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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Monday, 16 October 2017



President U Htin Kyaw, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, diplomats and other participants pose for documentary photo. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

## NCA reaches 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary

CEREMONY in commemoration of 2nd Anniversary of the Signing of Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement was held at MICC-1 in Nay Pyi Taw at 10 am of 15 October.

Ceremony was attended by President U Htin Kyaw, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Vice-Presidents U Myint Swe and U Henry Van Thio, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw,

Mahn Win Khaing Than, Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Myo Nyunt, Chairman of Union Election Commission U Hla Thein, Deputy C-in-C of Defence Services, Commander in Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Deputy Speaker of Amyo-

tha Hluttaw, Chairman of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission, Union Ministers, Union Attorney-General, Chairman of Union Civil Service Board, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, Chairman of Myanmar National Human Right Commission, Chairman of Anti-Corruption Commission, Chief Ministers of Regions and States, Chief of Gen-

eral Staff (Army, Navy, Air), Army Officials from C-in-C (Army) office, Chairman of Hluttaw Affairs Committee, Commanders, Deputy Ministers, representatives from political parties, witnesses of NCA Signing, members of UPDJC, committee members of JMC-U, signatories of Ethnic Armed Organizations, diplomats, representatives from international organizations, businessmen

and invited guests. In the event, Chairman of National Reconciliation and Peace Center, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivered an opening speech.

(State Counsellor's speech is reported separately)

Then, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing gave a speech.

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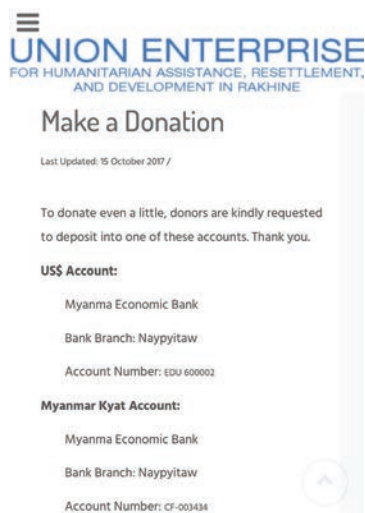


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# UEHRD launches internet website



The internet webpage of Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine-UEHRD chaired by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was released yesterday.

The name of the page is <http://rakhine.unionenterprise.org/>. At that website, bank accounts are also mentioned for those who want to make donation for the affairs in Rakhine.

The three tasks will be per-

formed in the plan.

- (1) Effective provision of proper repatriation of the refugees from Myanmar
- (2) Relief and resettlement.
- (3) Sustainable development of the region that is free from conflicts.

The plan of UEHRD is to invite local and foreign organisations together with government in its functions and

to partake in multiple sectors.

The plan requests the involvement of all public, local Civil Society Organisations (CSO) and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) and businessmen all nations that will offer aids for the development of Rakhine State, United Nations Agencies, World Bank, ADB, Nippon Foundations and International Non-Government Organisations.—Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi having a nice chat at the UEHRD dinner in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

## State Counsellor hosts UEHRD dinner

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as the Chairperson of the National Reconciliation and Peace Center hosted a dinner on behalf of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine-UEHRD at Myanmar International Convention Centre-1 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

First, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi cordially greeted all the attendees, and later enjoyed the dinner together with them.

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than, Chairman of the Commission for the Assessment of Legal Affairs and Special Issues of Pyidaungsu

Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann, Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung, Union ministers, chief ministers and regions and states, the chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, leaders of the armed ethnic groups that signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement and entrepreneurs attended the dinner.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Thura U Shwe Mann receives United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs

Thura U Shwe Mann, Chairman of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission received Mr. Jeffery Feltman, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs of the United Nations and party at the Hluttaw Building Hall (I-1), Nay Pyi Taw on Sunday noon.

During the meeting, matters relating to world to have

right view on Myanmar regarding Rakhine affairs, the endeavour of the Government to gain peace and resolve the Rakhine affairs, the condition that can lead the United Nations and international organizations to cooperation with Myanmar and views of the UN upon Myanmar were discussed and exchanged.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with the UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi accepts cash donation to NRC Peace Fund. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Cash donation for peace process of Myanmar

A cash donation to NRC Peace Fund to carry out peace process of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was held at MICC-1 in Nay Pyi Taw on Sunday morning.

In the event, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

accepted Ks 5 million presented by Sakwe Emir Sao Sein Lin who lived in No. 158, Bogyoke road in Nyaung Shwe Haw Kone ward of Taunggyi and presented back certificate of honor to the Sakwe Emir.—Myanmar News Agency ■



# Political dialogues are the way forward

The following is the address delivered by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).

## NATIONWIDE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT

WE are gathered here today to mark an important event in history. Today, we celebrate the second anniversary of the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).

When our Government took over responsibility of the State in 2016, there were already some signatories to the NCA. Pursuant to the NCA, the Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee (JMC) was established. The JMC is tasked to coordinate the compliance of all signatories to the NCA. The NCA also established the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee-(UPDJC) which is responsible for drafting a framework for political dialogue and provides a necessary platform for this undertaking.

I am happy to report that we have successfully established in a systematic manner the monitoring mechanism both at the State and Local levels, while increasing the participation of civilians in the JMC. On political dialogue, we have successfully launched the Union Peace Conference-21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong which has brought about the agreement of 37 fundamental principles on Federalism signed as Part One of the Union Accord.

Despite criticism of the NCA, there has been noticeable progress. We have successfully decreased conflicts in the regions of the Ethnic Armed Organizations signatories and as a result, the socio-economic lives of the local people have significantly improved. It is our ethnic peoples who are enjoying the fruits of peace.

Although the JMC is not a perfect mechanism, the existence of the JMC alone is a step towards



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivering at the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the signing of NCA. PHOTO: MNA

the culture of negotiation to settle disputes among armed groups. We need to assess and reform the process of JMC and dispute settlement mechanisms on this second anniversary of the NCA.

On Political Dialogues, the UPDJC has successfully launched the Union Peace Conference - 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong with wider participation and inclusive of the various groups ie. Government, Parliament, Tatmadaw, Ethnic Armed Organisations, Political Parties, National Races representatives, stakeholders, and Civil Society Organisations.

## STOCK-TAKING

If we take stock of our post-independence history, you will see that we have experienced the Parliamentary era, Revolutionary Council era, Burma Socialist Programme Party era, State Law and Order Restoration Council/ State Peace and Development Council era, U Thein Sein Government

era and our current Government era. It is during our current era that political dialogue has been initiated and political agreements have been successfully negotiated. Based on the experiences and lessons learnt from the past, we strongly believe that political dialogues are the way forward. The current political dialogues, however, are still far from perfect. It needs the participation of all remaining ethnic armed organizations. After the second session of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong, the Government, ethnic armed organisations and political parties have respectively taken stock of these political dialogues and have agreed that there is a necessity to review these dialogues for enhanced engagement.

We also now have a more systematic approach regarding the NCA such as the monitoring and dispute settlement mechanisms. This said, there is still room for improvement and enhanced co-

ordination since this is our first experience. Although the political dialogue has been initiated for the first time in our history and political agreements have been reached, we still need to work together to achieve positive results based on our experiences.

## NON-SIGNATORIES

When the government initiated the peace process, some groups were still under negotiation and some had not accepted the NCA yet. For those non-signatory groups, we are ready to welcome them and look forward to initiate peace negotiations. Our political dialogues were aimed to achieve fundamental principles acceptable to all. Our government welcomes all non-signatory groups to participate in the process of formulating the principles towards a Democratic Federal Union in the future. In fact, the NCA is not an end in itself, but just the first step towards national

reconciliation in the country.

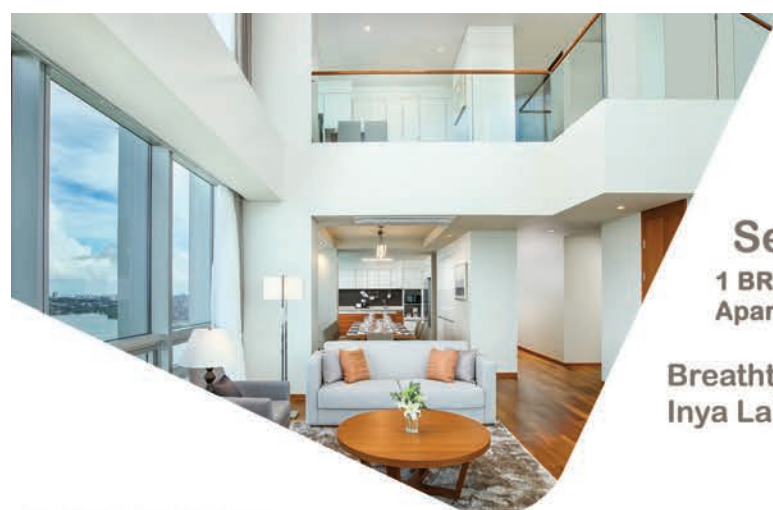
I would like to reiterate today that the NCA opens the door for political dialogues which will pave the way to the Union Peace Conference. Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my appreciation to everyone who made great efforts leading to the establishment of the NCA including former President U Thein Sein.

