGE-6

Solving the refugee issue

Steps taken for verification and repatriation of refugees from Bangladesh

With the visit of a delegation comprised of Union ministers, diplomats and independent journalists to northern Rakhine State yesterday, the Union Government started to take steps to begin the verification and repatriation of refugees who fled

to Bangladesh after the deadly terrorist attacks in August.

The delegation flew from Yangon to Sittway and were then taken by helicopter to areas where terrorists attacks occurred in August. The delegation included the Union Min-

ister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe and the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, who is also chairman of the committee on implementing the recommendations for Rakhine State,

the Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe, the Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut, ambassadors from five neighbouring countries, diplomats, and local and foreign journalists. **SEE PAGE-6**



BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

Awarded by EUROMONEY 2017

Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than receives Mr. Nicholas Coppel, Australian Ambassador

SPEAKER of the Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than received Ambassador of Australia to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Nicholas Coppel at the Amyotha Hluttaw hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to development of Hluttaw, legislative process, status of Hluttaw

representatives working for the people, improving the experience and upgrading the ability of Hluttaw representatives and support to Hluttaw by Australia. Present at the meeting were Deputy Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung and officials from the office of the Amyotha Hluttaw. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than meets with Australian Ambassador Mr. Nicholas Coppel in Nay Pyi Taw, on 10 October 2017. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint meets with Australian Ambassador Mr. Nicholas Coppel in Nay Pyi Taw, on 10 October 2017. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Ambassador of Australia

Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint received Australian Ambassador H.E. Mr. Nicholas Coppel, at the Pyithu Hluttaw guest room, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting

matters relating to boosting friendship and cooperation between the governments, parliaments and peoples of Australia and Myanmar, democratic transition, national reconciliation and

peace in Myanmar and legislative matter in Hluttaw were discussed.

Officials from the office of the Pyithu Hluttaw attended the meeting. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Thura U Shwe Mann receives Australian Ambassador

THURA U Shwe Mann, Chairman of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission received H.E. Mr. Nicholas Coppel, Australian Ambassador to Myanmar at the Hluttaw Building hall (I-11) in Nay Pyi

Taw yesterday at 9:30 am.

During the meeting, the Commission Chairman said that Australia is a good friend to Myanmar and had helped a lot in Myanmar democracy transition. He thanks Australia for participating in Myanmar peace pro-

cess and in the current events faced in Rakhine State. He also remarked of Australia's proper participation in providing humanitarian assistance for stability, peace and development in Rakhine State. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Coordination Meeting for 2nd Hluttaws 6th Regular Sessions

To ensure the success of the 2nd Hluttaws 6th Regular Sessions, the Central Committee and Working Committees held a coordination meeting at the Zabu Thiri Building's meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

"It had already been declared that the 2nd Hluttaws 6th regular sessions be convened on 17 October, 2017.

On the days when Hluttaw meetings are to be convened, tasks to be performed by the Hluttaw will be implemented in order of priority, including the promulgation of the bill on the revised budget estimate of the Union for the FY 2017-2018 and the enactment of the Bills (under way) of the all Hluttaws", said Mahn Win Khaing Than, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw.

U Win Myint, Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Leading Patron of the Central Committee for Convening Hluttaw Sessions, stressed the need for depart-

ments and organisations, which include working committees, to collectively participate not only in regular tasks but also in occasional tasks such as security for the successful convention of Hluttaw meetings.

Union ministers, deputy ministers and officials present at the meeting reported on the performances of working committees, with U Win Myint, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, discussing further suggestions over submissions.

Afterward, Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than delivered the closing address.

Present at the meeting were U Win Myint, Mahn Win Khaing Than, U Aye Tha Aung, Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw, Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers, respective working committee members, permanent secretaries, directors-generals, managing directors and responsible officials from Hluttaw Offices. — Myanmar News Agency ■

ASEAN and Japan Ministerial Meeting on Sports

Myanmar is hosting the 1st ASEAN and Japan Ministerial Meeting on Sports (1st AMMS+-Japan) today and a coordination meeting between ASEAN and Japanese high-level sports officials for the successful hosting of 1st AMMS+Japan was held yesterday morning at the Kempinski Hotel, in Nay Pyi Taw.

The coordination meeting was jointly chaired by the Ministry of Health and Sports, Department of Sports and Physical Education Director General U Myo Hlaing and Japan's International Affairs Division Director Mr. Jugo Imalzumi.

Chairman, Director General U Myo Hlaing welcomed ASEAN meeting partner Japan Sports Commission member Mr. Daichi Suzuki and said the coordination meeting was held because there are matters required to be discussed tonight. From 2016-2020, ASEAN sports work programmes and sports cooperation between ASEAN and Japan have been harmonious.



Chairman Director General U Myo Hlaing presents a gift to member of ASEAN meeting partner Japan Sports Commission. PHOTO: MNA

Japan's coordination meeting chairman Mr. Jugo Imalzumi delivered a welcoming speech at the coordination meeting yesterday, during which Japan raised the matter of participating in ASEAN Sports meetings. Japan wishes to be invited to these meetings and pledged Japan's cooperation in ASEAN sports work programmes up to 2016-2020. Matters relating to people in the country and private sector actively participating in

implementing ASEAN-Japan sports cooperation, reviewing ASEAN-Japan sports cooperation works, more participation of young women in ASEAN sports sector; preparation and arrangements made for successful holding of 1st AMMS+Japan and a fixing date for the 1st ASEAN and Japan Senior Officials Meeting on Sports (1st ASOMS+Japan meeting) to be held in 2018 were discussed. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Government to step up security measures at border to avert terrorists

SECURITY will be tightened at border checkpoints and in airports to prevent terrorists from entering the country, said Vice President U Myint Swe yesterday.

“Security must be given special care, as terrorist attacks in northern Rakhine State can damage the tourism industry and terrorists can enter the country through border checkpoints,” said U Myint Swe in his opening remarks at the meeting of Foreigners Monitoring and Protection Central Committee.

The 2nd coordination meeting of the Foreigners Monitoring and Protection Central Committee was held to step up measures for security at border points as the situation demands following the terrorist attacks in Maungtau and Buthidaung in northern Rakhine in August.

The meeting was attended by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe and U Ohn Maung, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Aung Soe, Rear Admiral Myint Nwe, U Kyaw Myo, U Maung Maung Win, U Soe Aung, Deputy Attorney General U Win Myint, Myanmar Police Chief, Permanent Secretaries, heads of departments and officials.

At the meeting, central committee chairman Vice President U Myint Swe said the President's Office has issued notification 40/2016 dated 26 June 2016 to form a nineteen-member Foreigners Monitoring and Protection Central Committee to prevent foreign



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the meeting of the central committee for “Taking Care of Foreigner” in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

visitors from entering Myanmar for various reasons from affecting the security of the nation and to scrutinize and protect them.

The scope of the work involves setting up a work policy of Foreigners Monitoring and Protection Central Committee, forming and assigning duties of work committees for scrutinizing and protecting foreigners, informing work policies to work committees, reporting to the Government the foreigner caring works conducted for protection of foreigners submit to the Government laws and directives drawn up related to foreigners that is appropriate for the time and drawing up appropriate laws and directives related to foreigners and submitting

them to the Government, setting up a timetable for coordinating meeting of work committees and exchanging information with I 24-7 Channel in Myanmar Police Force for working and contacting internationally.

Six work committees under the Central Committee are namely the Work Committee to scrutinize and protect international tourists, the Work Committee to scrutinize and protect diplomats, the Work Committee to scrutinize and protect UN and NGOs, the Work Committee to scrutinize and protect foreigners entering with other visas, the Work Committee to approve and issue entry, re-entry and stay permits and the Information Work Committee on

scrutinizing and protecting foreigners. In the first coordination meeting of the central committee, 36 decisions were made and work committees are to report the status of implementation.

Yangon International Airport, Mandalay International Airport and Yangon International Airport (Thilawa) are designated as four international exit and entry gates. There are 23 other gates that include border gates. In some of those exit and entry gates, entry and exit is permitted with a Border Pass. A Border Pass needs to have an area restriction. Check Gates need to be established and (visitors) must exit from the gate where the entry

was made. As dangerous acts can be conducted by going anywhere without exiting from the entry gate, proper instruments need to be installed to prevent the entry of blacklisted persons and terrorists.

In Myanmar, there are re-entry, special and multiple-entry visas, in addition to 12 other types of visas planned to be issued. Visas were permitted according to procedure and the six work committees need to systematically scrutinize those entering with visas. Defence against blacklisted persons and terrorists can only be achieved through proper assessment and scrutiny, the vice president said. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Effective uses of social media explored

AT a workshop on effective uses of social media and their nature held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, Dr. Pe Myint, Union Minister for Information, gave an opening address that touched on the issue of fake news.

“Effective uses of social media will be discussed at today's meeting. As for the Ministry, assessments will be made over results received from the discussion. After finding out the advantages and disadvantages

of social media, further discussions will be held at the offices of townships, districts, regions and states under the Ministry, for rightful uses of social media. Nowadays, social media are increasingly used across the world, hence the acquisition of advantages and disadvantages. Spreading fake news on social web pages is being seen not only across the globe but also in our country. For fake news and false information found in social media in our country not to cause evil effects on our people, we are



Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint delivers an opening speech at the workshop on effective uses of social media and their nature in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 October 2017. PHOTO: MNA

required to monitor them all the time to release true news and information effectively,” Dr. Pe Myint said.

The deputy permanent secretary clarified the fundamental nature of social media. At the meeting, departmental officials

and ministry personnel discussed effective use of social media. The workshop will continue today.— Myanmar News Agency ■

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

PyinOoLwin Flower Festival to be held on 1st December

AN expanded PyinOoLwin Flower Festival will be held at the National Kandawgyi Botanical Garden in PyinOo Lwin beginning 1st December.

