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Rakhine rebirth needs unity: State Counsellor

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has called for businessmen to show their strength and unity with the government and the people by helping with the rehabilitation and resettlement efforts in Rakhine State.

Her remarks came at a ceremony at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday to accept cash donations from the country's businessmen for the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD), an organisation she chairs.

She called on the businessmen to give advice to the Union Government for the economic development of Rakhine State, saying that "Our main strength is cooperation".

Rehabilitation is a social and political need, she said.

While denouncing the destruction in the conflict areas in northern Rakhine State, the State Counsellor warned that consequences come after unlawful actions in a country.

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi chats with businessmen yesterday at a ceremony to accept donation for Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

LOCAL BUSINESS

Myanmar-India trade from Tamu border decreased by \$19 mn this FY

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**LOCAL BUSINESS**

Myanmar, Vietnam ink MoU to promote cooperation in real estate sector

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Verification cards issued in Rakhine

STAFF from the Rakhine State Immigration and Population department have issued National Verification Cards to over 2,600 people from Shwe Zar north, west and middle villages over the past two months.

After the attacks of extremists from the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) on 25 August in the Maungtau region, a team led by the head of the State Immigration and Manpower department began the process for issuing national verification cards (NVCs), which is one of the programmes being implement-

ed to improve Rakhine State's development.

The staff from the department divided into groups and checked and recorded eye scans and fingerprints to issue NVCs to over 2,600 people from Shwe Zar north, west and middle villages. More recently, from 12 to 17 October, NVCs for 56 men, 27 women, a total of 83 and NID for 66 men and 34 women, total of 100 were scrutinized and issued.

The NVC and NID (biometric) works will continue, it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency



Immigration officials work on issuing National Verification Cards to locals in northern Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw

2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 6th regular session holds its 3rd day meeting

THE 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 6th regular session's 3rd day meeting was held at 10 am yesterday and 6 queries were replied to and a bill tabled.

Responding to a question by Dr. U Hla Moe of Aungmyaythazan constituency on the process and management of the President's education award and how the public is informed about it, Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun said the President's education award was started in fiscal year 2015-2016 and 117 were awarded. Of the 117, 33 were awarded with a scholarship from People's Republic of China and 84 were selected for a President's education award. One was unable to gain entrance to the graduate course of study and only 83 were presented the President's education award. The President's education award group provided tuition, board and lodging fees and health insurance to winners and in fiscal year 2015-2016, they were provided with Ks.3.486 billion. In fiscal year 2016-2017, 79 award winners remain in mas-

ter's and doctorate courses and were continued to be provided with financial support. The 79 were provided with financial support in 2017-2018 and the estimated yearly financial support provided was earmarked at Ks4.888 billion. Additionally, the President's education award estimated at Ks6.517 billion was also earmarked for 80 outstanding teachers and staff who were providing their services in teaching post-graduate master's and doctorate courses that the country needed.

Currently, the President's education award is being renamed as the national scholarship award, for which a national scholarship selection committee was formed. The national scholarship award is presented with the aim of nurturing qualified new-generation leaders who can participate in various sectors of state construction, and MOUs were being prepared and signed with international universities. Arrangements were being made to present national scholarship awards to attend master's and

doctorate courses of study.

Once the detailed selection processes are drawn up, requirements of the applicants and selection criteria will be posted on the Ministry of Education official website and an announcement will be made in government newspapers. Transparent arrangements such as announcing selected applicants will be conducted, the Deputy Minister said.

In response to a question by Daw Khin Hnin Thit of Padaung constituency on plans to systematically promote demonstrators, assistant lecturers, lecturers and professors assigned in universities and colleges according to regulation, Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun said promotion of teachers in universities and colleges are conducted according to public servant rules, instructions issued by the Union Civil Service Board as well as being based on work experience, service and set criteria of the higher education department. Transfers by rank and positions are conducted annually according to rules and



Dr. U Hla Moe of Aungmyethazan constituency.



U Win Maw Tun, Deputy Minister for Education.

regulations and promotions are made whenever there are available positions in the organisation. Equal opportunities are provided to all who are qualified, without any favoritism.

The Deputy Minister then answered a question from Dr. U Aung Khin of Pyin Oo Lwin constituency on plans to open an Associate Government Technical Institute (AGTI) to conduct vocational training and create work opportunities for those with experience in Pyin Oo Lwin automobile technology research compound. There was also a question by U Myint Lwin of Twantay constituency on plans to teach history as a compulsory subject from the primary to the doctorate level and a question by U Thet Naung of Lahe constituency on plans to upgrade schools

in Lahe Township.

Next, U Aye Naing of Dagon Myothit (South) constituency and the secretary of natural resources and environmental conservation committee tabled a bill on protecting and conserving wildlife, forest and fauna.

Afterwards Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee member Sai Phoe Myat of Muse constituency read a bill committee report on protection and conservation of wildlife, forest, fauna and natural habitat.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint then announced that Hluttaw representatives who want to amend the bill on protecting and conserving wildlife, forest and fauna to register their names indicating the clause, sub clause and subject to be amended.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 6th regular session 3rd day meeting

IN the 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 6th regular session 3rd day meeting held yesterday morning at Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall, a motion was debated and three asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered.

Dr. Sai Hsai Kyauk Sam of Shan State constituency 6 raised a question on plans to administer the H1N1 influenza virus vaccine and Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe replied that H1N1 is a seasonal influenza that occurs worldwide and is an epidemic in some countries. Whether the illness is widespread or localised is dependent upon the knowledge of the people and the effectiveness of the ministry's conduct. Local and foreign businesses also helped in controlling H1N1. It takes about two weeks after vaccination for antibodies to develop in the body



Amyotha Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw on 20 October 2017. PHOTO: MNA

and provide protection against influenza virus infection. Prevention and control of H1N1 is largely dependent on the conduct of the people rather than relying on the vaccine. Emphasis should be placed on people's cooperation and understanding of the virus rather than on the vaccine, the Union Minister said.

Densely populated areas are liable to spread the infection more and thus it isn't effective to administer the vaccine in sparsely populated area such as Kengtung. It is for this reason why vaccinations were not conducted in Kengtung. However, vaccinations were given in townships that are likely to be exposed to the virus.

Vaccinations were given only to expecting mothers and children from the ages of 3 months to one year. There were 14 patients from Kengtung, Mongyawng, Tachilek, Mongton, and Monghsat townships who underwent treatment for seasonal influenza and two patients from Kengtung and one from the Mongyawng area who

were infected with H1N1. There were no fatalities from the virus and all were eventually discharged from the hospital. About 4,500 doses of the vaccine were obtained via donations. If there are to be vaccinations administered in Kengtung, it will be conducted by Shan State Health Department in end October or early November, the Union Minister said.

Next, a question from U Kyaw Ni Naing of Shan State constituency 11 on constructing a district-level modern sports ground in Laukkai Township and a question from U Tet Tun Aung of Rakhine State constituency 2 on upgrading the village sub health station into a village health station in Pyinetaung Village were answered by Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe.—Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi together with the country's businessmen for the UEHRD pose for a documentary photo in Nay Pyi Taw on 20 October. **PHOTO: MNA**

Development in Rakhine requires cooperation

FROM PAGE-1

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi urged the businessmen to operate in a new economic mechanism, pledging that her administration would encourage competition among the businesses in Rakhine in implementing

the rehabilitation, resettlement and development project.

The effort in Rakhine State could be considered the pilot project for concurrent dual implementation of peace and development.

In her concluding remarks,

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi called for unity among the government, the people and the businessmen for the success of the project in Rakhine State as part of efforts for laying down a foundation for the Union.

Total donations at the cere-

mony yesterday reached K17.7 billion.

The ceremony was also attended by Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe, Deputy Minister U Min Thu, U Khin Maung Tin, Chief Coordinator of UEHRD Dr Aung Tun Thet, Information

and Communications Director U Kyaw Myaing and other officials.

Bank accounts at Ayeyawady Bank, KBZ Bank and CB Bank for public contribution to the project will be announced soon, it was learnt.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Coordination meeting held to launch MyanmarSat 2 in June 2019

LEADING committee on establishing satellite system held its third coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, discussing preparation for the task.

Vice President U Myint Swe said in his capacity as the chairman of the committee that a joint ownership system would be used when the country used its own satellite system MyanmarSat-2 which is expected to launch in June 2019.

Furthermore, it is in the course of discussion to be able to launch MyanmarSat 2 under joint ownership system at the cost of about US\$ 155.7 million and the said amount is to pay in 10 installments, according to the meeting.

The expense is agreed to be settled in 2018-19 FY and 2019-20 FY. MyanmarSat 2 can be put in service starting from June 2019.

There are three ways that were mentioned in the previous meetings, for Myanmar to be able to establish State-owned



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the meeting of leading committee on establishing satellite system in Nay Pyi Taw on 20 October 2017. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

satellite system. The first way is to lease the use of satellite transponder of another country and pay for it. That system is known as Condosat.

“The second method is joint ownership system and the third method is total ownership system. The second method that the Union Minister for Transport and Communications has indicated in the second meeting will be employed. For the time being, the MyanmarSat 1 is used on lease,” said the Vice President.

Sub-committee for legal and regulatory affairs needs to check and manage not to get grievances in our side. The In-

defeasible Right of Use (IRU) of the Transponder shall be put as an irrevocable provision in the contract.

According to the 1st meeting of the sub-committee for leasing the State-owned Satellite Transponder held on 29 September 2017, It is known that MPT has already proposed to lease additional 72 MHz besides Myanmar Communications Enterprise could have fully rented C-band Transponder 252 MHz out of the Transponders of Condosat that is the system of leasing the satellite transponders and is currently being used. However, the use of KU-band transponder is still scarce, so it is necessary to try

to lease more KU-band.