The previous government initiated the negotiations that led to the signing of the NCA. Our government proudly carries on this process. With full accountability, we have adapted the peace process to make the best of the existing circumstances after holding several discussions with the ethnic armed groups, political parties, civil society organizations and stakeholders who are deeply involved in the peace process. Our main objective is to achieve the age-old dreams of peace and national reconciliation of the people.

This is the second anniversary of the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement and we have held the second session of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong Peace Conference. We aim to conduct the third session of the Peace Conference this year and have started preparations. The Peace Conference will continue to discuss the unfinished fundamental principles on Federalism as raised at the 2<sup>nd</sup> session as well as to formulate new principles. We plan to hold two sessions of the Peace Conference in 2018.

At the upcoming sessions of the Peace Conference, I urge all of you to finalize all the fundamental principles on Federalism. Once we have agreed on the fundamental principles, we can continue to discuss and elaborate on their details.

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# Myanmar's trade with EU hit over US\$ 1billion in first five months of this FY

MYANMAR'S trade with members of European Union over past five months in current FY amounted to over US\$1 billion, comprising \$665 million worth of export and \$362 million worth of import, according to the statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce last Friday.

Since April, Germany was ranked first among EU countries having the largest trade value of \$254 million with Myanmar, followed by Britain at the second place with about \$145 million.

France was listed at the third place with trade

values of about \$140 million while Italy stood at the fourth place with estimated \$99 million and Myanmar's trade with the Netherlands reached about \$82 million.

Value of bilateral trade with Spain was about \$79 million while that with Belgium was \$71 million.

Trade values with Czech Republic, Greece, Cyprus, Sweden, Denmark, Poland, Finland, Bulgarian, Romania, Luxembourg, Austria, Hungary, Estonia, Ireland, Portugal and Malta was less than \$50 million each.

Beyond regional trade regime, Myanmar has es-

tablished trade links with EU member countries.

The country mainly exported rice, pulses, tea leaf, coffee, apparel from garment sector on Cut-Make-Pack basis and fish while cosmetic, food and beverages and consumer goods were imported into Myanmar.

Trade value with EU countries was about \$1.5 billion in FY 2016-2017, \$676 million in FY 2015-16, \$655 million in FY 2014-2015, \$553 million in FY 2013-2014, \$408 million in FY 2012-2013 and \$412 million in FY 2011-2012.

— Ko Htet ■

## Silk Air to fly more Singapore-Yangon flights instead of Scoot

SINGAPOREAN Silk air will take over flights to Yangon as Singapore Airline Group (SIA) budget airline Scoot will no longer fly to Yangon starting from 29 October, according to a report of Myawady Daily, yesterday.

At present, Scoot flies to Yangon five times a week. Silk Air under SIA group is currently operating 10 flights a week to Yangon and 3 flights a week to Mandalay. Silk air will increase its Yangon's flight times to 15 a week.

Silk Air will control over Scoot's Yangon flights which have already been booked. Details of new booking will be emailed to those who have already booked at Scoot. They will also refund money for those who want to cancel their booking. —GNLM ■

# Rice exports delayed due to stormy rains

**May Thet Hnin**

MYANMAR'S rice exports to foreign countries delayed due to stormy rains during these days, local wholesalers from Bayintnaung Market say.

This comes from the meeting between U Aung Htoo, Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Commerce, and the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) and Bayintnaung Wholesale Market on October 14.

U Than Oo, secretary of Bayintnaung Wholesale Center, said, "Rice production of farmers has been impeded by severe weather, with the result that the market sees the little inflow of rice as farmers can't harvest in time. There is a shortage of old rice in the market as the old rice is sold in advance before the harvest of new paddy."

He continued to say that more time is required to meet the current target to export three million bags of rice to foreign trade partners.

In the past, the Bayintnaung Market sold nearly 100,000 bags of rice per day. At the present time, it receives only around 20,000 bags of rice a day.

"About six export vessels arrived at the port to ship low quality rice to Africa and Bang-



An operating combine harvester is producing grains at a farm of Kangyidauk, Ayeyawady Region.

**PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

ladesh. Currently, it is difficult to export because of shortage of the product. It is likely to damage the country's image as other countries may make bad comments on Myanmar's market. However, rice production may reach the export target soon," said U Kyaw Oo, a domestic rice exporter.

The prices of rice increased suddenly by almost Ks1,000 per bag, with the traders suffering a loss of 10 per cent a bag, he added.

Efforts to seek the best

solutions for this problem will be made by the Commerce Ministry in cooperation with a committee including 11 members from the MRF beginning on October 15.

"Some exporters prolong the sale of rice at a high price, waiting for the prices to drop," said U Than Oo.

U Hla Win, rice grower from Labutta Township in Ayeyawady Region, said, "Growers are waiting for suitable time to harvest their rice because of rains. They hesitate to harvest

paddy due to consecutive rainfall. Currently, the market is facing scarcity of raw materials because of late harvesting, resulting in slight increase of rice prices in domestic market."

According to prediction of Meteorologist Dr Tun Lwin, there is likely to be a series of storms in South China Sea and Bay of Bengal before the end of this year. Storms mostly occur in October and November as the highest sea temperatures are typically reached during these months. ■



## Commerce Ministry allows export of live cattle starting this month

THE Ministry of Commerce has given the nod for exports of live cattle to foreign countries as of October 9 through its order No. 49/2017 issued on October 12.

The move is aimed at ensuring the emergence of official export market for live cattle as well as generating income and creating more employment opportunities for farmers and protecting their interests, according to the ministry's announcement.

U Khin Maung Lwin, assistant secretary of Ministry of Commerce, said that the main purposes are to raise the country's revenue income by officially export of live cattle, to ensure exports

of live cattle via official route.

He continued to say that working cattle which are still useful for the country's farming sector are restricted to be exported.

Systematic inspection will be carried out on the export of live farm animals.

Those wishing to export cattle have to carry out buying, collecting and transportation of the farm animals as well as veterinary physical examination in line with rules and regulations of the Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce and the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.—Shin Min ■

## Myanmar's foreign trade up by \$2.8 bln this FY

DESPITE a continued decline in border trade, the total external trade value between Myanmar and international countries as of 6 October went up by US\$2.864 billion than that of last year, the Ministry of Commerce reported on Friday.

Between 1 April and 6 October, the value of foreign trade exceeded \$16 bln, including over \$7 bln from the export and over \$9 bln from the import, with \$2.040 bln in trade deficit.

Eighty percent of Myanmar's exports were accommodated by sea ports. The country's external trade by sea rose by \$2.952 bln since April. However, its border trade decreased by \$87 million.

This time last FY, the country's exports were valued at \$5.9 bln while it import amounted to \$7.717 bln, resulting in a trade deficit of \$1.7 bln.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, livestock, fishery products, forest products, min-

erals, manufacturing and other products while capital goods, consumer goods and raw industrial products are imported into Myanmar.

Among the factors to blame for the trade deficit are increases in luxury imports. The trade authorities are putting concerted efforts to cut the trade deficit by promoting the country's export sector and seeking new markets and business links for local products.—Swe Nyein ■

## Export value increases by \$1.3 bln this year

THE export value of Myanmar with foreign countries totalled US\$7.232 billion as of October 6, an increase of \$1.3 million matched against the same period of last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce's latest report. This time last year, the country exported \$5.922 bln worth of a wide range of products to the

international trade partners.

Since this April, the country exported \$1.527 bln worth of agricultural products, \$8.265 million worth of animal products, \$303.395 mln worth of fisheries products, \$676.496 mln worth of mineral products, \$116.368 mln worth of forest products, \$3.333 bln worth of manufacturing goods

and others worth \$1.266 bln. This year, \$4.698 bln worth of products went to foreign countries through private sector while the government sector exported products worth \$2.533 bln. The country exported \$1.940 bln from government sector and \$3.981 bln from private sector to foreign buyers last fiscal year.—Shwe Khine ■

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For reservation: 01-9351053



# Conflicts must be resolved within democracy framework

The following is the address delivered by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the signing of NCA.

MAY all of you including State officials, members of the armed ethnic groups, distinguished guests from internal and international organizations and native ethnic brethren of the Union, attending this ceremony under single aspiration, enjoy peace of mind. Today is the second anniversary of the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA, whose aim involving the practical implementation of the entire nation's aspiration goes beyond the word "cease-fire."

National peace and stability is the primary requisite of the steadfast march on the multiparty democracy path in accordance with the public aspiration, the success of the democratic goals and national development endeavours. During the first term of the multiparty democracy system, the government's reforms prioritized the peace process to end ethnic armed conflicts. It took over four years to sign the NCA on 15 October 2015 as all the armed ethnic groups were invited to the peace negotiations on 18 August 2011. NCA was signed two years ago. Two-year period is not a significant time when compared with the nation's history. But it is a valuable length of time for emergency issues and matters that need immediate realization. Not only the people at this ceremony, but also the entire nation agree that peace overwhelms every sector of the country as it calls for urgent realization. Warming-up is an essential part to a sports event. We will face unnecessary failures if we enter a sports competition long after the warming up. We need quick action in implementing necessary tasks of NCA to enjoy the results and fruits of peace. The Tatmadaw is always ready to participate in the peace process with heart and soul.