"The flower festival has been held annually in Pyin Oo Lwin for about a two-week period for the last 11 years. This year, however, the flower festival will be held from 1st December to the end of the month.

Therefore, we expected to increase the number of visitors to the flower festival at the garden this year," said an official from the National Kandawgyi Botanical garden administration office.

To celebrate the flower festival, the authority is decorating and preparing the flowers at the garden.

They are also planning to sell souvenir items including sweaters and warm clothes, local products, handicrafts and other products. The



Guests are sightseeing around the site at the flower festival of PyinOoLwin, also known as the city of flower on 4 January 2017. **PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE**

437-acre garden (172 hectares) received millions of visitors last December.

The festival will display more

than 130,000 foreign flower species, artificial flowers and local flower species.

Last year, the entrance fee

charged during the festival period was Ks1,000 per adult, Ks500 per child and US\$5 each for foreigners.—GNLM ■

About 40 children to get free cleft lip and palate surgery

ABOUT 40 children will receive cleft lip, palate surgery treatment free of charge for six days from 12 to 17 October at Yangon General hospital, according to a report in the Myawady Daily.

The Ministry of Health and

Sports will conduct the free surgical treatment for cleft lip and palate with the assistant of KBZ Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation and Smile Asia Medical Mission.

Currently, KBZ Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation

will provide the free cleft lip, palate surgery treatment to 40 children across the country. The patients have to register at KBZ Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation.

KBZ Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation will take re-

sponsibility for accommodation for those patients who come and get the cleft lip, palate surgery treatment.

Patients seeking to register for cleft lip or cleft palate surgery may contact 09-427562003 or 09-427562004.—GNLM ■

Yangon Water Bus to be extended depending on number of passengers

YANGON Water Bus will be extended within three months based on the number of passengers, according to a report in the Myawady Daily.

Yangon has launched a water bus service, starting the first phase with 13 boats which will cruise daily operating between Insein Township and Botahtaung jetty in Botahtaung

Township. The fleet comprises three ships from Australia each of which can carry about 230 passengers, three ships from Thailand with a capacity of 60 passengers and seven local boats with capacity of 120 passenger each.

Yangon Region Government wants to reduce Yangon's traffic congestion by develop-

ing water transportation. Many commuters also took Yangon Water Bus on the opening day.

For the safety of passengers, the company has provided life-saving jackets and equipment for all passengers and installed GPS system CCTV at the all ships. Ships will be managed via a control center.

Authorities requested the

passengers to avoid chewing betel, smoking, littering into the river and drinking alcohol. The authorities do not allow any cargo to carrying on the Yangon Water Bus except the passengers. Water bus fare will be K300 for one route but no need to pay the cash. Any pay card will be available at the jetties.—GNLM ■

One killed and 35 injured in road accident

ONE person was killed while 35 passengers injured when a passenger bus overturned on Yangon- Mandalay highway road on 9 October.

According to the investi-

gation, the passenger en route to Nay Pyi Taw from Yangon driven by Wai Lin Thu with the passengers on board overturned between mileposts 155/7 and 156/0, Zee Pin Thar road,

on Yangon- Mandalay highway when the driver lost control.

The accident killed one person on the spot while 35 other passengers sustained serious injuries. The injured were

rushed to Taungoo general hospital. The reckless driver Wai Lin Thu has been charged under sections 304-A/338/337 of the Penal Code.—Than Oo (Lay Myethanar) ■

Pigeon pea price falls to 10-year-low after suspension of India's demand

Pigeon pea prices plunged to their lowest point in a decade this month, a result of the suspension of demand from India, once the main buyer of Myanmar pulses.

There is demand only from those who want to stockpile the peas, according to a report of City News yesterday.

"The price of pigeon peas dropped to Ks36,000 per three-

basket-bag. And it is the lowest price recorded during a decade", said an official from the Mandalay commodity depot.

There are about 1.5 million acres of pigeon peas in the country, with new peas to be harvested in March 2018. The growers will suffer heavy financial losses if there is no foreign demand by then, officials said. In early August, India announced a 200,000-

ton import quota on pigeon peas and 300,000-ton quota on mung bean and green grams.

The export of Myanmar's pulses is heavily reliant upon the Indian market, which usually accounts for 70 per cent of export volume. The sole reliance on a single market has led the Myanmar pulses industry to plunge into chaos, an official said. -GNLM

Poor timing in tomato cultivation led to unstable price



A worker preparing to transport tomatoes harvested from farmland in Inle Lake to markets. PHOTO - AYE MIN SOE

MYANMAR tomato growers are weak in their choosing the right varieties for growing, their knowledge of pest protection and the timing of cultivation matched with production rates, according to yesterday's report of the City News.

The main reason of fluctuating tomato prices is that

the cultivation time in upper and central Myanmar does not match, according to tomato depots.

There are more than 15,000 acres of tomato cultivation in southern Shan State.

When tomatoes produced from Myingyan, Meiktila, and Mahlaing towns in Mandalay

Region, and Monywa town in Sagaing Region began flowing into the market, the price of tomatoes from southern Shan State began to decline.

Domestic tomato market requires a stable market, a fixed price and export quality, said U Aung Ko Lat, a tomato agronomist. -GNLM

Border trade value shows slight decrease in first half of this FY

TRADE through 16 land points of entry from 1 April to 22 September amounted to about US\$3.4 billion which slightly decrease against that of last FY, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Decrease in border trade is attributed to the sharp decline at Chinshwehaw gate and other checkpoints- Kengtung, Myawady, Hteekhee, Myeik and Tamu also showed a slight decline. Export surpassed import in Myanmar's border trade un-

like trading via sea route. Export fetched about \$2.1 billion and import value was \$1.3 billion.

Myanmar is trading with four neighbouring countries- China, Thailand, India and Bangladesh through 16 checkpoints. Sino-Myanmar border trade at Muse, Lwejel, Chinshwehaw, Kanpikete and Kengtung gates in first half of this FY amounted to \$2.75 billion which shows only small increase than that of last FY. In the similar period, Thai-Myanmar border trade

fetched about \$600 million which is a slight decrease against last FY. The country's border trade with Thailand flows in and out of these gates- Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Maese. Meanwhile, values of India-Myanmar trade through Tamu and Reed checkpoints showed decrease of about \$15 million than that of last FY. Trade at Sittway and Maungtau land points of entry between Bangladesh and Myanmar increases a bit. - Ko Khant

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း "Sunday Special" အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈) မျက်နှာပါဝင်သော The Global New Light of Myanmar နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကို အောက်ပါမြို့များတွင် ဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

"Sunday Special" အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈) မျက်နှာ ပါဝင်သည်

နေပြည်တော်
ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ရုံးအမှတ် (၇) နေပြည်တော်၊ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရုံးချုပ်)၊ ဝမ်းမော်လမြူ၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇ ၄၁၂၁၀၈

နေပြည်တော်
နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တပ်ကုန်း)၊ ဝေယျာသီရိမြို့နယ်၊ ခရောင်လမ်း၊ နေပြည်တော်၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇ ၃၆၁၄၈၊ ၀၆၇ ၃၆၁၂၉

ရန်ကင်း
The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊ ငါးထပ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ဝေဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၁ ၀၆၀၅၄၇၂၊ ၀၉၅၇၄၄၂၄၁၄၄

မန္တလေး
လမ်း (၂၀ x ၂၁) ကြား၊ (၈၂ x ၈၃) လမ်းကွေး၊ မုလ်ဇွေ ရောင်ရမ်း၊ မန္တလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၂၃၂၂၉၊ ၀၂၃၂၅၅၀

တောင်ကြီး
ရုံးကြီးလမ်း၊ သစ်တောရပ်ကွက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၁ ၂၁၁၆၄၊ ၀၉၅၂၄၄၇၇

မကွေး
နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ တပ်မ (၈၈) တပ်နယ်ရေးအနီး၊ မကွေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇ ၂၃၇၁၂

တချင်းတုံ
ပြည်ပ (၃-၁) အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းသွယ်၊ မြို့ပတ်လမ်း၊ ကျိုင်းတုံမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၄ ၂၂၄၉၂

ကလေး
အောင်ဇေယျရပ်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊ ကလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃ ၂၂၀၃၃

မြစ်ကြီးနား
အမှတ် (၄၀)၊ ရေရပ်ကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊ မြစ်ကြီးနားမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄ ၂၂၄၆၂

စစ်တွေ
ရမ္မာဝတီလမ်းနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊ မီးဆက်ကြီးအနီး၊ မန်းကျွန်းမြို့ရပ်ကွက်၊ စစ်တွေမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃ ၂၃၀၆၈

လားရှိုး
ဟူးမွန်ကျေးရွာထိမ်း၊ ဟူးမွန်ဆည်ဘယ်ဘက်ခြမ်း၊ (၁၂) ရပ်ကွက်၊ မန်ဆူဘုရားရှေ့၊ အဝေရာလမ်း၊ လားရှိုးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၂ ၂၄၀၆၇

ခြောက်
မေတ္တာလမ်း၊ ရှမ်းချောင်းရပ်၊ ကလောင်ကျေးရွာအုပ်စု၊ ခြောက်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၉ ၄၂၀၃၃

မော်လမြိုင်
ကြာအင်းကျေးရွာ၊ မော်လမြိုင်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၇ ၂၇၂၅၊ ၀၅၇ ၂၇၅၂၆

မုံရွာ
နန္ဒဝန်ရပ်ကွက်၊ ဆက်သွယ်ရေးတာဝါတိုင်အနီး၊ မုံရွာမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၁ ၂၆၅၃၅၊ ၀၇၁ ၂၆၅၃၃

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Religious leaders and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein pray for peace together with about 30,000 people who joined the inter-faith prayers in support of the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's leadership for solving the issue in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

Inter-faith prayers for peace in Myanmar

FROM PAGE-1

Hindu leader Dr Hla Tun, U Arsara, Patron of Quan Yin Buddhist Monastery and Charles Maung Bo, the current Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Yangon, also spoke of their hopes for peace in Myanmar.