From MyanmarSat 2 six C-band transponders and six KU-band will be secured. 432 MHz from C-band and 432 MHz from Ku-band, 864 MHz in total will be gained. It will ensure the beneficial result only when the all MHz can be put in service. For that target the respective ministry has to seek market in cooperation with private sector.

In his concluding remarks, Vice President has called on the ministries which are currently using the foreign satellite transponders to hire the MyanmarSat-2 when their contracts with foreign firms are expired.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar delegation attends 137th Assembly of Inter-Parliamentary Union

A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat arrived back Yangon yesterday after attending the 137th Assembly of Inter-Parliamentary Union in St. Petersburg, Russia.

The delegation left Yangon for Russian on 13 October to attend the assembly at the invitation of the Chairman of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the Chairman of State Duma and the Chairman of the Inter-Parliamentary Organizations.

U T Khun Myat also delivered a speech on the Myanmar's government policy with the title “Promoting cultural pluralism and peace though inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue” at the Assembly held from 14 to 18 October.

He also clarified the ground situation happened in northern Rakhine State of Myanmar.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

ACTING CHIEF EDITORAye Min Soe,
ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**EXPATRIATE CONSULTANT EDITOR**Mark Angeles,
markangeles@gmail.com**SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**

Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORSKhin Maung Oo,
editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Khin Maung Win (Chief Proof Reader),
Zaw Min, zawmin.gnlm@gmail.com**INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR**Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**LOCAL NEWS EDITORS**Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com**TRANSLATORS**Khaing Thanda Lwin,
Hay Mar Tin Win,
Ei Myat Mon
Zaw Htet Oo
Kyaw Zin Lin
Sandar Soe
Kyaw Zin Tun**REPORTERS**May Thet Hnin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
mayreporter.mmm@gmail.com
Tun Aung Kyaw,
reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAMTun Zaw (Chief of Computer Team),
Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin**EDITORIAL SECTION**(+95) (01) 8604529,
Fax – (+95) (01) 8604305**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
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Drinking water project in Dala Township to be finalised by 2018

A PROJECT to supply adequate amounts of drinking water in Yangon's Dala Township is estimated to be finalised by 2018, according to the Yangon City Development Committee.

Dr. Aung Ko Oo, assistant director of YCDC's Health Department, said the current project is being implemented in seven sites of the township in cooperation with Asia Green Development Bank with the aim of ending the town's annual water shortage problem.

According to a report of the Myawady Daily, the town dwellers yearly experience a lack of sufficient available water resources to meet the water needs within the region. They chiefly rely on lakes and ponds for their drinking water. A local study shows that the water quality of the lakes is not suitable for use as drinking water. Water-related health problems



People line up to fetch drinking water in Dala Township, Yangon Region. **PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE**

are said to occur because of low quality of the water.

The YCDC has yet to set the exact date to officially finalise the project, but concerted

efforts have been made by the implementers to finish the plan as quickly as possible, Dr. Aung Ko Oo said.

He went on to say that ma-

chine maintenance training and courses on management of the water supply will also be given to the residents before the project is completed.—GNLM ■

Bamboo growers in Shan State reap healthy profits prior to Tazaungdaing festival

BAMBOO growers in Shan State reaped decent profits for their products in the domestic market before the Tazaungdaing festival that will be held the last week of this month, according to the Myawady Daily.

As the Tazaungdaing festival of light draws near, retailers from around the country

come to Taunggyi, the capital of southern Shan State, which is famous for its annual Tazaungdaing lighting festival. The festival also hosts an average of 800 shops per year.

The festival is scheduled to take place between 26 October and 4 November in Taunggyi on a grand scale. Construction

of shops has already begun in the days prior to the event. The sellers usually use bamboo and related products as the major construction material for their shops. That is why this kind of forest product is in high demand in local market.

Based on size and quality, prices for a bamboo pole are

between Ks250 and Ks1,000, while bamboo matting is sold for Ks800-Ks2,000.

They obtain bamboo produced from Kyauktalone, Naungka and Hamse villages. Bamboo is used to make marketable retail products such as beds, chairs and other furniture.—GNLM ■

10,000-acre mangrove forests to be designated as protected forests

PLANS are underway to designate 10,000 acres of mangrove forest along the coastline of the Gulf of Mottama as protected public forests, according to Yangon Region Forest Department.

A report of the Myawady Daily's Friday edition said that the project will cover mangrove forests cultivated in Kyauktan, Khayan, Thonewa and Kawhmu townships in Yangon, and those forests along the coastline of the Gulf of Mottama.

Yangon Region government approved the new scheme to establish protected public forests and the majority of residents agreed to implement the plan. The plan will start after making geographical measurements in the project areas.

A total of 2,282 acres of mangrove forests and protected forests have been established in Thanlyin, Kyauktan and Kungyangon townships in Yangon.

Myanmar has the



Mangrove forests along the coastline of the Gulf of Mottama to be designated as the protected public forests. **PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE**

third-largest mangrove forest coverage in Asia and seventh in the world. The country, with a total coastline of 2,832km, has mangrove forests covering an

area of 5,029 square metres, accounting for 3.3 per cent of the total area in the world, according to the 2010 World Mangrove Atlas.—GNLM ■



Houses seen in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Myanmar, Vietnam ink MoU to promote cooperation in real estate sector

MYANMAR and Vietnam have reached a memorandum of understanding in Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam, on promoting cooperation and investment in the real estate sector, according to a Friday report of the Myawady Daily.

Since 2016, the Myanmar Real Estate Services Association has signed MoUs with Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Laos and Vietnam, said Daw Moh Moh Aung, the general-secretary of Myanmar Real Estate Services Association.

The signing of the MoU

aims to ensure that Myanmar's property laws are similar to those in other ASEAN countries. A property bill has been submitted to the Upper House and Lower House. Myanmar will hold discussions with experts from Thailand and Singapore to ensure the emergence of property bill.

Foreign investors are beginning to become interested in the Myanmar real estate sector, but the country does not have adequate or compatible laws and bylaws pertaining to the property sector, officials said.

"Currently, the property sector is facing a market downturn. Those involved in the property sector will get a licence when the property law emerges. Thanks to this, the property market is predicted to develop and the sector is likely to see an influx of foreign investors," said Daw Moh Moh Aung.

"Another point is Myanmar's tax rates are a bit higher than those in other countries. The association has sent its suggestions to authorities in order to reduce higher tax rates," she added.—GNLM

Myanmar-India trade from Tamu border decreased by \$19 mn this FY

MYANMAR-India border trade as of 6 October totalled US\$34.587 million, a decrease of over \$19 million matched against the same period last year, according to the Commerce Ministry's latest report.

From 1 April through 6 October, the country exported \$27.392 mn worth of commodities to its second-largest neighbor, while bilateral imports reached \$7.195 mn in total. Both imports and exports declined in

value over the first half of this fiscal year.

Although trade between the two countries from the Tamu border trade camp declined by over \$20 mn in value, bilateral trade value through the Reed border station showed a slight increase of \$1.895 mn.

According to official statistics of the ministry, this time last year, total border trade of the two nations amounted to \$53.623 mn.

Myanmar mainly trades with India through the Tamu and Reed border trade camps. The country exports ginger, saffron, turmeric, bay leaves and other kinds of fruits and vegetables, plus human hair, fishery and forest products to the neighbouring country. It imports medicines, oil-cakes, electronic products, cotton yarn, non-alloy steel and other construction materials.—Shwe Khine

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း **"Sunday Special"** အချပ်ပို (၈)
မျက်နှာပေါင်သော The Global New Light of Myanmar
နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကို အောက်ပါမြို့များတွင် ဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

"Sunday Special"
အချပ်ပို (၈) မျက်နှာ
ပေါင်သည့်

နေပြည်တော်
ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ရုံးအမှတ် (၇) နေပြည်တော်၊
သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရုံးချုပ်)၊
စီမံခန့်ခွဲမှုဌာန၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၄၁၂၁၀၈

နေပြည်တော်
နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တပ်ကုန်း)
ဇေယျာသီရိမြို့နယ်၊ ခရေပင်လမ်းမ၊ နေပြည်တော်၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၃၆၁၄၈၊ ၀၆၇၃၆၁၂၉

ရန်ကုန်
The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊
ငါးထပ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ဗဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၁၀၆၀၅၉၂၂၊ ၀၉၉၇၄၄၂၄၁၁၄

မန္တလေး
လမ်း (၂၁ x ၂၁) ကြား၊ (၁၂ x ၈၃) လမ်းကြား၊ ပုလဲဇွေ
ရောင်ရမ်းမန္တလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၂၃၂၇၂၉၊ ၀၂၃၂၇၅၀

တောင်ကြီး
ရုံးကြီးလမ်း၊ သစ်တောရပ်ကွက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၈၁၂၁၁၆၄၊ ၀၉၅၂၁၄၃၅၇

မကွေး
နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ တပ်မ (၈၈) တပ်နယ်ချေးအနီး၊
မကွေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၃၂၃၇၀၂

ကချင်တို
မြို့သစ် (၃-၈)၊ အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းသွယ်၊ မြို့ပတ်လမ်း၊
ကချင်တိုမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၄၂၂၄၉၂

ကလေး
အောင်ဇေယျာရပ်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊
ကလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၂၁၃၃

မြင်ကြီးမား
အမှတ် (၄၁)၊ ရေပျံကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊
မြင်ကြီးမားမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄၂၂၄၆၂

စစ်တွေ
ရေမာတိုလမ်းနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊
မိဆက်ကြီးအနီး၊ မန်ကျည်မြိုင်ရပ်ကွက်၊ စစ်တွေမြို့၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃၂၃၀၆၈

လားရှိုး
ဟူးမွန်ကျေးရွာထိပ်၊ ဟူးမွန်ဆည်ဘယ်ဘက်ခြမ်း၊
(၁၂) ရပ်ကွက်၊ မန်ဆူဘုရားရှေ့ အဝေးရာလမ်း၊
လားရှိုးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၂၂၄၀၆၇

ခြောက်
မေတ္တာလမ်း၊ ရှမ်းချောင်းရပ်၊ ကလွင်ကျေးရွာအုပ်စု၊
ခြောက်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၉၄၂၁၈၃

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New garment factory in Sittway

A garment factory was officially opened in Sittway yesterday that will create up to 80 jobs for local women and hopefully fuel the development of Rakhine State.