The country started adopting the public-aspired multiparty democracy in 2011. Since it assumed the State duties in 1988, the Tatmadaw government had been carrying out political, economic and social development undertakings till 2010. The Tatmadaw government held the National Convention with the involvement of the representatives of all walks of life and all strata of life of the people to adopt a Constitution suitable for a democratic state. The Con-

vention discussed and drew in detail the fundamental principles and the chapters for the Constitution. The Tasks which were compatible with the democracy system were implemented simultaneously. For example, Tatmadaw officers were assigned as chairmen of township and district administrative bodies, but later administrators of the General Administration Department were assigned to the job to build the administrative pillar under democratic system. The task of building the bureaucracy administration was also gradually reformed under the Tatmadaw government. In fact the Tatmadaw government took time in building the institutions that would become vital under democracy. As for the national reforms, it laid down and implemented the seven-step Road Map. Finally it could successfully hold 2010 elections and transfer the state power to the government chosen by the people. In fact the Tatmadaw government realized the people's aspiration. In addition it took many years for the nation to adopt multiparty democracy system. So everyone and every organization should understand it. The Tatmadaw for its part is making efforts in ensuring that the country continues its path to multi-party democracy in a firm way.

It has been over six years since our country started practising multi-party democracy. We can assume that democracy is a system, while others may assume it is a task or an ethic that can achieve success only if it is followed and respected by everyone.

Surely, it is a political system that requires inclusive cooperation. In this context, the most fundamental requirement is that we have to stay away from acts that could deviate from the democracy road. In democratic system, we have to make demands in a democratic way and within the framework of law. Only then, will it be in line with the people's wishes. The main thing is that everyone must act in accord with the law. No one is above the law. Any person or organization must respect the existing laws in carrying out any kind of their duties. The law cannot be abused as a tool.

They need to respect the previous promises. Whatever



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. PHOTO: MNA

act that is done beyond the law will face criticism. All those living in Myanmar need to respect the existing laws enacted by the State. They must also accept the measures taken in accord with the law. The conflicts we are facing must be resolved within the democracy framework. We have to seek political solutions by putting an end the armed struggle line which is the opposite of the democracy. To do so, signing the NCA is the first step we have to take. The most important thing is to take a first step to reach our destination no matter how far it is. I would like to urge you to take this first step without hesitation towards the journey of lasting peace and the Union based on democracy and federal system that we are all pursuing.

History is like a mirror that reflects the strong and weak points and advantages and disadvantages we have gone through throughout our life. Looking in that mirror, we will clearly see that our national brethren have been living in Myanmar through thick and thin since ancient times. Although ours is a country made up of states and regions, each region is not inhabited by only a single ethnic group, and various national races have been residing together in amity in every region. As the saying goes, "Blood is thicker than water," our history has it that all the people, without discrimination against race or religion, have defended against any aggression with Union spirit. When the unity broke up and the solidarity waned, our country

lost its strength to defend, and all the people fell under the colonial rule for over 100 years.

With the loss of independence and national sovereignty, the influence and exploitation of the British colonialists became a tragedy for our country and people in history. Again in our history, we have unforgettable memories such as the fight against the Japanese Fascists and British colonialists with the united strength of the Tatmadaw born together with independence struggles and the people, and a show of national unity based on Union spirit. The divide-and-rule policy handed down by the colonialists in post-independence period led to ideological, racial and religious discord. The armed conflicts we are trying to resolve today are the lessons we have to take from history. The most valuable thing we have extracted from history is Our Three Main National Causes—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of national sovereignty.

This is why I would like to say that Our Three Main National Causes is the national duty our all national people have to safeguard. The Tatmadaw which is mainly discharging State defence duty will always uphold and safeguard Our Three Main National Causes and never accept encroachment on those causes. I would like to reiterate as it is a national cause, the entire national people need to cooperate with the Tatmadaw in safeguarding the causes.

I have said matters related to NCA at the ceremonies, discussions and meetings concerning the peace. In this regard, I would like to mention the first point that "NCA is the main fundamental fact in the peace process which the country urgently needs," the second point that "without implementing the fundamental fact or all our peace processes without ending a noise of gunfire may not be rest assure and it may return to armed struggle line," and the third point that "the NCA was drawn by the government, the Tatmadaw and all armed ethnic organizations based on initial proposals of armed ethnic organizations, not by individual or single organization." Moreover, it can be found no agreement was signed through coordination with many organizations in the history of Myanmar's peace processes. So, I would like to note that the NCA was conducted in a democratic way which means agreement of majority and cooperation. As such, cooperation in NCA is hoped for the sake of the State and the people in the peace process which is of great importance for the nation and the people as part of implementing the people's desire in a democratic way.

Firstly, the basic principle of the NCA was agreed "to build the Republic of the Union of Myanmar as the Union based on democracy and federal system in line with the result of the political dialogue with full rights and guarantees of democracy, national equality and self-administration in accord with the Panglong spirit depending on liberty, equality and justice by upholding the non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty." To restore long-term existence of peace, the political dialogues with participation of stakeholders based on wish and attitude of the ethnics must be held in designated places of armed ethnic organizations. So, I would like to say that the agreement is more meaningful than the word of ceasefire. Moreover, the NCA includes the facts how ways and means will be practised in detailed implementation of abiding by the disciplines and enjoying rights.

**SEE PAGE 7**



## NCA aims at solving political problem through peaceful political dialogue

*THE following is a translation of the address delivered by General Saw Mutu Sae Poe, Chairman of Karen National Union-KNU, on behalf of the signatories to the NCA, at the second anniversary of the NCA.*

All the honoured participants including the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the State Counsellor, the Commander-in-Chief, all the senior state officials, senior military officers and leaders of the armed ethnic groups attending this ceremony.

First I would say that it is an honour and pleasure for me to deliver an address here on behalf of all the signatory armed ethnic groups to the NCA.

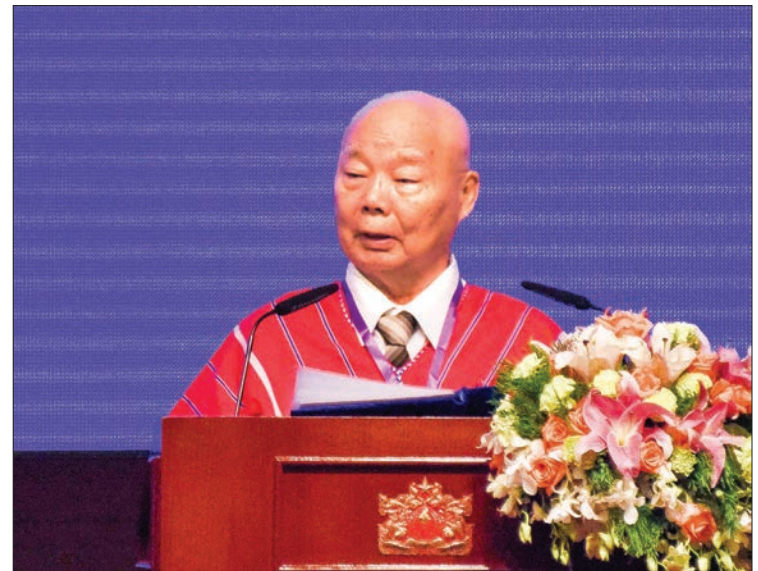
It has been two years since the NCA was signed between

the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the armed ethnic groups. We all signed the NCA on equal terms. The aim is to build a lasting peace by finding an answer to the political problem through peaceful political dialogue without applying military means for ending all armed conflicts erupted in the Union since we regained independence.

The objective of establishing the Union in harmony after Bogyoke Aung San and the ethnic leaders signed the Panglong Agreement on 12 February 1947 is the setting up of a Union where there is mutual respect and recognition among all the ethnic natives of the Union and where democracy, equality and self-determination are guaranteed.

After the Panglong Agreement was signed for all the ethnic peoples of the Union to live in harmony and peace, the country restored her independence and established the Union. Sadly, the country cannot fully realize the Panglong Agreement till now, especially, the self-administration and self-determination for all the ethnic races guaranteed in the Paragraph 5 of the Agreement. Likewise, democratic rights assured in the Paragraph 7 cannot be fully materialized till today.

So, in the view of the ethnic races, the internal strife that continues till today is the result of the failure to totally implement the Panglong Agreement. Peace process is the best means to end the internal strife. Besides, all-inclusive political dialogue is



General Saw Mutu Sae Poe. PHOTO: MNA

a must. The joint implementation of the NCA on equal terms within the NCA framework is the only way towards solving the political

problems through the political means.

*Thanks you all.*

## Conflicts must be resolved within democracy framework

### FROM PAGE 6

The Union based on democracy and federal system which not only today's armed ethnic organizations but also other ethnic organizations demand has been agreed in the first basic principle of the NCA. In this regard, somebody ask about the type of federal system. The first basic principle guaranteed "the Union based on democracy and federal system with full rights and guarantees of democracy, national equality and self-administration." It is the federal system that all our national people wish or the Union system. It is the aim for the federal Union and rights for all national people. To have this aim and rights, what do we adhere to? We must adhere to three Uni-

versal Truths—liberty, equality and justice. And then, it needs to adhere to Our Three National Causes for serving interest of the Myanmar nationals. A point of the agreement mentions "it needs to build the process for responsibilities, rights and aims in detail in line with the result of political dialogue" which is a democratic peace method called the negotiation way.