"Myanmar is facing a turning point of history. We all are under the leadership of our leader State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi," said Charles Maung Bo.

A visiting Mahayana Buddhist Monk from the Republic of Korea also prayed for Myanmar

and its people.

"This event shows that Myanmar is a country where people with different faiths are living in harmony," said Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein.

"Prayer for loving kindness is the strength, the power we can

share with those who are facing difficulties and challenges," said U Phyo Min Thein, "Hope the world would understand the situations in Myanmar and I prayed for their cooperation for the development of our country."

"Let's build the future of our country under the leadership of

our democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi," he added.

Afterwards, the congregation including Buddhist monks and nuns, Christian nuns, Hindus and Muslims prayed for peace in Myanmar while holding lit candles and portrait of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. ■

Steps taken for verification and repatriation of refugees from Bangladesh

FROM PAGE-1

During the visit to Yathedaung Township's Anaukpyin Village, where most of the Muslim community did not flee to Bangladesh and are living in peace, the Union ministers explained to the Islamic villagers about the government's ongoing efforts on security and humanitarian aid to be provided, and the verification and repatriation process that will be implemented with the cooperation of the Bangladesh government.

Diplomats and journalists also interviewed villagers, enquiring if they had a desire to go to a neighbouring country.

Departing villagers have said that they feel less secure in Myanmar now because the number of Muslims is decreasing and many of their relatives are living in Bangladesh. Following the visit, the delegation met with about 1,000 Muslim villagers gathered near Layyinpyankwin Village and about 700 Muslim villagers gathered near the border fence, ready to leave for Bangladesh.

At the meeting with the villagers, Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe said that they came to meet the Muslim villagers who wanted to flee to Bangladesh, even though security forces halt-

ed law enforcement measures since 5 September.

The Union Minister also pledged to make arrangements for their return home and to provide aid, security and assistance if they wish to return.

Though the number of refugees who fled to the neighbouring country is in the hundreds of thousands, the Myanmar government is committed to repatriation of those who actually settled in Myanmar.

Bangladeshi Ambassador Mr. Mohammad Sufiur Rahman also requested that villagers not to go to Bangladesh, disclosing that the two countries are negotiating to repatriate the refugees who are currently staying in Bangladesh and experiencing difficulties to make a living.

Meanwhile, the diplomats enquire about the cause of fleeing to the neighbouring country and if they receive humanitarian aid or not. At the meeting with

Muslim villagers from the Pantawpyin in Maungtau Township, the Union ministers pledged to rebuild the homes destroyed in the terrorist attacks and clarified the verification process. When arrived back the Maungtau General Administration Department, Maungtau District Deputy Commissioner U Ye Htut, clarified the regional situation before and after the terrorist attacks by ARSA extremist terrorists. They also visited the Ngakhuya Village where ethnic Rakhine people, Hindus and Muslim villagers are living in harmony and conveyed the message of the Union government on its commitment for rehabilitation and resettlement for the villagers.

During an ethnic Mro village of Khondaing which was completely torched by ARSA extremist terrorists, the Union ministers encouraged the villagers, promising that the government will coordinate with local authorities to rebuild a new village in a new area and to provide further humanitarian aid to them.

The delegation returned to Yangon yesterday evening.

During the trip, Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe reiterated the commitment made by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu



Union ministers and ambassadors from five neighbouring countries talk to Hindu villagers during their trip to northern Rakhine. **PHOTO: MNA**

Kyi that Myanmar will carry out the verification and repatriation of refugees in accordance with the agreed criteria set out in the Joint Statement between Foreign Ministers of Myanmar and Bangladesh in 1992. Though the number of refugees who fled to the neighbouring country is in the hundreds of thousands, the Myanmar government is committed to repatriation of those who actually settled in Myanmar, said U Kyaw Tint Swe.

He continued to say that similar issues occurred two times after independence, and both countries solved the issues bilaterally, in an amicable way.

The repatriation issue is one to be resolved by Myanmar and

Bangladesh through negotiation, he added.

Though the security forces stopped law enforcement measures since 5 September, international communities misunderstand that the forces are continuing with security measures in northern Rakhine, said the Union Minister.

The trip showed the Myanmar government's willingness to implement a national verification and repatriation process, while Myanmar's neighbouring countries are urging them to take steps to solve the issue, which must be done through negotiation between Myanmar and Bangladesh, the Union Minister said. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Tropical depression likely approaches near Shan State

By Sandar Soe

A tropical depression from South China Sea is approaching toward Shan State, likely to move on to Kachin State, said Dr. Tun Lwin, a former weather expert of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology yesterday.

The tropical depression (TD 23) has crossed Viet Nam's coast near Vin Town during the early morning hours of Myanmar Standard Time and is continuing to travel in northwest direction, Dr Tun Lwin stated on his post. The depression system, which weakened into a low pressure area after travelling inland, would continue to move in northwest direction.

Due to the depression, rain or thundershowers will be scattered or widespread in Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Kachin states and Northern Bago, Mandalay, Magway and lower Sagaing regions with

isolated heavy rainfalls in the next 36 hrs.

Under its influence, heavy rain accompanied by squall wind will blow and speed of squall wind may reach (30-35) mph and gusty wind may reach about (40-45) mph.

Meanwhile, according to observation made at 2:30 hrs, the water level of Sittoung River at Taungoo is observed as about (1.5) feet below its danger level, the DMH warned.

Therefore, the department has advised to the people who settle near the river bank and low lying areas in Taungoo Township to take precautionary measure as it is likely to reach the danger level of the river during the next 2 days.

Concerning the outlook for subsequent two days, likelihood increase of rain will continue in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions and Shan State, the DMH forecasted. ■

Coordinating meeting on implementing Rakhine State development held in Nay Pyi Taw

A coordination meeting on implementing Rakhine State development was held at the State Counsellor's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, Ministry of State Counsellor's Office Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin said houses need to be quickly rebuilt in burnt down villages. Villages that need electricity must be provided with it quickly and national verification process needs to be conducted. There are central committee and work committees conducting for Rakhine State development. In addition, there are also works implemented by union ministries. Discussions are invited on works planned by each committees that can be implemented immediately and ministries wide status of immediately implementable works.

State Counsellor Office director general U Zaw Htay then provided a summary of processes related to Rakhine State development matters and priority works for Maung-taw region, northern Rakhine State.

Next, Permanent Secretaries and heads of departments attending the meeting discussed matters relating to rebuilding of houses, providing electricity, transport, agriculture, livestock, fishery and other livelihood matters, national verification process, education, health, media works including FM service that can be implemented ministry wise within a short time frame.

The Deputy Minister then concluded the meeting by delivering a closing speech after commenting and coordinating the discussed matters.—Myanmar News Agency ■



People from different faiths pray with candlit light. PHOTO: TIN MAUNG (MANDALAY)

Inter-faith prayers from Mandalay pray for peace

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

An inter-faith gathering was held at Manaw Ramman Square Grounds in Maha Aung Myae Township, Mandalay, in support of the leadership of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday evening.

Present at the ceremony were Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, Mandalay Region Cabinet's Chief Minister and ministers. U Aung Kyaw Oo, Speaker of Mandalay Region Hluttaw and

Hluttaw representatives, reverend Sayadaws and clerics from Interfaith group, U Tin Htut Oo, chairman of the Mandalay Region NLD and members, students from "Charge-free Learning Centre on Mother's Lap" and townspeople — a total of about 3,000, it was estimated. At the ceremony, U Aung Thein Htay, a senior member of the Mandalay district NLD, led prayers on behalf of five inter-faiths, followed by prayers from those present at the ceremony.

Afterward, U Ariya Vamsa Bhivamsa of Myawady monastery, Pyigy Tagun Township, sent blessings. Dr. U Zaw Win Aung, a Christian, U Muthu Kumar Mann, a Hindu, U Maung Nu, the secretary of Jamiat Ulema-e Islam, and U Myint Swe of the Bahai faith also sent blessings. Those present at the ceremony stood still for seven minutes holding lighted candles, also praying for peace in Myanmar. The ceremony came to an end at 7 pm.

MJA outstanding students award Japanese exchange visit 2017

Under Myanmar-Japan Association's outstanding students award Japanese exchange visit 2017, 11 students who passed BEHS exams, 2017 outstandingly, 5 from YUFL majoring in Japanese, 16 in all were selected. Those students were trained in the special training camp for the excursion trip to Japan under the close guidance of responsible personnel from MJA at the Yangon International Hotel from 3rd October to 9th October. During the training period, caps, shirts, trousers, sweaters, over-coats, backpacks, traveling trunk, Myanmar costumes, socks and shoes, 24 kinds in all were

provided to trainees.

Ceremony for conferring certificates of outstanding awards was held at 1pm on 9th October 2017 at the Novotel Yangon Max Hotel. Present at the ceremony were chairman of MJA, and EC members, Japanese ambassador to Myanmar and diplomatic staff from Japanese Embassy, Japanese friends, the parents of outstanding students, rector of YUFL and headmasters and headmistresses, donors and invited guests. Japanese ambassador and special guests offered certificates to students individually. 11 Donors donated US \$ 50, 500 to the outstanding students.

Delegation comprising of 16 students led by U Saw Hla Min, chairman of MJA left Yangon International Airport for Japan by ANA aircraft of flight NH—814. They were seen off at the airport by MJA personnel and parents.