The opening ceremony of the Khaing Pyi Soe garment factory was held at the frontage of the factory in Sat Yoe Kya Ward, Sittway yesterday morning.

In the ceremony, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, State High Court Chief Judge U Kyauk, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung and state ministers, departmental staff, town elders, representatives from social organizations and invited guests attended.

Rakhine State Social Affairs Minister Dr Chan Tha, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Soe and Daw Saw Theingi Tun, Managing Director of GLORIOUS SAW Co. opened the garment factory by cutting a ribbon. Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu then unveiled the sign-board of the factory by pressing a button.

This is the second garment factory to be opened in Sittway in recent months.

The Rakhine State Chief Minister said that youths in Rakhine State, including Sittway, will gain more job opportunities as a result of the factory's opening. If job opportunities will be developed in the State, the State's development will increase year by year. The Rakhine State government will work to develop industries and factories



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu visits Khaing Pyi Soe garment factory in Sittway. PHOTO: MNA

more and more, he said.

Afterwards, the Managing Director of Glorious Saw Co. spoke briefly about the workings of the new garment factory.

Then, the State Chief Minister, the Deputy Minister, State ministers and attendees toured the factory.

The managing director of the new factory said the State's help is essential in helping to spur manufacturing in the region.

"The garment factory was opened for young women in Rakhine State to get more jobs and to develop the state. It aims for Rakhine women to get jobs. But it is impossible to do on my own only. It requires assistance and encouragement

of the State government." said Daw Saw Theingi Tun, the managing director.

"I will meet women in relief camps and share knowledge. As I'm a designer, I will impart to them my skills. When they finish the course, outstanding ladies will get a sewing machine free of charge. For others who want to work in the factory, I will manage for them to get a job with a salary."

For the workers, being able to work close to home has made life easier.

"Before, I have worked at a factory in South Dagon, Yangon Region where I got good salary. But it is more convenient working in my own region and living together with my

family. Now, people who were working at factories in Yangon came and worked in this factory. There are two factories in Sittway, yet. The state government should perform to open more garment factories in Rakhine State like that. I also would like to inform young men and women who are working in more developed parts of the country that factories and industries had been opened in Rakhine State," said Ma Tan Soe, who is working at the factory from Pauktaw village, Kyauktaw Township.

The Khaing Pyi Soe garment factory is the second factory in Sittway and will appoint up to 80 employees. —Tin Tun, Win Min Soe (IPRD)

Appointment of Head of Service Organization

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed U Soe Lin Han, Director-General of the Planning and Administrative Department, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on expiry of the one-year probation period.—MNA

700 Muslim villagers depart to neighbouring country

ABOUT 700 Muslims from Buthidaung and Maungtau Townships arrived near Layyinpyankwin beach between Maungtau Township Panyaungpingyi Village and Ywathit Kay Village in recent days in preparation for departure to Bangladesh, despite officials trying to persuade them to return to their own villages.

The villagers said they wished to go to the neighbouring country and departed toward the beach between the mouths of the Hmowin and Gawduthara creeks.

On 16 October, 513 Muslim villagers from Bawli Village, Pyaingtaung Village, Thane Taung Pyin Village, Phayapyin Aungpa village and Phayonechaung Village from Buthidaung Township arrived near Layyinpyankwin beach while 198 Muslim villagers came from Sein Nyin Pya Village, making up a total of 711 gathered between Panyaungpingyi Village and Ywathit Kay Village. They said they wanted to go to Bangladesh because of difficult livelihoods and health care situations. They also added that there were no threats made against them and no houses were burnt in their respective villages. Relatives from the other country rented boats to fetch them and they left their villages fearing attacks from terrorists.

Authorities told them of arranging cars to transport them back to their villages and to provide food and medicine, but they said they wanted to go to another country.

Six households consisting a total of 41 from Buthidaung Township Kondaing village tract Maungnama village and Nanyakone village tract Maungnama Pale Taung village, were found at Taungbadaka Village departing toward Bangladesh were sent back to their villages on 16 October.—Myanmar News Agency

Work on construction of new houses in N-Rakhine launched

RAKHINE State Government started work on construction of houses for ethnic Mro villagers and Muslim villagers in Maungtau yesterday.

The project for construction of 50 houses at the ethnic Mro Village of Kainggyi was commenced with a stake driving by Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Nyi Pu.

Speaking at the ceremony, U Nyi Pu pledged on behalf of the government to work for all-round development including upgrading of transportation, power supply, education and healthcare services in northern Rakhine, encouraging the ethnic villagers to start a new life with new houses while preserving their



Rakhine State Chief Minister drives a stake into the ground to mark the launching of the construction project. PHOTO: MNA

traditional culture.

Following the ceremony, the dignitaries went to the Islamic village of Pantawpyin to launch the construction of 22 houses for the villagers.

At a meeting with the villagers, Chief Minister U Nyi Pu has urged the locals to cooperate with the state government and to follow the rule of law in order to bring peace and sta-

bility to the area.

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Soe Aung, Minister of Electricity, Industry and Transportation, Daw Nilar Kyaw, State Minister for Social Affairs Dr. Chan Thar and officials from respective departments were part of the delegation.

The Rakhine Chief Minister also drove a stake into the ground to mark the launching of the construction project for the Muslim villagers.

In the evening, the Chief Minister and delegation met with township officials and discussed about the ongoing projects being implemented in Rakhine State.—Myanmar News Agency

Leadership Seminar for Tech Age Girls Myanmar, Library Award Ceremony held

Dr. Pe Myint, Union Minister for Information, addressed a seminar yesterday on Leadership Seminar for Tech Age Girls Myanmar and a ceremony for “Beyond Access Innovative Library Award” was held at the Inya Lake Hotel in Yangon.

At the ceremony, Dr. Thant Thaw Kaung, executive director of Myanmar Book Aid and Preservation Foundation, explained the background of the foundation and the emergence of “Tech Age Girls Myanmar Project.”

“The Ministry of Information is performing the task of increasing the number of books and readers. The Myanmar Book Aid and Preservation Foundation are carrying out the tasks of making readers read more and developing libraries. The Ministry of Information is co-operating by signing an MoU for libraries under the Ministry to acquire aids on news and information and for the acquisition of the internet to fully acquire news and information. Libraries are being changed into community



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint and officials pose for photo together with winners of the Beyond Access Innovative Library Award at Inya Lake Hotel in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

centres, and arrangements for holding literary talks are underway. Besides literary talks consisting of one representative from the Region and State Hluttaw, one from the government, a technician and a scholar each from civil society have also been arranged to be held. It is being implemented with a view to becoming a community centre open to all, and for developing

the habits of arguing, criticising and discussing national affairs with authorities concerned. Simultaneously, the Ministry is carrying out to form libraries as developed and qualified ones which can fulfill the needs of the people, in co-operation with Myanmar Book Aid. A total of 45 co-operations such as workshops on libraries, seminars between librarians, ICT training

for librarians, leadership training, and training for knowledge and skills on mobile news and information have already been conducted. In combination with Myanmar Book Aid, efforts are being made to develop public libraries in districts and townships as community centres where the public can assemble and meet. For modernisation of public libraries, the Ministry

will co-operate with any organisations with same destination.”

Following that, Dr Aung Naing Soe, director-general of the basic education department and representatives from IREX, Microsoft and Ooredoo Myanmar gave speeches in honour of the occasion.

Daw Myat San Nyein, project manager of Beyond Access Myanmar, announced the names of prize winners, with Dr. Aung Naing Soe, Dr. Thant Thaw Kaung and Daw Myat San Nyein presenting prizes, followed by clarifications concerning the project by the project manager of Tech Age Girls Myanmar.

Prize winner Ma Ei Ei Phyu then spoke of her experiences from the Tech Age Girls Programme and Dr. Thant Thaw Kaung gave presents.

Libraries are being changed from community libraries to community centres. With a view to producing female leaders in villages and wards in the technology age, the Tech Age Girls Programme was launched in 2016.—Myanmar News Agency ■

17th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology held

At the 17th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology held at 9 am yesterday at the Myanmar International Convention Centre -2 in Nay Pyi Taw, Dr Myo Thein Gyi, the Union Minister said, “Myanmar is taking active participation in the sectors of science and technology for sustainable economic development in the region. Our leaders of the State have already said that co-operations will be able to be upgraded in respective spheres by helping in the sectors of science, technology and innovations. In lifting up the co-operation of aligned countries so as to increase unity among ASEAN nations and innovations in 2025, Myanmar will take active part.”