All armed ethnic organizations must sign the NCA. Some organizations said it does not need to sign the NCA because there is no firing and attacks. In fact, the NCA means an agreement of ceasefire. Actually, its essence is wider and deeper. So, I firmly ask you to sign the NCA. No provision in this agreement

limits or restricts the rights of people, but provide every possible right for them. It is therefore fair to assume that continued ignoring of this fact amounts to resisting the federal Union which people aspire to, opposing democracy, having desire for armed 'anarchy', and disregarding the interests of the Union and its people.

We need to go in line with law in building a Union based on democracy and federal system. And rule of law is also necessary to build such a Union we aspire to. There are different views about the rule of law. Legal scholars focus on stability to determine the rule of law. And from political point of view, there are two important factors—'ac-

countability' and 'no one above the law'—to determine the rule of law. Without these two, rule of law cannot exist, it is assumed.

Therefore, we need to abide by the existing laws of the country in building a Union based on democracy and federal system. And we need to respect and adhere to common agreements. At the same time, there is a need to strengthen political and security stability. It can be assumed that revolution is complete when the old structure is demolished, but building is renovating and maintaining the old structure and building the new things. We should be aware that it is building rather than revolution that is being practised in the world today.

In conclusion, I would like to urge

-all groups to take a broader look at the NCA, which absolutely guarantees the rights of national brethren, rather than viewing it as a mere ceasefire framework, and participate without hesitation.

-every citizen to accept and believe in multi-party democracy system, which is the wish of the people, and practise and abide by all democratization works in line with law.

- to proceed with justice, freedom and equality in building a democratic federal Union, which is the hope and wish of people, while safeguarding Our Three Main National Causes—our national interests. ■

## Hindus from Yangon donate assistance utensils to the IDP camps of Sittway

HINDUS from Yangon donated personal utensils to the Hindus in IDP camps of Sittway Township yesterday evening.

"It is the third times for our group donated in Sittway. In the first and second times, kitchen utensils and cash were donated. This time, 500 upper garments and blankets worth over Ks3million were donated for the children in three IDP camps of Sittway Town. The past two times assistances are worth around Ks4million each" said Daw Kathrine

Thein of the donor group.

The said group donated IDP camps are in a Hindu temple on Min Bar Gyi Street, a Hindu temple on Chin Pyan Street and Danya Wadi playground. In the first time, Alodaw Pyae Sayadaw and Adeikhtan Sayadaw were donated Ks 500,000 each for the local ethnic people.

As a mark of Diwali, 3000 desert foods are also fed to the Hindus in the IDP camps of Sittway.—Han Lin Naing (Sittway Sub-printing house) ■



Hindu donors from Yangon donate desert foods at IDP camp in Sittway. PHOTO: HAN LIN NAING (SITTWAY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)



# Let's take part in Implementing the tasks of peace, stability and national development

Khin Maung Oo

MYANMAR is one of the countries in the world which is held together as a Union since independence. 135 Ethnic races have been living here in unity and oneness with peace and stability, overcoming throes and woes. Though being different from each other in their own characteristics, they co-exist with the spirit of brotherhood like a big family. Different beliefs and colors cannot split their unity and co-existence at any time. This proves that they have descended from the same source many years ago.

Current situations in Rakhine State occurred quite differently. Together with national ethnic people such as Rakhine Kaman, Khamee, Daingnet, Maramagyi, Mro and Thet who had lived here since time

immemorial. Then, newcomers the Bengalis came to live here. Being typical land owners, national ethnic races accepted them with hospitality, free from any hatred. As time went by, these national ethnic races decreased in number, especially in northern Rakhine State. As if other etiolated plants cannot grow well when wild grass are exuberantly growing, increasingly growing numbers of people tend to influence the others minorities, pushing away the weaker ones to other places.

Now, 95 percent of the population of northern Rakhine State are made up of Bengalis, with only 5 percent of the local population being national ethnic people. The whole world should have known the truth. In such a situation extremist terrorists killed the remaining minorities in the attacks. Now the minorities have been

killed and displaced by increasing alien residents.

In addition to local ethnic races, extremist terrorists inhumanely slaughtered the local residents—Hindus amounting to over 100. This event should have been known by the whole world, especially international figures.

Yet, they are saying quite the opposite, may be knowingly or without knowledge of the truth. The actual facts can be known by taking time to observe true events on the ground. We welcome with open arms for them to be able to do so in just-and-fair-minded ways. We have opened our doors for them. Extremists are spreading their propaganda in different languages, for example broadcasting false news in English through R-Visions and R-TVs, with a view to agitating the world commu-

nity.

For those who are well convinced of Myanmar's historical background and terrorists' strategy of spreading propaganda, their invented news can be well-assessed. Had the global community ascertained that majority Muslims were applied by killing local nationals and Hindus, they would be well convinced that events which recently happened in northern Rakhine State were caused by ARSA extremist terrorists.

Last but not least, the international community should distinguish violation of human rights from terrorism, majority from minority, aggression from protecting the sovereignty, and simultaneously they should take part in implementing tasks of peace, stability and our national development, with genuine and pure minds. ■

## "It is time we take care of our soil"

Khaing Min Thant

AMONG all the impacts resulting from human activities ranging from global warming to environmental pollutions, soil losses and degradation is an important issue that is not commonly well known among our societies. Soil is central to our very existence as there can be no life without soil. Our most immediate need, food for instance, comes from soil and without soil, we would not be able to grow anything. Soil provides many goods and services such as environmental interactions, supporting food and fibre productions, habitats and biodiversity, providing the physical and cultural environment for mankind and providing raw materials (Nortcliff, 2009). Soil is also a vital resource for human and ecosystem health and plays a critical role in resolving global issues i.e. food, water



security and climate regulation. *"Do you know that it takes 2,000 years just to form 10 cm of fertile soil naturally?"* It is a very long period beyond our life time. All of us must realise that soil is a finite resource and fundamental to life. Without it, we simply cease to exist from the universe.

Today, we are witnessing degradation and losses of soil at a rapidly increasing rate. The primary global drivers of soil losses and degradation are human population and economic growth. Every year, forest and land are cleared to make agricultural land and with unsustainable approach to land use management, all leading to soil losses and degradation. FAO estimated that globally, 13 million hectares of forest are cut down every year between 2000 and 2010 (FAO). Forest and plants provide a basic cover for soil and once they are cleared, soil is eroded by wind and water with different climate conditions. Also, due to urbanization, soil is being sealed with housing and infrastructure development and those soil sealed under the various buildings would no longer be able to provide its valuable functions. Losing soil imposes serious problems such as climate change, food & water security, energy sustainability, ecosystem service delivery and biodiversity protection.

Continuing global population and its demand of consumption for food is steadily increasing and it is one of

the key threats to soil. We have witnessed extraordinary population and economic growth which was often associated with agricultural revolution. Current world population is 7.6 billion and it is projected to reach 9 billion by 2050 (*World Population Clock Real Time*). Still, we are witnessing nearly 1 billion people go to bed hungry every day. Our activities, particularly land use management have a major impact on soil losses and degradation. The production of more than 90% of our food depends on the essential ecosystem services provided by soil and other natural resources. Today intensive agricultural practices and the over application of fertilizers and pesticides is leading to soil degradation. Globally, more than half of the agricultural land resources are already considered degraded. According to the U.N. Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, approximately 40% of the world's agricultural land is seriously degraded. Soil degradation costs annually 10.6 billion USD worldwide. We must look for a global strategy to ensure sustainable and equitable manner of our soil and land usage while we ensure global food security. We must provide a future for incoming generations which the availability of fertile soil is very much dependent for their existence.

Another key threat to soil is land grabs. Fertile soil is becoming scarce and the global rush for land grabs is



increasing across the globe. We need to look at equitable distribution of land among the population and it is one way to protecting our soil. Business companies and corporations are grabbing land which are often facilitated by certain governments for development purposes and these lands are turned into monoculture plantations, constructions of housing and establishment of special economic zones often accompanying with unsustainable practices of land use management. Securing land rights for small scale farmers would ensure equitable distribution of land and would contribute to global food security. Without strategic investment in soil rehabilitation and protection, particularly poor and food insecure households will be left behind therefore, post a serious threat to protecting soil.

SEE PAGE 9



# Myanmars in UK show solidarity with State Counsellor



Myanmars in UK showing their solidarity with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. PHOTO: VOA

ABOUT 400 Myanmar expats in UK showed their solidarity with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in London on 14 October.

They staged rallies in support of the State Counsellor in front of the No 10 Downing Street where Prime Minister Teresa May's residence is

located and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

"All overseas Myanmars are behind Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the government elected by the people. We show our dissatisfaction with the West media that is criticizing Daw Aung San Suu Kyi through false and biased news and infor-

mation. We stage this rally to express our belief that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is the only person who can find the best way out of the current dilemma," said Dr Thet Ko Ko, who led the rally.

Myanmar expats in UK have initiated a plan to help Rakhine State. —VOA/GNLM



## Nearly 2000 people take part in International White Cane Safety Day

A total of 1758 people took part in the 26th mass walk held in commemoration of the international white cane safety at 6 am this morning, on Maha Bandoola Street, in front of Yangon City Hall.