The trip will last from 10 October to 19 October, spending for 4 nights in Sendai, for one night each in Tokushima and Osaka and 2 nights in Tokyo.

MRTV-4 film crew accompanied the delegation to broadcast from TV with a view for students to imitate outstanding students. The delegation will arrive back at Yangon International Airport at 6 pm 19th October.—Myanmar News Agency ■

We need not fall for traps or tricks

Khin Maung Oo

A strong desire for more wealth, possessions, power, etc. than a person needs is greed or craving. Here, we need to be well convinced that strong desires for material things and lust mean real craving, as opposed to our desire for justice, knowledge and desire to share with those in need. So, the former ones must be categorized under real greed, while the latter kinds may be ranked as unreal ones. We rarely consider passion and attachment to be real greed, but they are just strong feelings for something or someone for worldly beings. Yet, every

being is concerned with the above-said kinds, so they are in for trouble or something in our cycle of life. Whatever it is, excessive strong desires to possess and lust cause sufferings, so they are called originators of suffering.

Nowadays various kinds of sufferings mostly result from greed, craving and attachment. The more greed we have, the more sufferings we face, and the less we have the less we suffer. If we are completely void of it, sufferings will never come to us. Here, we should have known that tricks are companions of greed. A trick is like a magician. A magician can deceive

a person to hallucinate a stone as a lump of gold. Likewise, a deceiver pretends that they are free from any mistakes, hiding their faults for people not to see them.

These days, there are many kinds of tricks in our social, economic and political fields. Greed, anger and ignorance make us plunge into the trap, making us find it difficult to get out of the labyrinth of tricks. We are currently seeing businessmen being in trouble because of deceivers. Some were victimized again for their uncontrolled greed, though they had never experienced similar events of deception previously. Incentives

are effective weapons in doing so. Those who get profits initially want to get more and more. These people do not realize that they have been deceived. In this way, huge sums of money are accumulating in the hands of deceivers. When they have made enough money, they abscond all of a sudden.

In our world, there are such incidents of suffering a lot. As a matter of fact, these are consequences of lack of knowledge, excessive greed and overwhelming ignorance. As long as we fail to contemplate mindfulness and equanimity, a calm state of mind, especially in difficult situations, we will

still be in the whirlpool of tricks.

In such a modern age, tricks can easily be set up through social websites; our elderly citizens have never encountered such tricks when they were much younger. Deceivers can easily develop websites to make profit online by deceiving the innocent and gullible citizens. So it is incumbent upon us to assess whether they are true or false, good or bad and whether there will be evil side-effects or not.

To sum it up, we would like to call upon our people not to bear excessive anger, greed and naivety so that they would not fall for traps or tricks. ■

No Tears Shedding

I am a man, not susceptible to easy tears. Nevertheless, I am forced to shed tears. Things have saddened me....

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye

That is the photo highlighting Dr Win Myat Aye consoling the Hindu families in Rakhine State. It was posted in the front page of State-owned newspapers and that photo is manifesting the humanity. I felt dejected, embittered and deeply saddened. Tears started rolling out, I can't control. Did things happen to that extent? Do you think it's more than reality or fake exaggeration? Judge it without bias.

Probe the area for real ground situation

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Dr Win Myat Aye and Chief Minister of Rakhine State Government, U Nyi Pu and other responsible persons left Sittway for Yebawkyia village by helicopters for inspection.

People of Hinduism faith

28 dead bodies of Hindu people and additionally found another 17 corpses were inspected and they consoled the remaining family members. They managed to hold the funeral with rituals according to the wishes of the family members. Things happen so.. extremely disgusting.

Keep track of the news

When we follow the news we came to know the doctors

and the police had done autopsy and DNA identification and investigated how and why they perished. All the undertakings conformed to law.

Tie the hands with rope at the back

The dead bodies had been found with their face blindfolded and their hands tied at their backs. Throats were cut and all the hands and legs were also severed. Relatives came to where the excavations were done. The disinterred were identified as Hindus from Khamaungseik village.

"The inspection of dead bodies reveals that they were killed with their throat being cut. Some bodies show the legs and hands are cut by swords. After cutting the legs and hands off the throats are slit. 12 bodies of women are discovered in the first place, 16 bodies of children and boys in another place. More bodies of men are also found" said medical superintendent of Maungtaung Hospital. (Kyemon 26.9.2017 P-8)

Maungtaung Township Judge

U Zaw Zaw Than also said

As police asked for permission to excavate the buried dead bodies and to investigate the cause of death, the permission for excavation was granted in

Global New Light of Myanmar P-6). There are worse news to hear.

My thoughts

(1) I am a Buddhist.

(2) I have due regard to people of other religion though I am a Buddhist. No discrimination between Christian, Islam, Hindu, white or dark. I pay regard and respect to all faiths.

(3) Nevertheless, terrorism is not absolutely accepted. Compassion and hatred(anger) are east and west, totally different.

(4) Not only I, the whole world won't accept terrorism. Do they know the real situation of Rakhine State.

(5) The laws are enacted. Live and work under the rule of law. Respect and observe the law.

(6) I wonder and I can't accept those reckless, lawless activities.

(7) Sometimes mentality of vengeance may erupt. Better control with great prudence. We are mankind, ordinary mankind who may have anger sometimes and even forget to obey the law. Control yourself and be

Lawyer and Tears

U Han Nyunt (Law)

mindful ... be mindful:-

Compassion

Compassion is the core of Buddhism. Not only Buddhism, other religions also based on compassion.

Counter-Terrorism Law

Counter-Terrorism Law has already been enacted by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw as Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No. 23/2014 on 4.6.2004. The law defines what is terrorism.

Explosives

Terrorists commit massacre using explosives. They killed people with unprecedented brutality. They cut hands and legs and then cut the throat with knives. Never heard, never seen such despicable barbarities. Now we hear, we see the incidents. It actually transpired. It becomes questionable if the terrorists are human being. No empathy, no pity and inhumane acts. Everyone can come and inspect the real ground situation.

Instigation

Instigate with intent. Spread the false news, both clandestinely and blatantly. They are none other than the Media Men... bias media...they made fake news rampant though they know the reality... it is terrorism. Again suspicion arises - are the media paid or are the media controlled by a group of goliaths who abet terrorists. Incredible media. One day, It is sure, the liars have to get comeuppance.

SEE PAGE 9



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye consoles the families of the Hindu victims killed by ARSA extremist terrorists in Rakhine State. PHOTO: MNA

17 more bodies of Hindus found in N. Rakhine State

A day after the bodies of 28 Hindu villagers were discovered, Village in Maungtaung on Sunday. The search was carried out. "The bodies were found with their throats slits while Maungtaung People's Hospital Superintendent, who contacted

accord with the law.

Meet with people of Islamic faith

The Union Minister went to New Pazunchaung village, meet with Islamic villagers and inquire about current situation of the area. Then, he delivered Ks 50,000 to each household and supported Ks 1,050,000 in total for 21 households. (26.9.2017-

More tourists visiting Mingun Bell

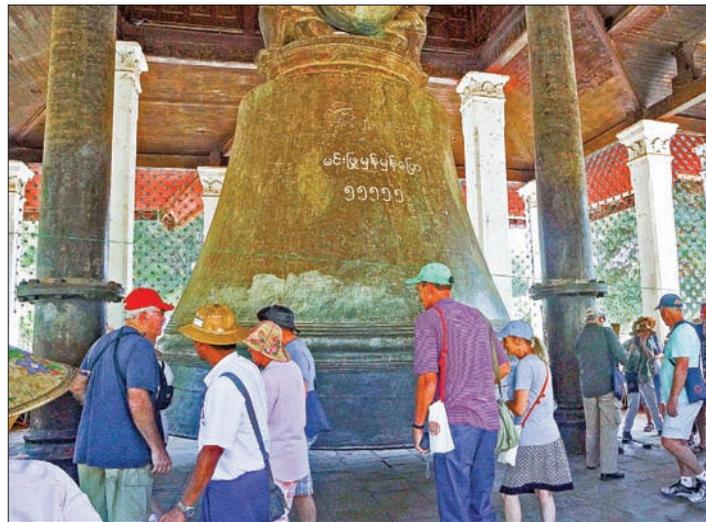
THERE was an increase in the number of tourists visiting the Mingun area, Sagaing Region in the first week of October, with most visitors coming to see the Mingun Bell, the third-largest bell in the world.

“Most tourists who’ve been to the Mingun area are delighted with the Mingun Bell, as they can strike the bell and hear the sound. They take photos posing beside the bell. They are fascinated to see a world famous bell,” said a tour guide.

Casting of the bell started

in M.E. 1170 and its weight is 90,718 kg, or 90 tons. The outer diameter of the rim of the bell is 16 feet, 9 inches. The outside circumference at the rim is 50 feet, 3 inches. The bell is 1 foot, 7 inches thick and stands 27 feet, 8 inches high from the rim to the top.

Myanmar is a country with stunning natural scenery, historical heritage and cities on the world heritage list. It is also a country with many different traditions and customs that are of much interest to tourists.—Than Zaw Min ■



Tourists visit Mingun area in Sagaing Region to see the Mingun Bell, the third-largest bell in the world. PHOTO: THAN ZAW MIN

Entrepreneurs from Taninthayi invited to Thailand

THAI entrepreneurs have invited Myanmar entrepreneurs to discuss tour destinations between Thailand and Myanmar, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

Ten tourism entrepreneurs from Taninthayi Region will go to Thailand from 13 to 14 October to discuss the tourism possibilities.

“There are many popular tourists sites in the Taninthayi Region and Thailand tourism entrepreneurs are interested in the Myeik region”, said a tourism entrepreneur.