In addition, H.E Dr Cham



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi delivers an address at the 17th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology. **PHOTO: MNA**

Prasidh, Senior Minister, Ministry of Industry and Handcraft, Cambodia gave an honorary speech.

At the meeting, agreements had been achieved to help by implementing SMEs in the region under prioritization order

through the approval of final draft of declaration on ASEAN innovations to be accepted by ASEAN nations, approval of 12 proposals to be spent from ASEAN science, technology and innovation fund, building up ASEAN nuclear and synchrotron website and ASEAN

website on research of safety, approval of ASEAN centre for data on water and weather and by performing all inclusive development in equality.

Following that, those present at the meeting acknowledged ASEAN-India Training Program on Research and ASEAN—India introducing the programme on research and development, increasing ASEAN—India science and technology development fund from US \$ 1 million to 5 million, approval of ASEAN—Russia science, technology and innovation project 2016—2025, implementation of the scholarship program on ASEAN—US science and technology with the management of ASEAN Foundation, ASEAN youths scientist and

technician award, ASEAN science and technology outstanding award, ASEAN Service Award, Da Vinci award and scholarship award of the Centre for ASEAN+3 science outstanding award and ASEAN—US science award for women.

After the meeting, Union Minister and representatives from ASEAN countries inspected around the exhibition of ASEAN science, technology and innovation exhibited in the Myanmar International Convention Center.

In the afternoon, Dr Myo Thein Gyi hosted a luncheon to the Ministers and Deputy Ministers, high-ranking officials, ASEAN deputy secretary general and responsible officials.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Guns and drugs seized in Buthidaung and Maungtaw

AUTHORITIES seized stimulant pills worth a total of Ks2.88 billion and four hand-made guns in Maungtaw and Buthidaung townships in three separate incidents this week.

On Tuesday, acting on a tip-off, security forces stopped a HiJet vehicle on the road of Ward 5 in Maungtaw driven by

Nyi Nyi, 22 from Weithale Village in Maungtaw, and seized 487,500 WY stimulant pills worth Ks97.5 million. On Wednesday, authorities seized 955,500 stimulant tablets worth Ks1.91 billion from a Nissan vehicle driven by Min Aung Naing with two men on board. The two passengers were arrested, but the driver

Min Aung Naing fled.

In a third incident, local police found four hand-made, 13-inch long short guns and a black ski mask in Sar Khaing Ale Village in Buthidaung. The investigation into the incidents is ongoing at Taung Bazarr Police Station.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Trade value via Maungtaw border check point to exceed target

TRADE value at Maungtaw border check post is expected to exceed its target of US 6million this 2017-2018 Fiscal Year.

The trade has returned to normality since October 14 following attacks by ARSA extremist terrorists.

“The trade value reached more than US\$ 5 million before the terrorist attacks on 24th August, so it is expected the trade value can exceed in November,” said U Cho Htwe, an official of the Maungtaw Trade Camp.—Thant Zin Win ■

We wish to live in peace and security

By Khin Maung Oo

SECURITY plays an important role for a country and its people. As regards security, there should not be one iota of threat which causes fear and worry for a country and among those living in the country. Due to the news item about seizure of weapons at Nay Pyi Taw airport and its related news, worries and criticisms are increasingly rising up among our people, it is learnt.

When the news of seizure of 21 modern weapons was added to the worries over the inhumane attacks of ARSA extremist terrorists which took place in northern Rakhine State, undeniably there have been a lot of worries and criticisms in the country. We also heard

on July 19 that 21 automatic firearms to be sent to Mandalay were seized in Thazi. On 5th October as well, 10000 units of detonators which are used in exploding bombs were seized being carried via Chin State. Similarly, a total of 40000 detonators were found in a car which was stopped and searched in Kalaywa Township nearby the Myanmar-India border on 16th October. They were said to have been sued.

Illegally possessed weapons can kill people and threaten regional security. Criminal possession and carriage of weapons are outlawed. Illegal weapons that are possessed with a view to commit a crime, launching armed attacks or shooting at random are outlawed. That being so any kind of behavior and

deeds which are potential risks for the people must be sought for and protected.

At present, all nations have fears and worries over the danger of armed extremist terrorists. Thus they are taking precautions so as not to be infiltrated by these destructive elements by heightening the security precautions. Despite these efforts breaches of security occurred even in advanced nations of the world said to be equipped with cutting-edge security systems, claiming many innocent lives. We must take lesson from these events.

Generally, extremist terrorists illegally possess and use explosives and modern firearms. But very recently due to the random attacks made with

modern weapons, a mass shooter killed 60 people and nearly 500 were injured in Las Vegas.

In Myanmar, nobody apart from national security forces has a right to possess firearms. Anyone who holds ordinary lethal weapons such as knives, sticks or rods, not to mention automatic guns and firearms in public places can be arrested. We already have such a law. It must be more serious and punishable to hold modern weapons. Only if criminal possession of weapons can be effectively wiped out in accord with rules and laws with security consciousness and awareness in our minds, will our people be able to live in the country with rule of law, being free from worries. ■

By Htun Tin Htun

STRENGTH lies within the body (country) and outside the body (country) as well and wish-to-do, work hard, will and wisdom are four important and great foundation and united strengths and powers for winning the great results and ultimate happiness. The five national objectives for the celebration of the 70th Independence Day 2018 are: to safeguard and protect the non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of the National Solidarity and Perpetuation of Sovereignty by the entire ethnic people; to work hard for emergence of a constitution which meets the democratic norms and can guarantee a democratic federal union; to make more efforts for implementation of the peace process; to reach the goal of "eternal peace" through political dialogue by cooperating between all national races of the Union with the Union Government and to work hard for promoting the private sector which is the driving force for the country's economy and to be able to boost the socio-economy of the people. Right understanding, right thought, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness and right concentration are eight in one unique path leading to the cessation of all sorrows and sufferings and reaching to the supreme bliss. Equity, empowerment, employment and environment need to be paid attention for the development of human beings in this planet. No one is above the law and rule of law everywhere is of paramount importance for the governance in implementing development activities of various socio-economic projects and programmes. Great leader has to serve the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with the qualities such

Strengthening of Solidarity for Sovereignty



as see the future, engage and develop others, reinvent continuously, value respect and relationship and embody values. Time and tide waits for no man and timely and swift action is needed to be carried out for any encroachment and invasion of our national sovereignty. Human Buddha Way, based on the five moral precepts (great charity), four

universal cardinal virtues (loving-kindness, compassion, sympathetic joy and equanimity), four noble truths and noble eightfold path (mind-centered teaching), is a way of life of the majority of the people in Myanmar while we respect and co-exist with all religions at home and across the world. End of poverty, end of hunger, end of corrup-

tion, end of ethnic armed conflicts, end of discrimination, end of gender inequality, end of war, end of terrorism, end of illiteracy, end of belligerency, end of brutality, end of bullying, end of acrimony, end of aggression, end of agony, end of apprehension, end of atrocity, end of enmity, end of aversion and there are many more "end of----" in our world based on greed/craving, anger/hatred and delusion/ignorance. Nothing is impossible to one with wish-to-do, effort, mind and wisdom to end of such unsatisfactory conditions in this planet. Ignoble speech, manner and livelihood must be abstained for keeping and observing morality/discipline/character which is the great power to co-exist and live in peace and harmony in this world. Networking of Myanmar citizen living all corner of the world needs to be strengthened through the association of Myanmar community based on the loving-kindness and compassion in action. Federalism is of great importance and need to be finalized in order to have a strong foundation for the Federal Union that is all ethnic peoples in the Union of Myanmar are looking for and reaching to.

Solidarity of the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is very much important nowadays in order to safeguard, defend and protect from the invaders and encroachment of the national sovereignty and we need to face our future and we need to be brave in our thoughts, speech and actions. Our road to peace is like a marathon and to successfully complete and achieve it, we need firm determination, good attitude and in addition, an eager will. 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.

SEE PAGE-9

Birth and death records workshop held

A ceremony for introduction of the Registrar's Manual on Registrations of Births and Deaths and a workshop on birth and death records was held yesterday at the Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw, under the co-sponsorship of the Ministry of Planning and Finance, the Ministry of Health and Sports, the Central Statistical Organisation, Myanmar and UNICEF.

Present at the ceremony were U Kyaw Win, Union Minister for Planning and Finance, Dr. Myint Htwe, Union Minister for Health and Sports, Chief Ministers of Regions and States, Deputy Ministers, ministers of Regions and States Cabinets, Hluttaw representatives, UN Organisations' representatives, permanent secretaries and invited guests.

At the ceremony, Union Minister U Kyaw Win said proper statistical record-keeping is a vital part of the country's progress toward competing globally.

"Our work done here is for the sake of the country, but the



Union Minister U Kyaw Win addresses the ceremony of Launching of the Birth and Death Registration Manual and the workshop on Developing Vital Statistics System in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

results achieved must cover the global sphere, and it must be beneficial for the global populace. As long as we are performing our tasks with such great expectations, our country will be able to stand tall. Participants in the workshop are urged to perform to the best of their calibre to remain an epoch-making

milestone, without coming to the end just at the drop of the curtain of the ceremony", U Kyaw Win said. "In our country, people are very weak in keeping records, figures and statistics. So our economic development lagged behind. To keep pace with advanced countries, it is necessary to value facts and figures. And,

we must share our experiences to each other so that the future of our country will be remarkably brighter."

The health minister stressed the importance of accurate statistical records so that proper decisions can be made for the people.