Just after Mayor U Maung Maung Soe sent the signal sound from starter pistol, participants started to walk along the Maha Bandoola Road, being encouraged and provided with

snacks and tissue towels by YCDC staff, company personnel, members of social societies and religious organizations and city dwellers, along Kyauktada, Pabedan, Latha and Lanmadaw townships on the way.

Participants in today's mass-walk ceremony were taken to People Square Ground by responsible officials from YCDC, it was learnt.—Zarni Maung ■

# "It is time we take care of our soil"

## FROM PAGE 8

Finally, lack of certain policies and laws that protect soil is threatening our very human existence. We need to look at certain global policies and laws that would protect soil from further degradation and losses. The good news is that we now have certain global agendas, inter alia, SDGs and the Paris agreement on climate change (2016), all are striving to achieve sustainable use of soil. Certain frameworks such as EU Soil Framework Directive (SFD) is already in place although it is yet to be ratified by EU member states. We also know now to a certain degree on how important is our soil for mankind and many scientific researches is already underway to increase our knowledge on soil and its

different ecosystems. However, many countries especially developing countries still lack proper policies and laws that protect soil. The country where I am from, Myanmar, a developing country for instance, lacks such policy and laws in protecting soil. Soil should be central and be mainstreamed into many environmental conservation laws, policies and regulations. We must put every effort into advocating governments in protecting soil so that we have sustainable future everyone can look forward to.

I believe education and public awareness raising play a pivotal role in shaping our future in protecting soil. Since protection of soil and why the need to protect soil is not well known among us, we need to start using various

information and communication technologies, as well as providing trainings and capacity building programmes for younger generations so that effective measures can be taken in protecting our valuable soil in the years to come.

In conclusion, soil is a vital non-renewable resource and we need sustainable management of soil to ensure our future that includes viability of food productions, nutrient retention and cycling and filtration of water etc. "It is time we take care of our soil. It is up to us to find ways to apply our knowledge and skills so that we do not end up losing our feet from the ground".

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## 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](mailto: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





President U Htin Kyaw greeting a participant. PHOTO: MNA



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi converses with an ethnic representative. PHOTO: MNA

# NCA reaches 2nd Anniversary

## FROM PAGE-1

(Senior General's speech is reported separately)

KNU Chairman, General Saw Mutu Sae Poe also delivered speech on behalf of the signatories of armed ethnic organizations.

(The speech of KNU Chairman, General Saw Mutu Sae Poe is reported separately)

Afterwards, report of the work development of Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee was read by U Shwe Min, a member of UPDJC.

The report described that UPDJC could lay the policy regarding the explanation and structure of political discussion with a view to successfully ensure the continuing of political discussions after Union Peace Conference 21st Century Panglong 1st meeting, ToR for ethnic-wise, region-wise, subject-wise political discussions of national level, ToR for Supervisory Committee for national level discussions, confirmation of ToR for Secretaries and ToR for Work Committee and the commencing the national level political discussions as early as possible.

In Union Peace Conference 21st Panglong Second Meeting, with target to be able to discover the basic principles acceptable to all organizations, the headings for discussion on the basic principles of federal system in political sector; basic principles of federal economy in economic sector; basic principles of regional development, basic principles of resettlement, rehabilitation and social affairs in social sector and basic principles of land and environment basing on the federal system could be set.

With vision to secure the sustainable peace in accord with

the principles laid by UPDJC, all inclusive ethnic-wise discussions including political discussions of Kayin nationals, Chin Nationals, Pa-O nationals and region-wise discussions of national level of Taninthayi Region, Bago Region, Shan State and subject-wise forum of civil societies were held successfully.

With vision to secure the sustainable peace, all-inclusive ethnic-wise discussions were held successfully.

Two meetings of work committees formed sector-wise by UPDJC could have been held basing on the papers submitted by respective groups and 5 papers on land and environment sector; 2 papers on social sector; 8 papers on economic sector; 8 papers on political sector which were synthesized from views and opinions of ethnic-wise, region-wise national level meetings. Besides, coordination discussions were made and policy proposals were assessed and put forward to UPDJC.

After assessing the policy proposals submitted by sector-wise work committees, the final proposals were submitted by UPDJC to UPC- 21st Century Panglong 2nd meeting which was held between 24 and 29 of May 2017. After discussing step by step the policies submitted by UPDJC at the 6-day Conference,

the 37 agreements on policies were signed as Union Agreement Part(1) at UPC-21st Century Panglong 2nd Meeting by the leaders of respective groups and witnesses.

From the time of establishment of UPDJC till today 11 regular meetings have been held and will strive to realize the duties and responsibilities including the supervising and guiding the stages of political discussions and specifying the frame regarding political discussion.

The paper reading had concluded with the pledge not to resort to armed conflict and employ political discussion in resolving the political issue for attaining the sustainable peace, to continue all inclusive political discussions, to bring about the federal system recognizing the diverse national character; literature, language, traditional culture and background history of the different ethnics.

Afterwards, Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee (JMC-U) Vice-Chairman civilian representative Saw Mathew Aye read

the report on the development of the work.

In the report, it was stated that the works of the committee were being carried out in line with ToR of the different level of JMC, principles of ceasefire to be respected by both sides, military code of conduct and standard operating procedures. 16 SOPs had already been written till now.

The responsibilities of JMC were monitoring, confirming, managing the conflicts and enhancing the capacity. The person residing in the conflict area and acceptable to both sides are undertaking the monitoring works. The scrutinizing and confirming team led by civilian representative was formed to investigate the complaints and dispute put up by armed organizations or civilians in the conflict area whether there was any violation of JMC's prescriptions. JMCs of different levels could have held 24 times of mass meeting and explained the process to 6000 attendants.

Besides, JMC could have appointed the staffs of technical support to expedite the works

of JMC and the international professionals came and made discussions with the committee members and office staffs of JMC. Capacity building for committee members and office staffs were also undertaken successively by JMC. JMC members of different levels were also sent abroad for study regarding peace building.

The report ended with the statement that JMC has committed to implement the peace process to gain sustainable peace with determination and patience after entertaining the spirit of impartiality and transparency.

After the ceremony the President U Htin Kyaw, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and party took the documentary photo with diplomats, ethnic armed organizations, representatives of JMC and UPDJC' political parties, previous Union peace Working Committee, National Reconciliation and peace centre and witnesses, representatives of government, Hluttaw and Tatmadaw and businesspersons. —Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi having a cordial chat with participants. PHOTO: MNA



# Anniversaries prove government's commitment to peace process

THE second anniversary of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA was held at Myanmar International Convention Centre-1 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The excerpts of some interviews with the participants are as follows:

## Khon Okka (Pa-O National Liberation Organization)

As NCA is now two years old there is certain level of progress. Some view that the peace process is in decay. Today's second anniversary is the proof against those views. Anniversaries show that the NCA is been acknowledged, honoured and prioritized. The government in office is holding the anniversaries in proving its steadfast commitment on the prioritization of the peace process.

NCA has a seven-step Road Map. As we reached the step number four this year, we climbed to step-5 by holding the Panglong Conference on 24 May. But we haven't fully realized it yet. The step-5 concerns with the Union agreement. I hope that we will complete the step-5 in about 2018. After reaching the Union agreement, matters in connection with the Constitution may follow. There will also be the adoption of guidelines for the establishment of a federal Union.

The benefits for the signatories of the second anniversary of the NCA are the holding of the political dialogues which open ways for us to discuss and present our desired political platforms and policies to the people, ethnic races



Phado Saw Kwe Htoo Win (Karen National Union)

and organizations. The most important one is the opportunity to discuss our political goal with the Government and the Tatmadaw.

## Daw Saw Mra Raza Lin (Arakan Liberation Party)

Now the NCA is two years old. But everything is not according to the NCA yet. I am not satisfied with the way we are going towards NCA. If we want to implement a task smoothly and successfully, we need a stable framework. So we are trying hard as NCA cannot tolerate any wrong move. All stakeholders including the Government and Tatmadaw must protect the NCA with heart and soul and conviction so that it will continue to advance without fail.

## Dr Salai Hlanmon Hsakhauung (Chin National Front)

It is now two years since we have signed the NCA. There was much progress during the two years. The signatories to the NCA can reduce the skirmishes from 80 to 85 percent. It can be said a significant success. There are still



Daw Saw Mra Raza Lin (Arakan Liberation Party)

armed conflicts in certain places. But the joint monitoring committee can intervene immediately as stated in the NCA. So NCA is much beneficial for the Union and the entire people.

By signing the NCA we can find the way to end the internal conflict that continues for near 60 years. We can find the political answer to the problem. The solving of a political problem through political means is our way. The NCA was followed by the political dialogues at different levels after the formation of the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee-UPDJC. The national level political dialogue was held at six venues and the Union Peace Conference: the 21st Century Panglong was held for three times. Moreover, the Union agreement was signed. So we reach the step 5 of the Road Map of the NCA.

If we continue on this way, the country will achieve a true peace. The good news for the people is that we will be able to build a lasting peace. We are working hard to reach this end. But a lot of work and challenges remain.



Dr Salai Hlanmon Hsakhauung (Chin National Front)

Today's biggest is not the politics, but the method.