Currently, both Myanmar and Thai people use a temporary border pass to enter the countries. Tourism development can create more job opportunist for local people.—GNLM ■

Myanmar attracts over 2 million tourists in eight months

MYANMAR attracted over 2 million tourists in the first eight months of this fiscal year, an increase of 22 per cent compared with the same period of last year, said Vice President U Henry Van Thio of the Central Committee for the Development of the National Tourism Industry.

The increase is due at least

in part to the new effort to promote culture-based tourism, by which tourists can observe the culture of ethnic peoples in Myanmar.

The country is blessed with natural scenery, eco-tourism sites and ancient archeological sites.

In 2016, tourist arrivals in

the country reached 2.9 million. This year, the government hopes to receive 3.5 million tourists.

Visitors from Thailand topped the list of foreign visitors from Asia, followed by those from China, Japan, South Korea, Singapore and Malaysia. Among western travelers, those from the United States were the most

numerous, followed by France, Germany, Italy and Spain, according to official statistics.

Meanwhile, the country is implementing eco-tourism, cultural tourism and community-based tourism in resource-rich areas with historic landscapes, rivers, lakes, beaches, islands and forests.—Zwe ■

Lawyer and Tears

FROM PAGE 8

Global consternation

The world was shocked and dismayed.

“We have absolutely no fear for international inspection and pressure.”

(Daw Aung San Suu Kyi)

The gritty speech of State Counsellor has overwhelmed the world. The world pays more attention, thinks deeper in the case, judgement they make who are real victims. Slew of supports by both outside and inside rallies. No flaunting, no exaggeration! But the jealous denigrates... the pessimists castigate.

People who can contain anger

1. I am also angry when I am attacked. Action calls for reaction. If he blows I will blow back. Everybody has fighting spirit. How you fare?
2. However, we should not go

wild, intense and foolhardy in retaliation; try to collect yourself, must be prudent.

3. We should manifest our straightforwardness, truthfulness and firmness in this regard. Entertain the peace-loving mentality together with the people. It is time to consider the background history of Rakhine State, people’s regard on this issue and good and bad legacies. We should approach the crisis from different angles and from different views. We must discuss. Stay united in oneness.

4. Let the world hear justice. Let the world know the truth. Myanmar is cultured people, never pursue the path of wrath without control. This is Myanmar’s identity. United Nations, a legally-bound organization must observe the law. Does UN take side, turn the blind eye on terrorist’s atrocities in Rakhine.

What to do?

The name of the terrorists will be sent to Bangladesh government, INTERPOL and UN to be able to take action according to the law. Moreover

Retain the culture

Ethnic people such as Mro, Dagnet had to flee their residents, their villages. Resettlement program and programs to retain the culture of the ethnics will be carried out immediately. Will seek the advice from UN-HABITAT, will have to accept repatriates under 1993 agreement, all in compliance with the law. There might be confidential program in combating the terrorism. With method, with system, with policy, with strategy, and with law.

People in consolidated unity

1. This is the time to get in one voice.
2. This is the time to get completely united.
3. This is the time to set the disagreement and misunder-

standing aside.

4. This is the time to avoid mutual recrimination.
5. This is the time not to get ablaze with fury.
6. This is the time not to instigate to a riot.
7. Don’t make mistake.
8. To be knowledgeable and understand.
9. Try to get the best result out of the messy issue.
10. To be dignified Myanmar in the world.

Rallies across the country in support of the explicit speech and gritty performance of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi regarding the Rakhine Issue are the undeniable testimony of the consolidated backing of the whole people.

Read more the news papers

Read more newspapers, listen more radio news and watch more news on television. Better to extend your reading to news in English language in addition to reading news in Myanmar. Take helps from those who are good at English if you are weak in

English. Only then you can know the world. We once fell in trouble as we lack world knowledge. We should chalk the failures up to experience. The world is wide, Myanmar should not be lagged behind. Myanmar will always be an eternal entity in the world. To not forget, to not be careless, to strive more....I believe like this.

Lawyer and tears

1. I am a lawyer.
2. As I am a lawyer, I have to plead against terrorists at the court of justice.
3. I have to define what is right and what is wrong and take side on the right. Make a clear cut decision. Don’t get astride on the fence.
4. The photo of Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye wiping the tears of Hindus drove me into utter desolation. My heart beat heavily.
5. I could control my anger, but ... tears rolling down on my cheek.

Translate by
Khin Maung Win

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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

Notice to the public from Ministry of Planning and Finance and Central Bank of Myanmar

Some unknowing people in the public were learnt to have incurred financial losses from unauthorized financial services and stock & share trading services. Similar conducts were made in the year 2002 and 2003.

Financial services in Republic of Union of Myanmar are permitted according to the following laws.

Financial service type	Governing Law	Authorizing and monitoring entity	Note
Banking	Central Bank of Myanmar Law Financial Institutions Law	Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM)	4 government banks and 24 public banks. A total of 28 banks
Financial service company	Central Bank of Myanmar Law Financial Institutions Law	Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM)	Total of 15 companies
Microfinance service	Microfinance Business Law	Financial Regulatory Department (FRD)	Total of 168 service provider
Security trading company	Securities and Exchange Law	Security Exchange Commission of Myanmar (SECM)	Total of 6 security trading companies
Insurance company	Insurance Business Law	Insurance Business Regulatory Board	1 government and 11 public totaling 12 insurance companies

Only registered public companies can buy and sell their shares to the public. Shares of listed public companies registered in Yangon Stock Exchange can be traded through Security Trading companies in Yangon Stock Exchange. Investor who wanted to buy, sell and trade shares of listed public companies in Yangon Stock Exchange individually or in a group could do

so through Security Trading companies.

Only government banks, private banks and microfinance service provider with permission from Ministry of Planning and Finance and financial service companies and mobile payment companies with permission from Central Bank can make loan, accept deposit and provide money transfer services.

As such the public is notified to avoid contacting financial service companies that do not have a proper permit and companies that are not permitted to sell shares.

Be aware of high interest payments, high profit shares and attraction provided by multi-level marketing type incentives. — Ministry of Planning and Finance and Central Bank of Myanmar

Imports of High-Quality Insecticides Discussed

Ko Moe

LARGER quantities of safe, high-quality insecticide needs to be systematically imported into Myanmar in order for the country's agricultural sector to flourish in global markets, an agricultural official said yesterday.

Daw Khin Lay San, assistant director of plant protection division under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, said that there is currently only one factory

that produces insecticide in the country. High-quality insecticide needs to be used by more farmers in order to increase the quantity and quality of their harvests, she said.

"Insecticides are essential for growing crops. They should be utilised systematically. As green grams purchased from Japan were found to have been contaminated with insecticides, the export of the pulses was rejected from the other side, leading to the destruction of the market for Myanmar's

pulses in Taiwan," Daw Khin Lay San said at the CPD Seminar on the Related Regulation and Procedure of Customs Formality, under the Programme of Continuous Professional Development, held yesterday at the Yangon offices of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI).

Being an agro-based economy, Myanmar should be importing more agricultural insecticides from abroad, she said.

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Head of service organisations transferred, confirmed and appointed

1. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred the following persons as heads of service organisations shown against each from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(1) Dr Nyunt Pe Rector University of Patheingyi Ministry of Education	Director-General Survey Assessment Advocacy Group (Education) Ministry of Education
(2) Dr Tin Maung Tun Rector University of Sittway Ministry of Education	Rector West Yangon University Ministry of Education
(3) Dr Tin Maung Hla Rector Mandalay University of Distance Education Ministry of Education	Rector Yangon University of Distance Education Ministry of Education
(4) Dr Win Naing Rector University of Monywa Ministry of Education	Rector Dagon University Ministry of Education
(5) Dr Thura Oo Rector University of Sagaing Ministry of Education	Rector University of Monywa Ministry of Education
(6) U Min Thu Director-General Revenue Appellate Tribunal Department Ministry of Planning and Finance	Managing Director Myanma Agricultural Development Bank Ministry of Planning and Finance

2. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the following persons as heads of service organisations shown against each on the expiry of one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(1) U Thein Oo	Director-General Correctional Department Ministry of Home Affairs
(2) U Zaw Aung	Director-General Oil and Natural Gas Planning Department Ministry of Electricity and Energy

3. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Hla Htay, Head of chairperson office (Deputy Director-General) of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, as Director-General of the same department, on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.—Myanmar News Agency

H.E. U Ko Ko Shein Presents Credentials to President of Russia

U Ko Ko Shein, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Russian Federation, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, President of the Russian Federation on 3 October 2017, in Moscow.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Afghan-Pakistan border villages brace for Berlin Wall-style divide

CHAMAN/QUETTA, Pakistan — Thousands of Pashtun tribal people who for decades ignored the invisible line that bisects their dusty villages and demarcates the Afghanistan-Pakistan frontier are bracing for a Berlin Wall-style divide of their neighbourhoods.

Pakistan, worried by Islamist attacks, is building a fence to prevent militants criss-crossing the porous 2,500 km (1,500 mile) frontier along the disputed colonial-era Durand line drawn up by the British in 1893.

The fence, which Kabul opposes, will run down the middle of so-called “divided villages” where few people have passports and Pashtun tribal loyalty often trumps allegiance to the state.

Seven such villages are dotted around Chaman district, home to the bustling border-crossing town of Chaman in Pakistan’s southwestern province of Baluchistan. Other divided villages are believed to exist further north in the restive Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA).

Pakistani officials in Bal-



Pakistani soldiers keep guard as citizens return from Afghanistan at the border-crossing town of Chaman, Pakistan on 5 October, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

uchistan are now working on shifting Pakistani citizens in the divided villages to their side of the fence and say security worries override concerns that it will break up communities.

“(A border wall) was there in Germany, it is in Mexico. It

is all over the world – why not in Afghanistan and Pakistan?” said Col Muhammad Usman, commander of Pakistan’s Frontier Corps paramilitary force in Chaman.