"The registrar's manual on registration of births and deaths is of great importance for all the ministries. The introduction of the manual will be remembered as a milestone for Myanmar. It will be very useful in laying down socio-economic policies, principles on population, policies on caring the aged and policies on nurturing children", said Dr. Myint Htwe, Union Minister for Health and Sports said. Afterward, Mr. Paul Edwards, acting regional representative of UNICEF (Myanmar) made an address, followed by showing videos on the implementation of birth and death statistics and video recordings in commemoration of World Statistics Day.

After that, at the workshop

presided by U Tun Tun Naing, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Planning and Finance, Dr. Wah Wah Maung, director-general of the Central Statistical Organisation, led a discussion titled "The birth and death registration system". Also part of the workshop were Daw J Lian San San Aye, a Myanmar-based UNICEF official, who led a discussion on birth registration, Daw Thuzar Chit Tin, the deputy director-general of Public Health Department who spoke of death registration, and U Tin Myint, the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs, who participated in a talk on community engagement and participation. The workshop presided over by Dr. Wah Wah Maung, director-general of the Central Statistical Organisation, then discussed the relation between sustainable development goals and birth and death records. Development-aligned organisations discussed matters on providing help.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Strengthening of Solidarity for Sovereignty

FROM PAGE-8

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. During our long journey to eternal peace and sustainable development, we need to support and assist each other with consideration and empathy whenever and wherever we face hardships and challenges. All of us 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 and agree that a federal system is the only solution for the internal armed conflicts. Realizing that the unity and solidarity of the people of the nation is greatly needed and the country would be put under pressure and bullied by others if there was no unity and solidarity in the country; all stakeholders in the peace process are therefore urged to continue to march to the goal of peace with mutual understanding, mutual trust and tolerance. If we cooperate, collaborate, coordinate and compromise

with each other with mutual trust and understanding we will achieve our ultimate goal of peace, love, joy, harmony and happiness. The Union Spirit "One Team, One Vision" shall be a base for holding political dialogues for national reconciliation and peace even though the stakeholders come from different groups and all of us have been walking to the same path together. Your mutual understanding and mutual trust is of great importance for the negotiation of crucial political agreements by political partners.

From the history, the most valuable thing we have extracted is three main national causes-non-integration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of national sovereignty. Our Three National Causes is the national duty our all national people have to safeguard and the entire national people need to cooperate with the Tatmadaw in safeguarding the causes as the saying goes, "Blood is thicker than water", all the people, without discrimination against race or religion, have to safeguard, protect and defend any aggression and encroachment with the Union Spirit. Rule of law is necessary to build a Union based on democracy and federal system with full rights and guarantees of democracy, national

equality and self-administration.

Sovereignty of a nation is of paramount importance for safeguarding of the interest of the people and everybody in the nation is concerned as a national cause. "One for All and All for One" will make us to be "Unity is Strength" to defend and safeguard the sovereignty of the nation. Victory begets enmity; the defeated dwell in pain; happily the peaceful live, discarding both victory and defeat, this is the teaching of the Awakened One, the Buddha. Easy to do are things that are bad and harmful to oneself; but exceedingly difficult to do are things that are good and beneficial. Recognizing that we must adhere to three Universal Truths- liberty, equality and justice and we need to proceed with justice, freedom and equality in building a Democratic Federal Union which is the hope and wish of the people, while safeguarding Our Three Main National Causes-our national interest. Ethnic peoples of the Union of Myanmar wish to live in harmony and peace, to fully realize the rights guaranteed and assured in Panglong Agreement signed on 12, February 1947, while the country restored her independence and established the Union. In democratic system, the people 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. Getting the right things done through the right thought, speech, actions and efforts by the smart, strong, stout and straightforward people with the good government and right governance is our desired goal. "No one above the law" and "Accountability" are two important factors from political point of view to determine the rule of law and without these two factors rule of law cannot exist. The main thing is that everyone must act in accord with the law and 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. Your/ their/ our mindset is the most important to make a change in the country, to protect and defend the independence and to safeguard the sovereignty of the country with your loyalty, courage and Union spirit.

May Myanmar citizen and those who possess Myanmar blood from all over the world be free from all dangers and sufferings and join hand in hand in defending our independence and safeguarding our sovereignty!!!!

References: *The GNLM Newspaper*, 16th October 2017 ■



Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel arrives at a European Union leaders summit in Brussels, Belgium on 20 October, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May addresses a news conference during a European Union leaders summit in Brussels, Belgium on 20 October, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

WORLD BRIEFS

Moscow seeks support for Russia-Chinese roadmap on North Korea

MOSCOW — Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov urged world powers on Friday to get behind a joint Russian-Chinese roadmap for settling the crisis over North Korea's weapons programme.

Speaking at a conference on non-proliferation in Moscow, Lavrov said that the break-up of a deal on Iran's nuclear programme would send an alarming message about international security mechanisms, and could impact the situation on the Korean peninsula.—Reuters ■

Spanish government aims for January regional elections in Catalonia — PSOE

MADRID — The Spanish government has agreed with the opposition Socialists (PSOE) to hold regional elections in January in Catalonia as part of the extraordinary package of measures to temporarily impose direct rule on the region, Socialist politician Carmen Calvo said in an interview on national television on Friday. Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy will hold a special cabinet meeting on Saturday to put in motion the process to suspend Catalonia's autonomy after regional leader Carles Puigdemont refused to drop his secession campaign.—Reuters ■

Kremlin says "old friend" Blatter welcome to attend World Cup in Russia

MOSCOW — Former FIFA president Sepp Blatter and ex-UEFA head Michel Platini will both be welcome to attend the 2018 soccer World Cup in Russia as "old friends" of Russian President Vladimir Putin, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Friday. Blatter, who had been president of the global soccer body FIFA since 1998, was suspended in 2015 by the association's ethics committee. Platini resigned in 2016 as head of governing body UEFA after losing an appeal against a ban for ethics violations.—Reuters ■

Merkel sends positive signal to May on Brexit talks

BRUSSELS — German Chancellor Angela Merkel, in a markedly positive response on Friday to an EU summit appeal by Prime Minister Theresa May for help with Brexit, said talks with Britain were moving forward and were unlikely to break down.

Merkel made her comments at the end of the first day of a European Union summit and after May had appealed to her fellow leaders to help her silence critics at home and break a deadlock in the talks. After May left the meeting on Friday, the other 27 confirmed a goodwill gesture to speed up future talks by launching internal preparations for after Brexit.

"In contrast to how it is portrayed in the British press, my impression is that these talks are moving forward step by step," Merkel told a late-night news conference, dismissing as "absurd" suggestions in Britain that the talks should be broken off.

"I have absolutely no doubts that if we are all focused ... that we can get a good result. From my side there are no indications at all that we won't succeed," she said.

Arriving for the second day, others emphasised the positive too: Maltese Prime Minister Joseph Muscat called May's speech

her "best performance yet" and "a warm, candid and sincere appeal". Ireland's Leo Varadkar said it was "very strong".

But others complained they had heard little new of substance and rejected May's repetition of London's view that demands for money from Brussels have "no legal framework". Austrian Chancellor Christian Kern said "rhetorical progress" needed to be followed by "tangible conclusions".

After May left the summit on Friday, the other 27 leaders immediately adopted a formal ruling that there has not been sufficient progress to push the talks forward. But they did call on their staff to prepare for talks on a transition period that would smooth Britain's exit in March 2019.

May made no comment as she arrived for a breakfast meeting with summit chair Donald Tusk. Near midnight, speaking at the end of a dinner of butternut squash gnocchi and pheasant, she had sought to calm fears Britain would use its departure to undercut the EU economy by lowering standards.

She appealed to EU leaders to respond in kind to her efforts to break the Brexit stalemate, making clear she was disappointed

at their plan to announce on Friday that talks have not yet made enough progress to move on to a discussion of future trade ties.

The EU is seeking a clearer commitment from Britain that it will settle financial obligations linked to its exit. Leaders will on Friday set a target of December for London to improve its divorce settlement offer.

But they will also make a gesture by launching internal preparations for the next phase of the negotiations.

In choreography that contrasted with images of May standing isolated in Brussels at previous summits, Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron were filmed by television cameras engaging the British prime minister in an animated conversation at the start of the summit.

Merkel said the three had been discussing the need to safeguard the Iran nuclear deal after US President Donald Trump's decision last week to "decertify" it. It was a response May was looking for after explaining over dinner the "difficult political background" she faces if she returns home empty-handed and how she had worked hard to get the talks back on track after realising their perilous state at the

end of the summer.

"I took stock, listened to what the people in the UK were saying and what my friends and partners in Europe were saying and I made a step forward," she was quoted as saying by a British official, referring to a speech she made in Florence on 22 September.

There was no discussion after May spoke, according to an EU diplomat. Tusk said only that the leaders took note of her comments.

Weakened after losing her Conservatives' majority in a June election and by failing to rally support at a party conference, May needs to keep the talks on the road to silence the voices calling for her to walk away from the negotiations.

Unwilling now to increase her offer on the divorce bill, May instead proposed more moves to protect the rights of EU citizens in Britain — one of three issues the bloc says must be settled before moving to discuss a future trading relationship.

"There is increasingly a sense that we must work together to get to an outcome we can stand behind and defend to our people," May told the other leaders, according to the British official.—Reuters ■

US confirms terrorists in Syria use chemical weapons — Russian Defence Ministry

MOSCOW — The US Department of State has for the first time confirmed that terrorists active in the Syrian province of Idlib not only have but also use chemical weapons, Russian Defense Ministry Spokesman Major General Igor Konashenkov said on Friday.