Some armed ethnic groups have not signed the NCA or taken part in the political dialogue yet. Inviting them to the peace table must be a priority. There is no other path than the NCA for us to restore peace, end the internal strife, set up the Union where rights such as democracy, equality and self-determination are guaranteed.

## Phado Saw Kwe Htoo Win (Karen National Union)

We can say that there is much progress. After the NCA comes the Union Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee-JMC. Armed conflicts can be reduced. UPDJC was formed to supervise the political dialogue. Challenges still remain. As the armed conflicts have lasted for over 60 years, we built trust to clear every obstacle during the two years.

To the extent of our knowledge, the non-signatories have not refused the NCA. They cannot signed the NCA yet as they are still at the negotiating stage. Al-



Khon Okka (Pa-O National Liberation Organization)

though we can reduce the armed conflicts, some still remain. This must be gradually solved. Trust depends on the observance of the principles. There will be further progress if we continue the peace process after the second anniversary.

## U Aung Kyi (Leader of the Advisory Team of the Peace Commission)

The peace process cannot be abandoned. Its need constant determination and resolution for success. We hope for the constructive peace.

We are creating peaceful environment that ensures peace and tranquillity in the whole country where there is no violent actions, but equality and co-existence prevail. But peace is easier said than done. Constructive peace has high objectives and long process. So we need to take time and must have patience.

(Interviewers: Aung Ye Thwin, Myo Thu hein, Zin Oo, Chu Sandi New / Photos: Aye Than, Kyaw Ye Swe) ■

## Political dialogues are the way forward

### FROM PAGE-3

We will need to continue our dialogue on the division of power, allocation of resources and revenue between the Union, States and Regions, and the powers as described in the additional tables to the Constitution. These are about how we will divide our state powers in our future Federal Union. If we are able to conclude the discussion on fundamental principles during the upcoming sessions of the Peace Conference, we would have a strong foundation for the Federal Union.

We all accept that the root cause of the ongoing internal armed conflicts in the country is the result of not solving political problems by political means. We all agree that a federal system is the only solution for the internal armed conflict which has been

unresolved under successive governments. The opportunity to end the conflict by political means is in our hands right now. Part (1) of the Union Accord reached at the 2nd session of the Union Peace Conference proves that crucial political agreements can be reached if all political partners negotiate on the basis of mutual understanding and mutual trust. The people of Myanmar have great expectations on the upcoming 21st Century Panglong.

The nature of political dialogue is that there will always be ups and downs. Like any peace talk that are being held across the world, there will be times when peace is within reach and then fade away. The national reconciliation and peace efforts of our country cannot be perfect all the time. Difficulties and challenges

will remain. In sprints, the strong wins; however, in marathons, only those who are determined and committed emerge victorious. Our road to peace is a marathon, and to successfully complete it, we need determination, good attitude and in addition, a will.

We need the will for our future generations. In the upcoming decades we need to think about what kind of country or what kind of Union we want our children to inherit. We need to think whether we should leave a country besieged with armed conflicts and differences, which is deprived of happiness due to lack of national reconciliation or peace, and looked down upon for lagging behind other countries.

We need to face our future, and we need to be brave both in our thoughts and in our actions.

Let us walk towards an end to all wars and conflicts in our Union where we have not had a single moment of complete peace since Independence. Let us try our best to continue the ceasefire mechanisms. Let us cooperate with every organization which desires peace to resolve political problems through dialogue for eternal peace. Let us work together to show how much we love and value peace and to face the judgment of our next generation and history without guilt and with honour.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, it is our inherent responsibility to work towards national reconciliation. Even though we come from different groups, we have held political dialogues based on the Union spirit of "One Team, One Vision". We all have been walking on the same path together. We will achieve

our ultimate goal of peace if we collaborate with each other with mutual trust and understanding.

It has been two years since we signed the NCA. There is no reason to retreat. We only need to go forward and pave our way towards our desired goal. We need to support each other with consideration and empathy whenever we face hardships and challenges during our journey. It depends on all of us to build a Democratic Federal Union which will bring about national reconciliation and peace. We need to be cautious that, if we fail to grasp this chance to work together towards our goal, our people's expectations will be in vain.

I would like to conclude by wishing that today's anniversary will be a source of empowerment and renewed strength for our journey towards peace.

Thank you all.



# Kawmu stages Public Talks



A speaker giving Public Talks on "Youth and Media." **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

Information and Public Relations Department-IPRD and Daw Khin Kyi Foundation co-sponsored the Public Talks on youths and media in Kawmu a town in the south of Yangon yesterday afternoon.

Talks were centred on ways to distinguished between false news and authentic news on the social media and the effective use of the internet.

Speakers including Deputy Director-General of IPRD

Dr Daw Thida Tin and MPs U Nay Phone Latt and U Kyaw Swe Win shared knowledge on various fields that may help enrich the youth and foster love and unity among them. —Min Thit(MNA) ■

# SWRR Deputy Minister visits Rakhine State

A delegation led by Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung, Rakhine State Electric Power and Road Transportation Minister U Aung Kyaw Zan and other committee members visited and checked the regional resettlements in Rakhine State. They went to the villages along the Angumaw-Maungtaw road in Rakhine State yesterday morning and coordinated about the three main work programmes instructed by the State Counsellor office. The three main work programmes includes humanitarian aids to support effectively, receive the refugees from Myanmar and to implement the resettlement for all the refugees and regional development and free from terrorism.

The Deputy Minister and delegation then visited Taung Pyo Letwei town in Maungtaw and inspected the repairing and up-

grading pavements in the town.

They also looked into the requirements for the new border entry gate of Myanmar-Bangladesh to be opened soon, the conditions and telecommunication system in Taung Pyo Let Wei Town. The delegation then provided the foods and basic requirements to the ethnic people near Laungdon junction in Rakhine State. In the evening, delegation led by Deputy Minister met with officials from Maungtaw district administration department and directed the current tasks to be performed by respective officials for the Rakhine State people, systematic and effective supply of aids to refugees, sustainable development of agriculture and breeding sectors, upgrading of infrastructures including roads and bridges of the State and the role of Myanmar Red Cross and their tasks.—MNA

# Children's Literature Festival concludes

CHILDREN'S Literature Festival and the book fair which conducted by the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Education and Sagaing Region government continued its final day and closing ceremony at Multi-Purpose Hall of Monywa University on 15 October with visiting crowds.

Individually, in a group or with family, students, teachers, children and parents visited the festival and bought books from the book shops. Students who were in the festival took part in the game competitions ; a total of

2274 in team building game, 112 in painting, 411 in paper folding, and in other games.

Visitors also enthusiastically enjoyed performances, puppet shows, magic shows and Kyaukse traditional elephant dances which were presented in the Festival.

In the Children's Literature Festival, there included library talk shows where writer Dr. Tin Win spoke under the title "Unique Generation" and writer Barmahiti Khin Aung (Shwebo) read the title of "Children and Moral Behavior".



A large number of people visit the final day of the festival. **PHOTO: AUNG MIN HAN**



Visitors to Children's Literature Festival enjoy elephant dance. **PHOTO: AUNG MIN HAN**

At the workshop of the afternoon event, the title "School for Youth Ethics" was conducted by writers and also participated by visitors that include librarians, literature enthusiasts, fans, writers and students who joined the discussion.

Thereafter at 3:00 pm, the Children's Literature Festival was continuously held its conclusion ceremony followed by the words of thanks from Sagaing Region Social Affairs Minister Dr. Zaw Win and U Aye Kwe, the deputy director-general of the Information and Public Relations Department.

Afterwards, officials pre-

sented prizes and mementos to winners who competed in the contests; eight respectively from the elementary and above elementary levels, and secondary and under-secondary levels.

Then, the Children's Literature Festival was successfully concluded after presenting back certificates of honor to referees, face painting group, cartoonists, departmental officials, and officials from Monywa University, basic education schools and private schools in Sagaing Region, and responsible personnel from other organizations who supported the Festival.

—Aung Min Han ■



## Cargo aircraft carrying goods for humanitarian aid of AHA Centre arrives Yangon

A cargo aircraft carrying goods for humanitarian aid provided by AHA Centre landed at Yangon International Airport yesterday morning.

“These are aids of ASEAN countries collected by ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management, AHA Centre. It is humanitarian assistance for displaced people of Rakhine State. We will try to quickly deliver the aided goods to the displaced people, linking with Rakhine State government” said U Win Shwe Director of Yangon Region relief and resettlement department.

Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement will deliver the aided goods of kitchen utensils, hygiene products and tents to the displaced people of Rakhine State as quickly



Humanitarian aid arriving at Yangon International Airport. PHOTO: ZAW GYI

as possible.

The AHA Centre transported aided goods of family kitchen utensils, hygiene materials, tents, electric goods, generators and its accessories by cargo aircraft to Myanmar on 13 October.

“Also on 13 October,

aided goods like that arrived as a first time. Each cargo aircraft loaded 40 tons of loads.

The first batch of aided goods were being transported to Rakhine State by five trucks. The goods arrived today will be transported to Sittway

by trucks” said U Win Shwe.

Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is receiving the donated cash for the displaced people opening receiving centers in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw.—Zaw Gyi ■

## Mandalay to host 2nd International Livestock and Agriculture Show

MANDALAY, the commercial center of upper Myanmar, will host International Livestock and Agriculture Show in the last week of this month, focusing on development of the country's farming industry.