“These tribals have to understand that this is Pakistan

and that place is Afghanistan.”

Yet scepticism about the fence abounds. Pakistan’s previous attempts to build one failed about a decade ago and many doubt whether its possible to secure such a lengthy border.

—Reuters ■

UAE: Qatar must shun “extremism” to host 2022 World Cup

DUBAI — A senior United Arab Emirates official said Qatar’s hosting of the 2022 World Cup should depend on it rejecting “extremism and terrorism”, in comments drawing the soccer tournament into in the worst diplomatic row between rich Gulf monarchies in years.

The UAE, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain severed diplomatic, trade and travel ties with Qatar in June, accusing it of sponsoring hardline Islamist groups, a charge Doha denies. Egypt, the Arab world’s most populous state, also joined the boycott.

Kuwaiti and US attempts to ease the row have yielded little progress and media outlets backed by the opposing sides have unleashed a war of words that has aggravated tensions in the US-allied Gulf.

“Qatar’s hosting of World Cup 2022 should include a repudiation of policies supporting extremism & terrorism. Doha should review its record,” UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash wrote on Twitter.—Reuters ■

Hundreds of suspected Islamic State militants surrendered to Kurdish authorities last week — Kurdish official

ERBIL, Iraq — Several hundred suspected Islamic State militants surrendered last week to Kurdish authorities in northern Iraq, a Kurdish security official told Reuters on Tuesday.

The suspects are part of a group of men who fled toward Kurdish-held lines when Iraqi forces captured Hawija, the last

stronghold of the militants in northern Iraq.

“Approximately 1,000 men surrendered over the last week. Not all, however, are terrorists,” said the official, referring to Islamic State members. “It’s fair to say hundreds probably are ISIS members, but that will be clear after the debriefs.” —Reuters ■



Kurdish Peshmerga forces detain men suspected of being Islamic State militants southwest of Kirkuk, Iraq on 9 October, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Zimbabwe’s Mugabe creates cyber ministry in cabinet reshuffle

HARARE — Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe moved Patrick Chinamasa from the finance ministry on Monday to lead a new cyber security ministry that will focus on crimes on social media and other websites ahead of an election due next year. Chinamasa will be replaced at the treasury by Home Affairs Minister Ignatius Chombo in a cabinet reshuffle that also diminished the role of Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa, seen as a potential successor to Mugabe.

Chombo’s move, announced in a government statement, comes against the backdrop of a severe hard currency shortage that has dealt a fresh blow to confidence and investment in the southern African economy, which uses the US dollar.

Chinamasa was appointed finance minister after Mugabe’s re-election in 2013 and his move to head the new Ministry of Cyber Security, Threat Detection

and Mitigation was unexpected.

Its creation comes after Chinamasa said last month the government would now treat social media as a security threat after accusing users of spreading rumours about shortages of basic goods, which caused panic buying and price increases.

The government has been uneasy with social media after activists such as pastor Evan Mawararire and his #ThisFlag movement last year used social media to organise a stay-at-home demonstration, the biggest anti-government protest in a decade. Government critics took to Twitter deriding Chinamasa as new “minister of Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp affairs”.

Chinamasa, a lawyer by training, will also be responsible for bringing to parliament a long awaited cyber crimes bill that criminalise false information posted on the internet, revenge porn, cyber-bullying and online activity against the government.

Meanwhile Chombo, who does not have a finance background and is a staunch Mugabe supporter who comes from the 93-year-old leader’s rural home district, was the surprise pick for minister of finance.

He will have to contend with a serious shortage of foreign currency that has seen US dollar bank balances lose value against cash dollars, fanning a thriving black market.

The worthless Zimbabwe dollar was replaced by the US dollar in 2009 but the economy has struggled over the past 18 months because of a massive domestic shortage of greenbacks. As a result, cash, especially crisp, new, \$100 bills, has enjoyed a steady 10 per cent to 20 per cent premium over dollars stored electronically in bank accounts — nicknamed “zollars” — meaning people have to transfer more than face value to the person selling the dollars on the black market.—Reuters ■

Thai junta sets firm date for election after many false starts

BANGKOK — Thailand will hold a general election in November 2018, Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said on Tuesday, the most precise date he has given yet for the vote since taking power in a 2014 military coup.

Prayuth, head of the ruling junta, said the exact date would be announced in June 2018. The junta has announced election dates at least two times in the past, only to push them back later, citing concerns such as changes to the constitution and security issues.

“Around June we will announce the date for the next election,” Prayuth told reporters at Bangkok’s Government House.

“In November we will have an election.”

Former army chief Prayuth, who led the May 2014 coup widely criticized by Western nations, said it was necessary to end a decade of political turbulence and root out corruption.

In April, King Maha Vajiralongkorn signed into law a military-backed constitution that kickstarts the process for an election the junta has promised will restore democracy.

The new charter provides for a proportional voting system likely to reduce the influence of major political parties, which critics say aims to strengthen the role



Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha. PHOTO: REUTERS

of the military.

Analysts expect political activities to resume slowly after the funeral of King Bhumibol Adulyadej this month ends a year of mourning for a monarch many Thais saw as a father figure.

“Prayuth wants to delay the election but he knows that after the king’s cremation, there will be pressure for an election,” said Kan Yuenyong of the Siam Intelligence Unit think tank.

“This announcement for the election in November next year will act to reduce that pressure, because if not, there could be chances for protests,” he told Reuters. Thailand’s main stock index rose 0.7 per cent after the news, having opened on Tuesday down 0.3 per cent.

The government has faced increasing pressure to lift a ban on political activities levied soon after the coup.

Prayuth will consider lifting the ban “at an appropriate time”, he told reporters, without giving details.

The junta had initially promised an election in 2015, after seizing power from the government of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, sister of Thaksin Shinawatra.

Thaksin’s governments, or those backed by him, have won every election since 2001, partly because of their overwhelming popularity with politically-powerful rural voters. But the Shinawatras made enemies, including those among the military-backed es-

tablishment who accused Thaksin and his allies of corruption. Thaksin was ousted in 2006 and lives abroad in self-imposed exile. Yingluck followed suit in August, when she fled Thailand ahead of the verdict in a criminal case.

Some politicians expressed skepticism over the election date.

“It isn’t really believable, because they have changed it many times,” said Chaturon Chaisang, a member of Thaksin’s Puea Thai Party.

Ong-art Klampai-boon, deputy leader of the Democrat Party, Puea Thai’s biggest competitor, welcomed the news.

“The election date creates clarity,” Ong-art said. “This should be good for the country and the people.”—Reuters ■

Moscow gives green light to CNN International broadcasting in Russia

MOSCOW — Russia said on Tuesday it had dropped accusations against CNN International of violating Russian media law and the US channel could continue broadcasting in Russia. The head of broadcasting regulator Roskomnadzor, Alexander Zharov, said the issue was resolved after CNN agreed to rectify details of its Russian licence shown

onscreen during broadcasts, the Interfax news agency reported. He gave no details.

CNN said it did not plan to make any comment on the matter. The regulator had raised the accusations in September, a day after the Russian foreign ministry accused Washington of putting unwarranted pressure on the US oper-

ations of Kremlin-backed media outlet RT. Zharov at the time gave no detail of the exact nature of the dispute; but he said when the accusations were raised that Russia was not motivated by any political considerations.

“Claims against CNN have been dropped, the channel will continue working in Russia, but Roskomnadzor will con-

tinue monitoring the compliance of the American company’s activities with Russia’s legislation,” Interfax cited Zharov as saying. President Vladimir Putin told a Security Council meeting last month that Russian media outlets working abroad were facing “growing and unacceptable pressure”. —Reuters ■

Catalonia nears possible independence proclamation despite Madrid warnings

BARCELONA — Police tightened security at Catalonia’s parliament on Tuesday as regional leader Carles Puigdemont prepared to address a session that may unilaterally declare independence from Spain despite Madrid’s warnings of counter-measures.

Puigdemont, a 54-year-old former journalist, was holding a cabinet meeting on Tuesday morning to decide how to press an independence drive that has stirred powerful emotions in the region and raised concern in European Union partner states.

Catalan police armed with automatic rifles stood guard at Barcelona’s Parc de la Ciutadella which houses the elegant 18th century building. Spanish national police, decried by separatists over their use of force at an 1 October referendum, were not to be seen. A declaration of independence would deepen Spain’s biggest political crisis since an attempted

military coup in 1981 and would almost certainly draw tough counter-measures from Madrid, possibly including suspension of the regional government.

Pro-independence demonstrators were due to gather before the parliament building under the slogan “Hello Republic” to mark Puigdemont’s speech at 6 pm (1600 GMT).

Hundreds of thousands of people demonstrated against breaking away in Barcelona at the weekend, bearing red-yellow Spanish flags through the city centre. That rally fell a week after some 900 people were injured when police fired rubber bullets and stormed crowds with truncheons to disrupt a referendum ruled illegal in Madrid. Puigdemont has said he is determined to apply a law passed by the Catalan assembly which called for a declaration of independence within days if Catalans voted in favour in the 1 October referendum.—Reuters ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV SHAHR E KORD VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SHAHR E KORD VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Russia's formidable S-400 Triumph air defence missile system

MOSCOW — Russia's Federal Service for Military and Technical Cooperation reported on 9 October, 2017 that Moscow and Riyadh had reached an agreement on the delivery of S-400 air defence missile systems and other armaments to Saudi Arabia.

The S-400 Triumph (NATO reporting name: SA-21 Growler) is a Russian long-and-medium-range air defense missile system. It is designed to destroy air attack and reconnaissance means (including stealth aircraft) and any other aerial targets amid intensive counter-fire and jamming.