While commenting on a statement issued by the US Department of State, he said that the document “provides details about a terror group named Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, affiliated with Jabhat al-Nusra [a terror group outlawed in Russia - TASS], which is active in this province and uses light and heavy weapons, improvised explosive devices and chemical weapons.” “I would like to point out that that the Department of State has for the first time officially acknowledged that terrorists from Jabhat al-Nusra not only have but also — I would like to stress that — use chemical weapons in this part of Syria in order to carry out terrorist attacks — a thing that we have many times many times warned against and talked about at various levels,” Konashenkov said.

The Russian general pointed out that only one chemical weapons incident had been recorded in the Idlib province, which took place in Khan Shaykhun and was



The Russian Defence Ministry refutes US allegations about Idlib bombing. PHOTO: TASS

blamed on the Syrian government forces by the US. “While the militants who actually carried out that attack turned out to be members of Jabhat al-Nusra — as the US Department of State eventually figured out — but were previously called the ‘moderate opposition’,” Konashenkov said.

“But now, the US State Department’s statement has put everything in place — the Jabhat al-Nusra terror group, affiliated

with Al-Qaeda [outlawed in Russia - TASS], which is active in Idlib, not only has but also uses chemical weapons against civilians,” he stressed.

In this connection, the Russian Defence Ministry’s spokesman commented on the US cruise missile attack on a Syrian airbase, which the US had carried out citing the alleged use of chemical weapons by the Syrian government forces in Khan

Shaykhun. “It is still unclear why Washington needed to use expensive Tomahawk missiles to attack Syria’s Shayrat airbase. They could have made better use of those millions of dollars by delivering strikes on the Jabhat al-Nusra terrorists,” Konashenkov noted.

The US allegations about an Idlib bombing are untrue as Russia’s Aerospace Forces never target populated localities, he

stressed.

The US Department of State said earlier that Russian and Syrian aircraft continued to deliver airstrikes in the Idlib province, which had already resulted in numerous victims among civilians and medical personnel.

“As for the alleged Idlib bombing by Russian aircraft, the [US] Department of State has been misled, to put it mildly, while US citizens have nothing to fear,” he said. “Russian warplanes active in Syria never target populated localities, unlike the US-led coalition, which has achieved a victory in Raqqa by just wiping the city from the face of the earth,” the Russian general added.

On 17 October, the US military said that about 90% of the Syrian city of Raqqa had been retaken from militants of the Islamic State terror group (IS, outlawed in Russia). At the same time, UN Spokesman Stephane Dujarric said that according to the United Nations, as a result of military activities, most part of Raqqa had been either damaged or destroyed, while the UN personnel could not achieve access to the city in order to assess the situation and deliver humanitarian aid.—Tass ■

Turkey orders arrest of 110 people over Gulen links — media

ISTANBUL — Turkish authorities issued arrest warrants for 110 people from a seized company over alleged links to the US-based cleric who Ankara says orchestrated last year’s attempted coup, Dogan news agency and other media said on Friday.

It said the police operation to seize the suspects, who were managers, partners and employees of the publishing group Kaynak Holding and related companies, was focused on Istanbul but spread across 24 provinces.

Kaynak Holding was seized by the state in 2015 over links to the movement of Islamic preacher Fethullah Gulen, who has lived in self-imposed exile in Pennsylvania since 1999. He has denied involvement in the July 2016 abortive putsch.

Hundreds of firms like Kaynak, many of them smaller provincial businesses, were seized

by authorities in a post-coup crackdown and are now run by government-appointed administrators.

Under the crackdown, more than 50,000 people have been jailed pending trial over alleged links to Gulen, while 150,000 people have been sacked or suspended from jobs in the military, public and private sectors.

In a separate operation centred in Ankara, 38 former employees from schools owned by the Gulen network were arrested on Friday, according to Turkish media. The schools were closed by a decree after the failed coup.

The government dismisses rights groups’ concerns about the crackdown, saying only such a purge could neutralise the threat represented by Gulen’s network, which it says infiltrated institutions such as the judiciary, army and schools.—Reuters ■

Former Nazi death camp guard charged with accessory to murder

FRANKFURT — German public prosecutors have charged a 96-year-old former guard at a Nazi death camp with having been an accessory to murder, as Germany races against time to bring elderly suspects from the Hitler era to trial before they die.

The then 22-year-old man, whom the Frankfurt prosecutor’s office did not identify in its statement, is accused of having guarded prisoners at the death camp in Lublin-Majdanek who were slated to be killed in 1943 and 1944.

“According to the evidence available, the accused knew about the cruelty of the organised mass killings, just like all other members of the SS at the camp,” it said in a statement.

“He also knew that these people, facing their fate innocently and defencelessly, were killed for inhuman reasons

based on race,” it added.

Tens of thousands of Jews and other victims were killed at the Majdanek camp near Lublin, in modern-day Poland.

The suspect played a role in the ‘Erntefest’ (Harvest Festival) executions on 3 November, 1943, in which at least 17,000 deported Jewish prisoners were shot dead after having dug their own graves, the prosecutor’s statement said.

“By being part of a chain of guards and a tower guard, he made a contribution to (the Erntefest) and knowingly and willingly supported the malicious and cruel acts.”

The prosecutor’s charges are based on an investigation by the Central Office for the Investigation of Nazi Crimes and on historical documents found as part of the investigation.

Germany has faced criticism for not prosecuting

those who were small cogs in the Nazi machine and did not actively take part in the killing of six million Jews during the Holocaust.

That criticism has abated following many recent trials and convictions, including the 2011 conviction of Sobibor extermination camp guard John Demjanjuk, which gave prosecutors new legal means to investigate suspects under accessory-to-murder charges.

Former Auschwitz guard Reinhold Hanning and Oskar Groening, known as the “book-keeper of Auschwitz”, have also been convicted of complicity in mass murder in recent years.

But cases against a former radio operator and a former paramedic at the Auschwitz death camp were dropped as the elderly defendants were found to be unfit to stand trial.—Reuters ■

New missiles for Iskander-M system to help counter nuclear threat

MOSCOW — The tests of new missiles for the Iskander-M ballistic missile system do not violate the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF), and also help counter a nuclear threat, Chairman of the Defence and Security Committee in the upper house of Russia's parliament Viktor Bondarev said on Thursday.

The successful trials of the new missiles have again demonstrated Russia's military potential, the senator said.

"I want to stress that the new OTRKs [the new missiles] tested the other day do not violate the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty effective since 1988 because their flight range does not exceed 500 km. We ... made this public at the Kapustin Yar practice range in the Astrakhan Region by launching a new missile to the utmost distance of 480 km," Bondarev said.

Amid tense geopolitical developments and an escalating international



Amid an escalating international situation, "measures to strengthen the country's defence capability are of special importance," Viktor Bondarev said. **PHOTO: TASS**

situation, "measures to strengthen the country's defence capability are of special importance," he stressed.

"The development and the subsequent activation of new precision missiles for striking anti-ballistic

missile defence and air defence objectives serves as a guarantee of both Russia's and international security," the senator's press office quoted him as saying.

The Iskander-M theatre ballistic missile system has no analogues in the

world, Bondarev said.

"Its mobility, accuracy and might help counter even a nuclear threat, which is especially important in the context of the latest developments on the Korean Peninsula and the US response to them.

I believe that the active development of domestic OTRKs is an important containment factor," he stressed.

Currently, Iskander-M brigades have been deployed in many of Russia's geographically vulnerable

regions bordering on the territories accommodating NATO's missile defence elements, Bondarev said.

Iskander-M missile system

A new missile designed for the Iskander tactical ballistic missile system was tested on 18 October at the Kapustin Yar ground in the Astrakhan Region in south Russia, testing ground chief Major-General Oleg Kislov said. Iskander tactical ballistic missile systems are capable of hitting both small-size and large-area targets at a distance of up to 500 km to destroy missile and multiple launch rocket systems, long-range artillery guns, aircraft and helicopters at aerodromes, command posts and communications centers.

The Iskander tactical ballistic missile complex includes a launcher, a loader-transporter, a routine maintenance vehicle, a command post vehicle, an information post, an ammunition equipment set and training aids.—Tass ■

Norway appoints its first female foreign minister

OSLO — Norwegian Defence Minister Ine Eriksen Soereide was named minister of foreign affairs on Friday, making her the first woman to hold the post in the Nordic country.

She replaces Boerge Brende, who last month

was appointed president of the World Economic Forum.

The appointment leaves the top three government jobs, that of prime minister, foreign minister and finance minister, in the hands of women.

Prime Minister Erna Solberg said European Affairs Minister Frank Bakke-Jensen will move to the defence post, while Marit Berger Roesland will join the cabinet to take up the European affairs portfolio.—Reuters ■

Ending Iran nuclear deal would worsen N Korea situation — Kerry

GENEVA — US President Donald Trump risks driving Iran towards nuclear proliferation and worsening a standoff with North Korea if Washington ends a nuclear deal with Tehran, former US Secretary of State John Kerry said late on Thursday.

Kerry, who negotiated the 2015 deal between Iran and world powers, was speaking a week after Trump refused to certify that Tehran was in compliance with it, amid growing tensions with Pyongyang over its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes.

"If you want to negotiate with (North Korean leader) Kim Jong Un, and your goal is to avoid war and try to be able to have a diplomatic resolution, the worst thing you can do is first threaten to destroy his country in the United

Nations," Kerry said.

He was speaking in a private lecture delivered at Geneva's Graduate Institute.

"And secondly, screw around with the deal that has already been made because the message is, don't make a deal with the United States, they won't keep their word," he said.