This is the second time the Myanmar Fisheries Federation (Mandalay Region) will organise the

event. The first show was held last November.

The show is due to take place at City Hall in Chanayethazan Township on 25-27 October from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, with the organizers inviting all enthusiasts to come and join the event.

Altogether 12 countries, including French,

China, the Netherlands and some European states, will take part in the three-day event, planning to showcase a wide range of agricultural products, farming machinery and equipment as well as technology and solutions.

The key objectives of holding this kind of event are to develop the

country's livestock and agriculture sector by educating and transferring new technology and introducing new products and services to farmers. The event will also serve as a bridge to connect between local businesspersons and international companies in their respective fields.—GNLM ■

## Smoke-free zone to be designated around Konlon Monastery in Pindaya Tsp

SMOKE-free zone is planned to be designated around Konlon Monastery area in Pindaya Township in Southern Shan State, said Dr Than Min Htut, township medical superintendent and director of the Public Health Department.

According to the Myawady Daily's news

issued on Sunday, departmental officials, local authorities, social organizations and residents will discuss further details. The size of smoke-free area will mainly include in the discussion..

Located in Pindaya Township, Kone Lone Monastery is a popular Buddhist pilgrimage site

of the town and it is crowded with devotees on a daily basis.

At the present time, Shweumin pagoda area in Pindaya Township is declared as a first smoke-free area as of 6 August of this year. The authorities made a public announcement that action will be taken against those who

failed to abide by the rules. If someone smokes in the area, he will pay a fine of Ks5,000. Those who sell smoking products and accessories will have to pay a fine of Ks20,000.

State authorities said that continued efforts are being made to designate other regions as tobacco-free zones.—GNLM ■

## Join hands for stability, peace and development in Rakhine

This public-private partnership has three main goals: providing humanitarian assistance, carrying out resettlement and rehabilitation and working for development in Rakhine State. State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi acts as Chairperson and Dr. Win Myat Aye the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement acts as Vice Chairman. This Union Enterprise brings together the experience and expertise of the public and private sectors and will be funded by public funds and generous donations from UN agencies, friendly countries, international and regional financial institutions as well as by donors inside the country and those who are living abroad all over the world.

For those who wish to make donations, bank account details are given on this website.

The website may be seen at: [www.rakhine.unionenterprise.org](http://www.rakhine.unionenterprise.org)

## Weapons seized at Nay Pyi Taw airport

At least five guns were seized at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport, confirmed by Police Col Zaw Khin Aung, Head of Nay Pyi Taw Police Force this evening. When asked about the detailed incident, Zaw Khin Aung said that an investigation is ongoing but he declined to make further comment.

Unconfirmed information revealed that three suspects were arrested along with five guns from flight No UB-141 of Myanmar Airlines bound for Nay Pyi Taw from Yangon. The incident coincided with a dinner to mark the 2nd anniversary signing of Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).—Kyaw Gyi ■

### MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 18<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2017 (Deepavali Day), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

### CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE MV MATHU BHUM VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MATHU BHUM VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S MOL (S'PORE) PTE LTD  
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# Harvey Weinstein expelled from Academy of Motion Pictures

LOS ANGELES — The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences expelled producer Harvey Weinstein on Saturday, after allegations that he sexually harassed or assaulted a number of women over the past three decades, a sharp smack for a Hollywood mogul known for powering a string of films to Oscar gold.

The academy said in a statement that its 54-member board of governors “voted well in excess of the required two-thirds majority to immediately expel him from the Academy.”

A representative for Weinstein, Sallie Hofmeister, had no immediate comment.

The expulsion from the film industry’s most prestigious organization follows allegations reported by The New York Times and The New Yorker from a num-

ber of women that Weinstein sexually harassed or assaulted them in incidents dating back to the 1980s, including three who said they had been raped.

Reuters has been unable to independently confirm any of the allegations. Weinstein, 65, has denied having non-consensual sex with anyone.

For Weinstein, who made a name for himself and his studio with the critical and commercial success of a number of small-budget independent films, the expulsion was just the latest fallout — both professional and personal — from allegations that have rocked an industry that has often looked the other way when confronted by reports of sexual misconduct.

In announcing the decision to oust Weinstein, the academy



Producer Harvey Weinstein speaks at the ceremony for the unveiling of the star for Italian composer Ennio Morricone on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Hollywood, California in 2016. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

said it was also telegraphing a broader goal.

“We do so not simply to separate ourselves from someone who does not merit the respect of his colleagues, but also to send a

message that the era of willful ignorance and shameful complicity in sexually predatory behaviour and workplace harassment in our industry is over,” the academy said.

“What’s at issue here is a deeply troubling problem that has no place in our society,” it said. “The board continues to work to establish ethical standards of conduct that all Academy members will be expected to exemplify.”

The New York Police Department said this week it was investigating an allegation of sexual assault from 2004 against Weinstein.

His accusers included the actress Gwyneth Paltrow, who told The New York Times that she was sexually harassed by Weinstein more than 20 years ago, and actress and director Angelina Jolie, who told the publication that she “had a bad experience with Harvey Weinstein in my youth and as a result chose never to work with him again.” —Reuters ■

## We are closer than ever to 1930s-style totalitarianism: Atwood

FRANKFURT — The world is closer to the dark days of the 1930s than at any time since, Canadian author Margaret Atwood said on Saturday in Frankfurt, where she was due to receive a prestigious German literary award.

Atwood’s dystopian novel “The Handmaid’s Tale”, first published in 1985, has shot back up the bestseller lists after being made into an award-winning TV series depicting a totalitarian future in a United States where

women are forced into sexual servitude. Donald Trump’s election as US president has, for some critics, brought that vision closer to reality as he uses social media to browbeat opponents, and lawmakers in a number of states seek to restrict women’s reproductive rights.

“It feels the closest to the 1930s of anything that we have had since that time,” the 77-year-old Atwood told a news conference, drawing parallels with the fascist and communist regimes

which then ruled parts of Europe.

Atwood was attending the annual Frankfurt Book Fair, where she receives the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade on Sunday. The award citation praises Atwood’s “political awareness and alertness for developments beneath the surface”.

Past winners include Turkish novelist Orhan Pamuk, American writer and film-maker Susan Sontag and Mario Vargas Llosa, the Peruvian-born writer and politician. —Reuters ■



Margaret Atwood author of The Handmaid’s Tale at 69th Primetime Emmy Awards, Photo Room, Los Angeles, California, US, on 17 September 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

## I hope one day to get a best actor Oscar: Jackie Chan

LOS ANGELES — Action star Jack Chan has said hopes to win the Academy Award for Best Actor one day.

The 63-year-old star already has the Oscar for Life Achievement in his kitty, which he received last year.

Chan, who is a crowd-puller to the theatres, said at this point in his life he wants to concentrate on the content in his films. “Right now, for me, it’s not about box office. What’s more important is the audience. I’ve been working so hard for all these years in the film business. I wanted to prove that I’m a good stunt man, I’m a good stunt coordinator, I’m a good director, I’m a good producer, that I can write.

“Now, I want them to say,



PHOTO: PTI

“That Jackie, he is a good actor.” After I got a life achievement Oscar, I want to get — I hope one day to get — a best actor Oscar,” he told The Hollywood Reporter.

“The Foreigner” actor said today with advanced technology in Hollywood, anyone can transform into an action star. “How many action stars today stay in the film business? They’re

gone. Look at Hollywood today and the technology they make. Everybody’s superwoman, they can make everybody an action star. Even some stars, they don’t know how to fight, but they can make them like an action stars. One day, when I’m old and I cannot fight anymore, they still can make me action star. But acting is still important,” he said.—PTI ■

## I admire Katrina for her hard work and dedication: Akshay

MUMBAI — Akshay Kumar today praised his “Namastey London” co-star Katrina Kaif, saying she has become one of the biggest stars of Bollywood due to hard work and determination.

Akshay and Katrina were present at the Kudo Tournament prize distribution event here.

“I had told her (Katrina) about this event three-four days back and she agreed within seconds to be part of this. We all are fan of her. I know her since the time she entered the film industry... She had told me that she wants to work in Bol-

lywood, I salute her, I admire her for what she has achieved today.

“A person should have passion and determination towards their job. She is the biggest superstar of Bollywood today.

You can also become like her provided you have the will and determination,” Akshay told reporters.

Akshay and Katrina have acted together in films like “Humko Deewana Kar Gaye”, “Namastey London”, “Welcome”, “Singh is Kinng”, “De Dana Dan” and “Tees Maar Khan”.—PTI ■





Lift donation ceremony in progress. PHOTO: SHWE WIN (PYAY)

## Lift donation ceremony at Jotikar Yone Pali University held

Libation ceremony for donated lift opening ceremony was held yesterday at the middle floor of three-storeyed building, Maha Sukha Jotika monastery.

The lift was donated with the aim for the convenience of

the monks who are learning in this monastery.

The donors heard Anumodana Dharma (the teaching expounded by Buddha) from Phadana Maha Nayaka Sayadaw Abhidhajamharattaguru Aggamahapandita Aggama-

hasaddhammajotikadhaja Bhadanna Konala Jotika and shared the merits with libation rituals.