Development and entry into service

The work on the conceptual design of the point air defense missile system initially designated as the S-300PM3 was launched by the Almaz research and production association (currently the Almaz research and production association named after Academician Alexander Raspletin, Moscow) in the mid-1980s under the supervision of Chief Designer Alexander Lemansky. This work was intensified in the late 1990s and on February 12, 1999 the system was demonstrated for the first time at the Kapustin Yar practice range (the Astrakhan Region) to then-Defence Minister Igor Sergeev. The trials of the most advanced air defence missile system were carried out in the 2000s.

On 28 April, 2007, the S-400 went into service



S-400 Triumph air defence missile systems. PHOTO:TASS

and the first battalion of the newest surface-to-air missile systems assumed combat duty on August 6 that year in the town of Elektrostal (the Moscow Region). Six weeks later, On 27 September, 2007, the Triumph's developer, Alexander Lemansky who saw the launch of his missile system into serial production, died at the Kapustin Yar practice range. The system's first live-fire exercises were successfully carried out at the Kapustin Yar practice range in 2011.

The S-400 is based on the S-300PMU2 air defence missile complex. It differs from its predecessors by its extended combat range and the capability of using new surface-to-air missile systems. It is capable of detecting and destroying low-observable (stealth) and fast-moving aerial

targets.

S-400 system and its integral parts

The S-400 Triumph comprises the following:

- a combat control post;
- a three-coordinate jam-resistant phased array radar to detect aerial targets;
- six-eight air defence missile complexes (with up to 12 transporter-launchers, and also a multifunctional four-coordinate illumination and detection radar);
- a technical support system;
- missile transporting vehicles;
- a training simulator.

The S-400 system can also additionally include an all-altitude radar (detector) and movable towers for an

antenna post. All the S-400's means are mounted on the wheeled all-terrain chassis (produced by the Minsk Wheeled Tractor Factory and the Bryansk Automobile Enterprise) and can be transported by rail, water and air transport.

The S-400 can selectively operate with the use of no less than 5 missile types of various takeoff weights and launch ranges to create a layered air defense zone.

The S-400 is also capable of exercising control of other air defence missile systems (the Tor-M1, the Pantsyr-S1), providing highly effective air defense even amid a mass air attack with the use of electronic warfare means.

Technical characteristics

- target detection

range - up to 600 km;

- aerodynamic target kill range — from 3 to 250 km;

- tactical ballistic missile destruction range — from 5 to 60 km;

- target destruction altitude— from 2 to 27 km;

- engageable target velocity — up to 17,300 km/h;

- the number of targets engaged at a time — up to 36 (up to six with one air defense missile complex);

- the number of simultaneously guided missiles — 72;

- the time of the system's deployment from its march position — 5-10 min, the time of making the system combat ready from the deployed position — 3 min;

- the operational service life of ground-based systems — no less than 20 years, air defence missiles — no less than 15 years;

Russian Aerospace Force Deputy Commander-in-Chief Viktor Gumyonny said on 8 April, 2017 that missiles capable of "destroying targets in outer space, at long distances and large speeds" had started arriving for S-400 systems.

S-400 systems on combat duty in the Russian Armed Forces

According to public sources, 19 regiments armed with S-400 complexes were on combat duty in the Russian Armed Forces as of April 2017. Overall, these regiments included a total of 38 battalions and 304 launchers in Elektrostal, Dmitrov, Zvenigorod, Kurilovo (Moscow Region), Nakhodka (the Primorye Territory), Kaliningrad, Novorossiysk (the Krasnodar Territory), Polyarny (the Murmansk Region), Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky (the Kamchatka Territory), Novosibirsk, Vladivostok, Sevastopol and other places. The state armament program envisages the arrival of 56 S-400 battalions for troops by 2020, which will make it possible to rearm 28 two-battalion air defense missile regiments.

A battalion of Triumph surface-to-air missile systems was deployed on November 25, 2015 from the Moscow Region to Syria's Hmeymim air base accommodating the Russian air task force. Later on, according to media reports, another S-400 battalion was deployed in the Syrian province of Hama.—Tass ■



MYANMAR INVESTORS
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Invitation to Local Companies and Contractors

The Myanmar Investors Development Association (MIDA) members' public companies are implementing projects which are likely to provide opportunities for Infrastructure works, Land Development, Road & Bridge Construction and Building Construction works. Those companies and contractors who are interested in partaking in those activities are invited to contact the MIDA (5th Floor, Co-operative Business Centre, Corner of New University Avenue & Saya San Road, Bahan Township 11201, Yangon, Myanmar). To access the official invitation document, please visit MIDA

Website : www.myanmarida.com

Office of the MIDA

Date : 11 / 10 / 2017



Shania Twain back on top, Tom Petty re-enters US charts

LOS ANGELES —

Shania Twain's first studio album in 15 years debuted at the top of the Billboard album charts, while rocker Tom Petty's death sent his music soaring back onto the US charts. Twain's album "Now" sold more than 137,000 copies in its first week, according to data on Monday from Nielsen SoundScan, almost double new releases by pop singers Demi Lovato and Miley Cyrus. Petty's "Greatest Hits" album with his band The Heartbreakers, first released in 1993, sold some 83,000 units to take the No 2 spot on the Billboard 200 a week after the "American Girl" singer died at age 66. The Billboard 200 chart

tallies units from album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album). Canadian country-pop crossover Twain, 52, released "Now" after several years away from the studio following a struggle with Lyme disease and a tough divorce.

Lovato's "Tell Me You Love Me" bowed at No 3 with 73,000 in sales, while Cyrus's change of direction to a more folksy style with "Younger" debuted in fifth place with some 45,000 units sold. It was also a good week for Beyonce and fundraising for hurricane and earthquake disasters. The R&B singer's remix of Spanish-language hit "Mi Gente" took the top spot on the digital songs chart, which measures online single sales.—Reuters ■

Singer and songwriter Tom Petty. PHOTO: REUTERS

Shania Twain. PHOTO: REUTERS

Investors boo cinema stocks after 'Blade Runner 2049' underwhelms

SAN FRANCISCO — Shares of cinema stocks dropped on Monday after domestic opening weekend ticket sales for science fiction sequel "Blade Runner 2049" fell short of expectations, the latest disappointment following an underwhelming US summer movie season.

AMC Entertainment Holdings Inc, Regal Entertainment Group and Cinemark Holdings Inc were all down, with price target cuts by Wedbush Securities analyst Michael Pachter also weighing on the shares.

Third-quarter domestic box office sales would be lower than previously expected, Pachter said in a report, "as several titles in the summer release slate failed to resonate with moviegoers."

AMC fell 7.7 per cent to \$14.02, Regal Entertainment was down 4.4 per cent at \$16.04 and Cinemark lost 3.53 per cent

to \$36.35.

"Blade Runner 2049" starring Ryan Gosling and Harrison Ford pulled in \$33 million in North America, according to Warner Bros.

That compared to an expected range of \$45 million to \$50 million, despite positive reviews and the popularity of the original 1982 "Blade Runner," according to a report by Variety.com.

Other recent movies have fallen short of expectations, including "King Arthur: Legend of the Sword" and "Baywatch," in a slow US summer movie season that underscored the trend of more consumers watching entertainment online. Wedbush's Pachter cut his price target on AMC to \$20.50 from 22.75 and lowered his target for Regal Entertainment to \$19 from \$23. He cut his target for Cinemark to \$42 from \$44.—Reuters ■

'The Last Jedi' theatrical trailer debuts on Monday Night Football

LOS ANGELES — A new theatrical trailer for "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" debuted on Monday night during the halftime of an American football game between the Minnesota Vikings and the Chicago Bears.

Walt Disney, which owns the rights to the Star Wars franchise, used a similar tactic two years

ago when the third trailer for "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" was shown on ESPN'S Monday Night Football. The "Force Awakens" reunited the cast of the 1977 first film in the "Star Wars" series, Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher and Mark Hamill, and introduced a new generation of characters. The

film made more than \$2 billion (£1.5 billion) at the global box office.

The cast for "Last Jedi" includes "Force Awakens" members Daisy Ridley, John Boyega and Adam Driver. The new film is scheduled for release on 15 December, according to the trailer.—Reuters ■

Sylvester Stallone is directing 'Creed 2'

LOS ANGELES — Sylvester Stallone has announced that he will direct and produce "Creed 2", the eighth installment in the Rocky franchise.

The 2015 film, starring Stallone and Michael B Jordan, was a spin-off of the original boxing drama and was directed by Ryan Coogler.

It was a major draw at the box office and earned Stallone his third Oscar nomination in the Best Supporting Actor category. He was previously nomi-



Sylvester Stallone. PHOTO: REUTERS

nated in 1977 in the Best Original Screenplay and Best Actor categories for playing Rocky Balboa, a role that helped him become an international action star.

Along with a picture of himself with Jordan, Stallone wrote on Instagram, "Looking forward to directing and producing the

incredibly talented Michael B Jordan in CREED 2 next year... One more Round!"

In addition to playing Balboa, Stallone has written all the six films before "Creed". He has also directed "Rocky II", "Rocky III", "Rocky IV" and "Rocky VI".—PTI ■

Ronaldo and Messi lead the way on Ballon d'Or shortlist

PARIS—Cristiano Ronaldo is the favourite to retain the Ballon d'Or trophy as his Real Madrid side dominated the 30-man shortlist announced by France Football on Monday.

The 32-year-old, who helped Real win the Champions League and La Liga last season, is one of seven Real players on the list — the most from any team.

Should the Portugal forward triumph, he will equal the record of his great rival and five-times winner Lionel Messi of Barcelona, who is also nominated.

The only other Barca player in the running is Luis Suarez, while Paris St Germain's Neymar and Edinson Cavani are also included on the shortlist.