The nuclear deal places Iran under tough restraints, including inspections, round-the-clock surveillance and tracking every ounce of uranium produced, Kerry said. "We would notice an uptick in their enrichment, like that," he said, snapping his fingers.

"And nobody that I know of with common sense can understand what the virtue is in accelerating a confrontation with the possibility that

they might decide they want to break out and make it (a nuclear bomb) now instead of 10 or 15 or 25 years from now."

Kerry, a former Senator who headed the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, told Swiss media that Trump's leaving the Iranian deal's fate to Congress was "very dangerous" and opened the door to "party politics".

Congress cannot unilaterally renegotiate a multilateral accord, the Geneva daily Le Temps quoted him as saying. "It is possible that Congress would make an unreasonable decision that would put Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in a very complicated political situation that could force him to retaliate. It's a slippery slope." —Reuters ■

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Go-go going as Chinese women fuel Thai tourism boom

BANGKOK — For decades since the Vietnam war, the scantily clad dancers in the go-go bars of Bangkok's Patpong red-light district have been the face of Thailand's tourism industry.

But last year for the first time, the country drew more women tourists than men as a surge in Chinese female visitors outweighed a longstanding distortion spurred by men drawn to the world's "sex capital".

The shift is welcome news for Thai authorities, who have tried to promote the country's shopping, beaches and temples and to minimise the importance of sex tourism, which thrived after Thailand became an R&R hotspot for US troops in the 1960s and 1970s.

Tourism ministry figures reviewed by Reuters showed 52 per cent of more than 32 million visitors last year were women.

That compared to 48



Tourists pray at Erawan Shrine, a Hindu shrine popular among tourists in central Bangkok, Thailand on 16 October, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

per cent in 2015 and only 42 per cent in 2012. No earlier official data were available, but research from as far back as the 1980s shows a ratio of about 60 per cent male to 40 per cent female visitors. "Not as many

women visited Thailand because they thought we were a cheap destination with too much vice, but now more are coming, which means our image accommodates them," Tourism Minister Kobkarn Wat-

tanavrangkul told Reuters.

Tourism accounts for around 12 per cent of Southeast Asia's second-biggest economy and is easily the fastest growing sector, particularly since a coup in 2014.

Hoping to attract more female tourists, the state's Tourism Authority of Thailand started a "Women's Journey" campaign last year, with a website and mobile application offering discounts for hotels, spas,

malls, and restaurants.

But the biggest factor has been tourism from China, which has reshaped the industry around the world.

The number of Chinese visitors rose from nearly 12 per cent of Thailand's visitors in 2012 to 27 per cent last year. The number of Chinese women visiting Thailand nearly quadrupled over the same period to more than 5.3 million.

"When Chinese men make a lot of money, they tend to take their wife, daughter, and mother to travel, making the ratio heavier on the female side," said Virat Chatturaputpitak, vice president of the Association of Thai Travel Agents.

Major Chinese travel website Tuniu reported that 62 per cent of its customers last year were women, Chinese media reported.—Reuters ■

Philippine gov't orders companies to give workers 'standing breaks'

MANILA — The Philippine government has issued an order requiring employers to provide their employees standing breaks and encourage their workers to do after-work physical activities to improve their health. In an order, the Philippine Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) asked employers to give their workers regular 5-minute standing breaks every two hours in a bid to reduce sedentary work by getting on their feet or walking around the office. Labour Secretary Silvestre Bello signed the Department Order 184, titled "Safety and Healthy Measures for Workers Who, By The Nature of Their Work, Have to Spend Long Hours Sitting" Wednesday. "This order shall serve as the guide for employers or establishments to address the occupational safety and health and safety issues and concerns related to sedentary work or sitting

while working for long periods, such as musculoskeletal disorders, high blood pressure, heart disease, anxiety, diabetes, obesity, among others," Bello said. He said the new measure applies to "all workers who, by the nature of their work, have to spend long hours sitting at work, such as those involved in computer, administrative, and clerical works." He said the order also applies to "those working in highly-mechanized establishments, those working in the fields of transportation, toll booths, information technology and business process management, and all other processes and industries where sedentary work is observed."

The measure also encourages offices to "change work systems," including "providing sit-stand workstations that would facilitate easy mobility or workers and in conducting standing meetings," he said.—Reuters ■

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

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

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China box office revenues to bounce back in 2017 — regulator

BEIJING — China's movie box office revenue is expected to grow in 2017 at more than three times the pace of last year thanks to the success of blockbusters like "Wolf Warrior 2", the media regulator said on Friday. Takings would rise 11.6 per cent to 55 billion yuan (\$8.31 billion) this year, beating 2016 growth of 3.7 per cent, said Zhang Hongsen, vice minister of the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film, and Television.

"The rapid development of the film industry has been a big bright spot for China's culture industry," Zhang told a press conference in Beijing.

The Chinese Communist Party is supporting Hollywood-style films that portray China as the rejuvenated great power described in this week's speech by President Xi Jinping to the Party Congress.

"Wolf Warrior 2", a patriotic action movie that has raked in 5.6 billion yuan (\$845.59 million) to become China's highest-grossing film, depicts

a Chinese hero fighting Western mercenaries in a war-torn African country.

While privately financed, the film has received strong support from state organizations, and China's film regulators have submitted it in the foreign-language category at the 2018 Oscars.

Sun Zhijun, deputy director of the Publicity Department of the Communist Party Central Committee, said films should have social and "educational" benefits, not just make money.

"We cannot take market share, distribution figures, box office and audience ratings as the sole standard. We cannot be the slave of the market and led by the nose," he said at the same press conference.

After disappointing box office growth in 2016, regulators announced that all sales grosses would include service fees for each ticket purchased online. This has boosted this year's growth, although movie-makers see little of the additional revenue.—Reuters ■



Taylor Swift. PHOTO: PTI

Taylor Swift teases new song 'Gorgeous' on Instagram

LOS ANGELES — Taylor Swift dropped her new song "Gorgeous" much to the surprise of her fans.

The 27-year-old singer took to Instagram where she teased the new track with a three posts — one featuring the song's in-

troduction, a baby voice saying "gorgeous" over an electro-pop sound bed.

The other messages were direct that said the new song was "available everywhere" and "midnight tonight eastern" hinting the time from when it

will be available to her fans and followers.

"Gorgeous" is the third song from Swift's upcoming album, "Reputation", after "Look What You Made Me Do" and "Raedy For It?". Her sixth studio LP releases on 10 November.—PTI ■

Founder of Canadian 'Just for Laughs' comedy festival quits amid abuse allegations

MONTREAL — The founder of Canada's comedy festival 'Just for Laughs', which draws celebrities including Trevor Noah, Sarah Silverman and Jerry Seinfeld, has resigned from his own company in the wake of allegations of sexual harassment.

Gilbert Rozon made the announcement on his Facebook page on Wednesday night. He is the latest entertainment executive to be accused of sexual harassment in the wake of accusations against US film producer Harvey Weinstein. Weinstein has denied having non-consensual sex with anyone.

"Shaken by the allegations against me, I wish to take time to reflect," Rozon wrote, adding he was "sincerely sorry" for "all the women and men I may have offended in the course of my life."

The company confirmed Rozon's resignation and said an independent board of directors will be put in place. Spokesman Jean-David Pelletier declined to comment further.



Gilbert Rozon and Bruce Hills of the television comedy show "Just For Laughs" accept the ICON award during the Canadian Screen Awards in Toronto, Ontario, Canada on 12 March, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Montreal newspaper 'Le Devoir' on Thursday reported allegations by nine women who

said they had been sexually harassed or abused by Rozon.

Rozon announced his im-

mediate resignation from 'Just for Laughs', as well as his departure from the committee organ-

izing events to mark Montreal's 375th anniversary this year and his role as vice president of the Montreal Board of Trade.

Held every summer in Montreal, 'Just for Laughs' is one of the largest international comedy festivals and is a major tourist attraction for the city.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who has made gender equality a significant part of the government's focus, said society was "seeing a moment of awakening".

"It's unacceptable for anyone to feel insecure or harassed at work, at home, in the streets and I think people are beginning to get it," Trudeau told reporters in Montreal. "It doesn't matter how much power you have, how much influence you have, it's never all right."

Amazon Studios chief Roy Price also resigned earlier this week following allegations he harassed a producer and took no action when an actress told him she was sexually assaulted by Weinstein.—Reuters ■

South African architect renovates centuries-old Chinese houses into village inns

HANGZHOU/NANNING — When Ian Hamlington, 47, an architect from South Africa, visited a village in south China in 2009, he was fascinated by centuries-old houses and decided to stay.

Hamlington said when he first saw the old houses in Jiuxian Village, Yangshuo county of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, they were in a dire state, but Hamlington described the houses as "being amazing".

Jiuxian, dating back about 1,400 years, is one of the poorest villages in Yangshuo. Many old houses have been left in a bad state of repair as many owners lack funds or skills, and the buildings are not old enough to be eligible for government-funded protection.

Hamlington rented two rundown houses, built more than 150 years ago, on a 20-year lease for 120,000 yuan (18,000 US dollars) from a local villager. He turned them into a village inn after renovation.

The villagers thought Hamlington was crazy, because nobody would spend so much money renting and renovating a dilapidated house.

Hamlington was not annoyed.

The village inn opened to the public after one year of renovation work to preserve

the main house structure and many of the original features.

Hamlington's success has attracted other outsiders to rent and renovate houses in Jiuxian.

Hamlington said this shows that more and more people realize the value of these old houses, which can be better preserved after renovation.