Present at the ceremony were departmental officials, donors and religious and social organizations. — 017 ■

## Asian universities stand out in world rankings for engineering and technology

LONDON — Four universities in Asia are among the top 20 in a world university ranking covering subject of engineering and technology, according to the Times Higher Education (THE) ranking published Friday.

China's Peking University enters the top 10 for the first time in the eight-year history of the ranking, after climbing five places to 7<sup>th</sup>, followed by the National University of Singapore.

The Nanyang Technological University, another university from Singapore, ranks 16th and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology is on the 18th place.

The top three universities are Stanford, CIT and Oxford.

Phil Baty, editorial director of THE global rankings, said the engineering and technology subject rankings employ the same rigorous and balanced range of 13 performance indi-

cators used in the overall 2018 World University Rankings, but the methodology has been recalibrated to suit the individual fields.

"The ranking, which has been expanded to include 500 universities, up from 100 last year, highlights the universities that are leading across electrical, mechanical, civil, chemical and general engineering subjects...Overall a staggering 132 universities in Asia make the top 500, meaning that the continent now has more world-class institutions for engineering and technology than North America which has 127."

The THE World University Rankings are the only global performance tables that judge research-intensive universities across all their core missions: teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook. —Xinhua ■

## Oldest Bengal tiger in Japan dies

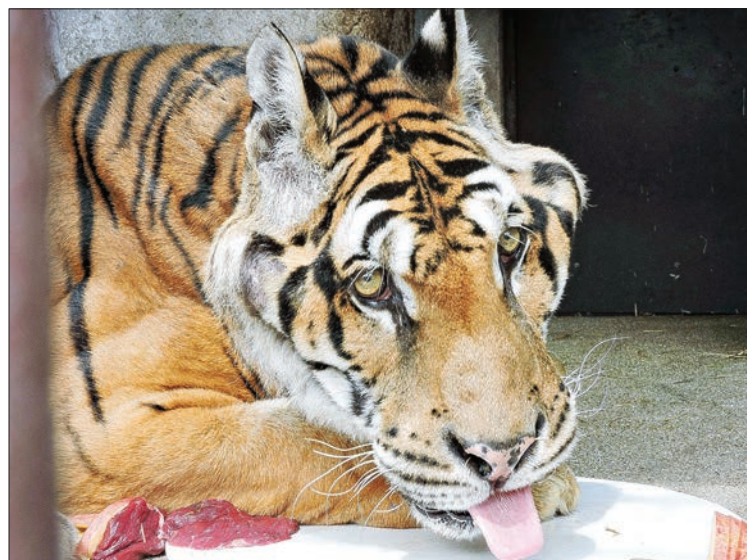
OKAYAMA, (Japan) — The oldest Bengal tiger in Japan has died at age 24, or the human equivalent of around 100, at a zoo in the western Japanese city of Okayama, zoo officials said Saturday.

Hiro, a male of the endangered species, had been unable to stand up since Thursday morning. The tiger was found dead

Friday night, with the cause seen as natural.

"Many people liked him. We're sad but also happy he lived a long time," said Chitoshi Tadamas, deputy chief of Ikeda Zoo where Hiro was born in April 1993.

The zoo plans to hold a ceremony to bid farewell to Hiro at the facility on 21 October. — Kyodo News ■



Supplied photo taken in September 2017 shows the oldest Bengal tiger in Japan at Ikeda Zoo in Okayama, western Japan. The tiger named Hiro, a male of the endangered species, died on 13 October at age 24, or the human equivalent of around 100. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

## Musicians from Silk Road countries perform at Geneva to showcase intercultural dialogue

GENEVA — A group of prestigious musicians from various Silk Road countries Saturday performed at a special concert at the United Nations (UN) headquarters here as an example of intercultural dialogue and understanding.

Held in the famous Human Rights and Alliance of Civilizations Hall of the Palais des Nations at Geneva, the concert was described as "a true encounter between East and West."

The special concert, co-organized by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UN-AOC) and the Barcelona-based Fundacion Onuart, brought together the Symphonic Orchestra of the Balearic Islands directed by Spanish Maestro Pablo Mielgo, as well as some well-known artists from Silk Road countries.

While offering a musical journey through the Silk Road, the organizers said the concert set out to use music "as an in-

strument to foster intercultural dialogues and rapprochement between nations and cultures."

"The setting of the Human Rights and Alliance of Civilizations Hall in the Palais des Nations in Geneva will provide the ideal backdrop to promote dialogue and peace around the world through music," the organizers said in a statement.

Ma Zhenxuan, president of the Center for Public Diplomacy and Cultural Exchange and one of the organizers of the event, said the concert demonstrated the power of music in the process of enhancing mutual understanding among people, as well as people's support towards the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative which links the countries located on the ancient Silk Road and beyond.

In order to better practice the Chinese concept of "building a community of shared future for all humankind," the

center is now trying to establish an international network for public diplomacy, or even a World Public Diplomatic Organization, he added.

Cao Mingqi, vice president of the Center for Public Diplomacy and Cultural Exchange, said after the concert that the center hopes to better promote the Belt and Road Initiative through cultural exchanges.

He voices his hope that the concert will bring more countries together to contribute even more to world peace and prosperity in the future.

The Belt and Road Initiative, which comprises the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, seeks to promote trade, financial integration, infrastructure inter-connectivity and people-to-people exchanges along and beyond the ancient Silk Road trade routes linking Asia with Europe and Africa. —Xinhua ■



## Qualifier in Cambodia, road for Myanmar to AFC U-19 Championship 2018 in Indonesia

Kyaw Zin Lin

CAMBODIA will host the Group G qualification of AFC U-19 Championship 2018 from 24 to 28 October at the National Olympic Stadium in Phnom Penh.

The qualifiers are actually a road for Myanmar to reach in AFC U-19 Championship 2018 that will be hosted in Indonesia.

Myanmar is included in the Group G together with host Cambodia, China and the Philippines in the qualification.

Myanmar will play the Philippines in an opening of qualification on 24 October; host Cambodia on 26 October and China on 28 October.

The ten group winners and the five best runners-up will qualify for the AFC U-19 Championship 2018. Indonesia, host of the championship will qualify automatically for the championship.

The 2018 AFC U-19 Championship is the 40th edition of the AFC U-19 Championship will take place in Indonesia, which was appointed as hosts by the AFC on 25 July 2017, between 18 October and 4 November 2018. A total of 16 teams will play in the tournament.

The top four teams of the tournament will qualify for the 2019 FIFA U-20 World Cup as the AFC representatives. ■

## Yangon United still in second place of MNL

Kyaw Zin Lin

AS a match of Myanmar National League (MNL) Cement Cup 2017, Yangon United FC played against Zwegapin FC at the YUSC football Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

Yangon United defeated Zwegapin by a score of 4-0.

The goals were scored by two Myanmar star players Khin Maung Lwin and David Htan and two foreign players Cezar and Emerson.

Yangon United kept the pressure on the opponents' team along with playing solid football right from the kick-off.

The opening goal for Yangon was scored by Captain Khin Maung Lwin at the 34 minutes mark.

Zwegapin played better in the second half as they changed some game tactics but unluckily no exact chances of goal was available for the team.

The second goal for Yangon



Players from Yangon and Zwegapin vie for the ball at yesterday's match in YUSC Stadium. **PHOTO: MNL**

was scored by Cezar by the penalty at 66 minute. David Htan scored the third and Emerson the fourth continuously just be-

fore the end of the match.

With the victory, Yangon United secured the winning three marks and they still stand-

ing in the second place of the score charts following the first place's Shan United FC with only 2 marks difference. ■

## Australia braces for another World Cup cliffhanger in Sydney

MELBOURNE — Australia will brace for another World Cup cliffhanger in Sydney, with FIFA confirming the second leg of the Socceroos' intercontinental playoff against Honduras will be played at the city's Olympic stadium on 15 November.

Australia defeated Syria 2-1 in a nail-biting second leg of their Asia playoff last week at the same venue, keeping their hopes of a fourth consecutive World Cup appearance alive. Australia need to overcome Honduras, who booked their

place in the intercontinental playoff by finishing fourth in the North, Central American and Caribbean qualifying, to secure a berth in the finals in Russia next year.

The first leg of the playoff will be in Honduras on Nov. 10 but the time and venue have yet to be confirmed, Football Federation Australia said in a media release on Sunday.

Prior to joining the Asian Football Confederation, Australia competed in Oceania qualifying and had to beat Uruguay in

a playoff to qualify for the 2006 finals in Germany, their first World Cup appearance since their 1974 debut. Australia defeated Uruguay in a penalty shoot-out in the second leg at the Olympic stadium to secure their 2006 ticket, sparking wild celebrations across the country.

"Following last week's dramatic play-off victory over Syria it comes down to these last two matches to see who will get the final berth at the 2018 FIFA World Cup," FFA chief executive David Gallop said.

"There hasn't been a more important match played in Australia since our last intercontinental playoff against Uruguay 12 years ago, and for all of us who were there it was truly a very special moment in Australian sporting history.

"With a place at the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia at stake we're calling on all football and sports fans to rally behind the ... Socceroos as they aim to qualify for their fourth successive FIFA World Cup." — Reuters ■



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