England striker Harry Kane

is among seven Premier League players nominated, alongside Liverpool's Philippe Coutinho and Sadio Mane, Manchester United's David de Gea, Chelsea's N'Golo Kante and Eden Hazard, and Manchester City's Kevin De Bruyne. Kylian Mbappe, 18, is the youngest player on the list following his close season move to PSG from Monaco.

The Ballon d'Or, which merged with the FIFA World Player of the Year award from 2010-15 to create the FIFA Ballon d'Or, returned to France Football magazine this year having been established in 1956. A panel of journalists picks the winner.—Reuters ■



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo. PHOTO: REUTERS

Shortlist:

Name	Club	Name	Club	Name	Club
Philippe Coutinho	Liverpool	Luka Modric	Real Madrid	Lionel Messi	Barcelona
Kevin De Bruyne	Man City	Neymar	PSG	Aubameyang	Borussia Dortmund
David de Gea	Man Utd	Jan Oblak	Atletico Madrid	Edinson Cavani	PSG
Paulo Dybala	Juventus	Sergio Ramos	Real Madrid	Mats Hummels	Bayern Munich
Edin Dzeko	Roma	Luis Suarez	Barcelona	Karim Benzema	Real Madrid
Harry Kane	Tottenham Hotspur	Antoine Griezmann	Atletico Madrid	Cristiano Ronaldo	Real Madrid
N'Golo Kante	Chelsea	Toni Kroos	Real Madrid	Eden Hazard	Chelsea
Robert Lewandowski	Bayern Munich	Gianluigi Buffon	Juventus	Leonardo Bonucci	AC Milan
Marcelo	Real Madrid	Sadio Mane	Liverpool	Isco	Real Madrid
Dries Mertens	Napoli	Radamel Falcao	Monaco	Kylian Mbappe	PSG

Argentina 'deserve' to go to Russia, says Sampaoli

GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador — Argentina need a win in Ecuador on Tuesday to guarantee at least a playoff place for the World Cup finals but coach Jorge Sampaoli says his side fully deserve to be in Russia next year despite their underwhelming qualifying campaign.

Argentina, who reached the final three years ago in Brazil, lie in sixth place in the 10-team South American group, currently outside the qualifying places for Russia.

The top four qualify automatically and the fifth-placed side go into an intercontinental playoff against Oceania winners New Zealand.

"Argentina has shown the personality to demonstrate what it is, superior to the rest," Sampaoli said in Ecuador on Monday.

"I hope we qualify because, looking beyond the numbers, Argentina deserves it."

Argentina, who have won the World Cup twice, have taken just three points in their last four games. A win would guarantee Argentina at least fifth place but a draw might be enough to take



Argentina's coach, Jorge Sampaoli. PHOTO: REUTERS

them into the top four depending on results elsewhere.

Brazil have qualified already and Uruguay are almost certain to join them. Colombia, Peru, Paraguay, Argentina and Chile are all fighting for the remaining spots.

Sampaoli, who took over in June and has yet to record a competitive win, has not named

his side for the match but Lionel Messi is sure to start.

"If we are up to Messi's standards in tomorrow's game then we'll be alright," Sampaoli said.

Argentina have beaten Ecuador only once in a World Cup qualifier in Quito, where the high altitude makes life difficult for visiting teams.—Reuters ■

Giroud scorpion kick shortlisted for FIFA goal award

LONDON-- Olivier Giroud's scorpion kick strike for Arsenal against Crystal Palace last season was shortlisted for FIFA's goal of the year award on Monday, alongside efforts from Venezuelan teenager Deyna Castellanos and goalkeeper Oscarine Masuluke.

Giroud scored with an improvised volley in the Premier League match on 1 January, producing an acrobatic flick with his left heel to convert Alexis Sanchez's cross into the net off the crossbar while tumbling forward.

Arsenal won the match 2-0 and Giroud, who admitted afterwards that he had a bit of luck with his connection, said it was

the best goal he had ever scored.

The 31-year-old is the seventh Frenchman to be nominated for the award but the first to make the final shortlist of three, world soccer's governing body said on its website. (www.fifa.com)

Castellanos is the second Venezuelan woman in successive years to make the final three and was nominated for her strike from the halfway line against Cameroon at the U-17 Women's World Cup in Jordan last year.

The 18-year-old follows in the footsteps of compatriot Daniuska Rodriguez, whose goal made the final three for last year's award but lost out to Malaysian Mohd Faiz Subri's spectacular 35-metre, swerving free-kick.—Reuters ■

Sugita moves up 4 spots to personal-best 36th in world rankings

TOKYO — Yuichi Sugita climbed to a personal-best 36th in the world rankings released Monday, while fellow Japanese Kei Nishikori, who is out for the season with a right-wrist injury, remained in 14th.

Sugita, 29, reached the Japan Open quarterfinals last week to improve his ranking.

Nishikori, who has been out since mid-August, has stood at 14th since 11 September. He is scheduled to play at the New York Open and the Mexico Open in February.

Rafael Nadal stayed atop the rankings, while Roger Federer was second and Andy Murray third.—Kyodo News ■

2017 region and state U-25 table tennis competition held

The 2017 region and state under-25 single table tennis competition was held yesterday at Wunna Theikdi Stadium (C) in Nay Pyi Taw.

Table tennis, also known as ping pong, is a sport in which two or four players hit a lightweight ball back and forth across a table using a small bat. The game takes place on a hard table divided by a net. Except for the initial serve, the rules are generally as follows: players must allow a ball played toward them to bounce one time on their side of the table, and must return it so that it bounces on the opposite side at least once. A point is scored when a player fails to return the ball within the rules. Play is fast and demands quick reactions. Spinning the ball alters its trajectory and limits an opponent's options, giving the hitter a great advantage.

The winners of the state and region male and female singles



A table tennis player, poised his bat to serve the ball at a competition in Wunna Theikdi Stadium, Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: PSED**

under-25 table tennis competitions were Nan Sat Wah (Yangon), who received the top prize and Khin Myo Myat (Mon), who received the second prize. Wai

Wai Aung (Mandalay) and Yoon Lae Phyo (Mandalay) shared the third prize.

The male singles quarterfinal competitions and male and

female group competitions will be held today at Wunna Theikdi Stadium (C). Admission is free. —Public Sports and Education Department ■

Myanmar U-19 football team in Japan preparing for AFC U-19 Championship

Kyaw Zin Tun

THE Myanmar national U-19 football team left for Japan yesterday evening to train for the qualification matches of the Asia U-19 Championship.

The Myanmar U-19 football team will play three friendlies during this training period. They will play against Hana University football team on 15 October, Gamba Osaka U-18 football team on 18 October and Hanna Youth football team on 20 October.

The team will then go for Cambodia to play the qualification matches against the Philippines on 24 October, Cambodia on 26 October and China on 28 October in Group G of the 2018 AFC U-19 Champion qualification.

Forty-three teams are involved in qualification and divided 10 groups, from Group A to Group J. All the qualification matches will played from 24 October to 8 November in 10 host countries. A total of 16 teams including the host Indonesia will advance to the AFC U-19 Championship, which will be held from 18 October to 4 November, 2018. ■

Struggling Italy head for playoffs after win over Albania

SHKODER, (Albania) — Italy battled to a 1-0 win over Albania on Monday with a late Antonio Candreva goal as the struggling Group G runners-up head for the playoffs in a bid to reach next year's World Cup.

The four-times world champions had already clinched a playoff spot by finishing second behind group winners Spain, but, after a humiliating 1-1 draw at home to Macedonia on Friday,

they were under pressure to perform in Albania.

Italy squandered several good chances until Candreva, unmarked to the left side of goalkeeper Etrit Berisha, was found with a ball across the area from Leonardo Spinazzola and fired home a powerful shot to give Italy the victory.

"We played a great game, were united in our play and we brought the victory home," said

midfielder Lorenzo Insigne. "Today we sought the victory at all costs and we managed to win. We gave everything and showed that Italy never gives up".

Struggling Italy face a two-legged playoff against one of the other eight best runners-up from the European qualifying campaign to secure a place at next year's finals in Russia.

Under-fire Italy coach Gian Piero Ventura told reporters: "In

the November playoffs, I hope they (the team) are in better health, I hope we can get back some of the (injured) players."

Third-placed Albania were eager to show they had improved over the last few years thanks to coaching from Italians. Their current manager Christian Panucci, a former Italy international, spurred his side to attack against his compatriots. —Reuters ■

Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan Republic draw 2-2

Kyaw Zin Tun

MYANMAR and Kyrgyzstan played to a draw yesterday in a Group A football match of the 2019 Asia Championship qualification held at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

Myanmar lined up with Thiha Sithu (GK), Win Min Htut, Zaw Min Htun, David Htan, Yan Aung Kyaw, Tin Win Aung, Aung Thu, Kyaw Ko Ko, Yan Naing Oo, Si Thu Aung and Thein Than Win.

Kyrgyzstan's team consisted of Matiash Pavel (GK), Kichin Valerii, Tamirlan Kozubaev, Maier Viktor, Baimatov Azamat, Edgar Bernhardt, Avazbek Ot-

keev, Lux Vitalij, Duishobekov Baktyiar, Musabekov Farkhat and Zemlianukin Anton.

The opening goal for Kyrgyzstan was scored by Anton from a penalty at the nine-minute mark. The second goal was scored by Maier at the four-minute mark of the second half.

The first goal for Myanmar was scored by Aung Thu at 52 minutes, and the equalizer was scored by Kyaw Ko Ko at the 90-plus-three minute mark.

So far, Myanmar stands in second place after playing three games. Myanmar will play India on 14 November in India. ■



Myanmar footballer David Htan (red) and Kyrgyzstan footballer Zemlianukin Anton (white) vie for ball at Thuwanna Stadium, Yangon. **PHOTO: MFF**