The renovation wave has resulted in a boom for tourism in Jiuxian. Many visitors come to local homestays to experience authentic culture.

The villagers also benefit from the increasing number of visitors. They earn a higher annual income by renting out their houses, offering bicycle or e-bike rental services and working in these inns, said Hamlington.

Hamlington said the old houses should be preserved well and people should not forget old history and culture, he said.

Figures show no historic houses have been demolished in Jiuxian since 2010.

Out-of-towners who come to renovate and preserve old houses that are not classed as "cultural relics," but nonetheless have historical value, will bring new life to these old villages, said He Wei, an official with the Architectural Society of China.—Xinhua ■



People shop for vegetarian food at a market in Chinatown Bangkok, Thailand on 19 October, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Thai vegetarian festival expects record spending

BANGKOK — Thailand's annual vegetarian festival began on Friday with record spending expected from Thais abstaining from meat-heavy diets to earn spiritual credit during the year-long mourning period for the late king.

Tiny yellow flags fluttered over shops and stalls in Bangkok's Chinatown to show those with vegetarian-friendly dishes. The festival is particularly popular among Thai Chinese.

Spending on food, transport and donations to Buddhist temples to 'make merit' during the festival was expected to reach 45 billion baht (\$1.4 billion), the highest since estimates began 10 years ago, the Thai Chamber of Commerce said.

"Many Thais wish to commemorate the late King Rama 9 through taking part in the festival," Thanawat Polwichai, Director of the Centre of Economic and Business Forecasting told Reuters.

Thailand's revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej, whose official title was Rama 9, died on 13 October last year. The official mourning period ends after his cremation next week.

"Normally I don't take part in the vegetarian festival but this year I planned to, mainly due to health reasons, but also because I wanted to make merit and pay respects to King Rama 9," said Nopawan Wattanawanna, 40, in a Chinatown tea shop.

Adherents of the festival

believe nine gods descend during the period to judge people's deeds. People who abstain from eating meat, drinking alcohol and sinful behaviour will be blessed.

In Chinatown, a big majority of food sellers had transformed their menus to serve delicacies made from meat substitutes and soy protein.

Thailand's Food and Drug Administration said, however, that it had found traces of animal DNA in three of 71 samples of meat substitute it had tested. It was still waiting for results from seven others. The festival began over 150 years ago on the popular tourist island of Phuket some 840 km (520 miles) south of Bangkok.—Reuters ■

Massive trove of ancient coins unearthed in China's porcelain capital

NANCHANG — A large amount of copper coins dating back more than 1,000 years have been found in the city of Jingdezhen, the centre of China's historical porcelain industry.

The cache of coins, weighing around four tonnes, were found in a cellar by a villager building a new house in Fuliang County, east China's Jiangxi

Province and reported to police.

"Some coins were from Tang Dynasty (618 — 907), while others were from Song Dynasty (960 — 1279)," said Li Xincan, with Fuliang cultural relics preservation bureau.

Li said that the excavation is continuing and more coins

may be found.

It is very unusual for such a large hoard of coins to be stored randomly in a cellar. They would not have been owned by any individual nor by a bank. The archaeologists are trying to identify of the owner.

Currently, the coins were stored in the county museum.—Xinhua ■



A decorated hay bale stands in a pumpkin field at Foxes Farm in Colchester, Britain on 11 October, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Myanmar U-19 football team defeated by Japan club in friendly

KyawZin Lin

MYANMAR lost by a score of 0-5 to Hannan University Club, a Japanese team, in a friendly match last night.

The match against Hannan was Myanmar's last friendly football match in Japan in preparation for the 2018 Asian Football Confederation U-19 Championship Qualification.

Myanmar used different players from the team and made several substitutions throughout the match in an apparent effort to find a good combination of attacking and defense.

But differences in controlling the football and quality defending between the two teams caused Myanmar to lose

the match without scoring a goal. The Myanmar coach said the experience was overall a positive one.

"Although we lost the match, my boys can shape in their playing style that I want. Even though we allowed two goals in the first half and another three in the second half, they are getting progressive. They have more confidences, but still need some requirements. I believe they can do well in the upcoming tourney," said Myanmar U-19 Head Coach U Chit Naing.

The Myanmar U-19 team is leaving for Cambodia for the 2018 AFC U-19 Championship qualification today, according to Myanmar Football Federation. ■



Myanmar and Japan's Hannan Club vie for the ball in yesterday's match. PHOTO:MFF

Arsenal's Wilshere will get Premier League game time — Wenger

LONDON — Arsenal's Jack Wilshere will get a chance to prove himself in the Premier League, manager Arsene Wenger said after the midfielder impressed in Thursday's 1-0 Europa League victory over Red Star Belgrade.

Wilshere, who spent last season on loan at Bournemouth before sustaining season-ending leg injury in April, returned to action for Arsenal in their Europa League opener against FC Cologne in September.

The England international has been in good form in his three Europa League appearances but is yet to play in the league and Wenger says the 25-year-old has now earned his chance.

"He will get a chance in the Premier League, don't worry about that," Wenger told reporters after the match.

"I think at the moment it's going like that. He got a big kick in the first half on his ankle but he managed to get through the 90 minutes and games of that intensity will, of course, help him a lot."

Frenchman Olivier Giroud scored an overhead kick to win the match for Arsenal

and Wenger says the 31-year-old striker had predicted that he would score.

"At some stage he came to the touchline and told me, 'We will score,'" Wenger said. "He knew more than I did. That's Olivier Giroud. He keeps belief when it is tough. That's why he

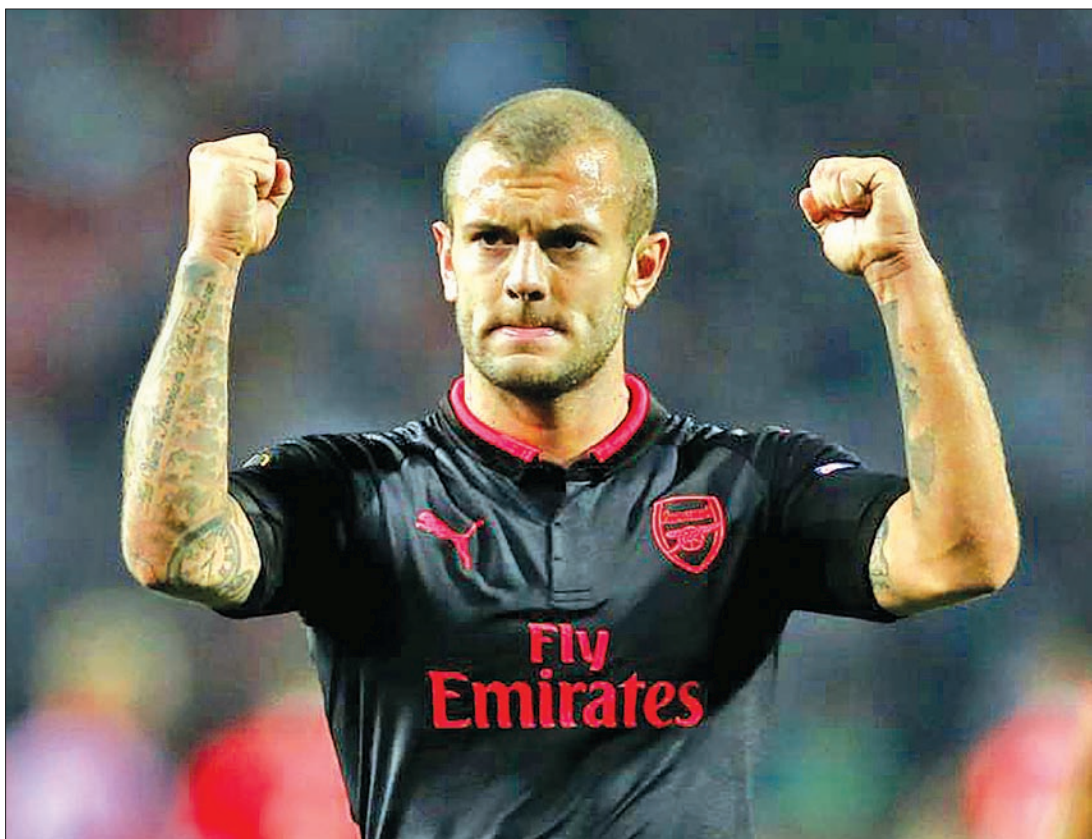
scores at moments you didn't expect him to score."

Wenger also praised defender Mathieu Debuchy, who returned to first-team action for the first time since November 2016.

"I am pleased for him that he survived 90 minutes with-

out any setbacks," Wenger added. "Overall it was a positive performance for someone who has been out for such a long time."

Arsenal, currently sixth in the league, now turn their attention to Sunday's trip to Everton.—Reuters ■



Arsenal's Jack Wilshere. PHOTO: REUTERS

North Korea, Malaysia to play Asian Cup games at neutral venue

KUALA LUMPUR — North Korea and Malaysia will play their 2019 Asian Cup qualifying matches at a neutral venue in November "because of raised political tensions", the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said on Friday.

Diplomatic relations between the countries soured following the assassination of Kim Jong Nam, the estranged elder half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, at Kuala Lumpur International Airport in February.

In the wake of the killing, Malaysia barred its citizens from travelling to North Korea, which prevented the national team from playing a qualifier originally scheduled for 28 March in Pyongyang.

"In the interests of competition fairness, it has been decided that both matches between the two countries will be played at the same neutral venue," the AFC said in a statement on Friday.

North Korea's 'home' match will take place on 10 November and the return fixture three days later, it added, without identifying the venue.—Reuters ■