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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Thursday, 26 October 2017



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, right, with the Bangladesh Minister for Home Affairs Mr. Asaduzzaman in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar, Bangladesh agree to solve border issue amicably

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received the Bangladesh Minister for Home Affairs Mr. Asaduzzaman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, discussing security and rule of law at border areas between the two countries and repatriation of refugees from Bangladesh.

"During the discussion, the Union Minister expressed her firm conviction that issues arising between two neighbours such as border security and rules of law, can be solved

bilaterally, in an amicable manner, and discussed further cooperation on the repatriation after verification processes for refugees in Bangladesh," said a news report by the Myanmar News Agency.

The meeting comes a day after the ministerial meeting on Border Security and Law Enforcement Cooperation between the two countries.

At the meeting on Tuesday, the two countries reached a 10-point agreement

on refugees.

The agreement includes: "Stopping immediate entry by refugees into Bangladesh and repatriation of refugees at the earliest date and restoring normalcy in Rakhine Region for their resettlement."

Both sides also agreed to form a joint working committee this coming November to arrange resettlement.

"I am not sure how many people would be repatriated, but that would be carried out

based on the National Verification process of the Immigration and Population Ministry," said U Tin Myint, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs, to reporters following the meeting.

Both sides also agreed to cooperate in fighting terrorism and opening border liaison offices, especially in Maungdaw and the border areas, fighting illegal migration through borders, and fighting drug trafficking.

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Rakhine resettlement will be fast-tracked

A committee whose responsibility will be to implement recommendations for Rakhine State has committed itself to completing the tasks despite some challenges ahead, said Dr Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, in his capacity as the chairman of the committee.

He made the remark at the 4th work coordination meeting of the committee in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. "Despite challenges ahead, we will overcome them and will accelerate our efforts," the Union Minister said, also urging the members of the committee to make decisive actions to achieve success in implementing the recommendations. To effectively implement the recommendations, the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) project which is also being launched in Rakhine will work with the committee, he said. The Union minister also expressed thanks to businessmen, international and local non-governmental organisations and the people, including youths, of the country for their active participation in the drive for rehabilitation and resettlement of the people affected by the terrorist attacks in northern Rakhine.

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BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

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Pyithu Hluttaw

2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 6th regular session holds its 4th day meeting

AT the 4th day meeting of the 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 6th day session held yesterday, Dr Tun Naing, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy, replied to a question raised by U Ne Myo Htet of Kyauktada constituency.

“Out of five fertilizer plants under Myanmar petroleum chemical enterprise, No. 2 fertilizer plant (Kyun Chaung) and No. 3 fertilizer plant (Kyaw Zwa) stopped production a long time ago, having suffered great losses. No. 2 Kyun Chaung fertilizer plant was built in 1968 by the Pintsch Bamag Co. of Germany, operated by using inland natural gas from the Kyauk Khwet, Ayardaw, Thargyitaung oil fields. It had production capacity of 207 tons of fertilizer per day, (which it produced) for 49 years. No. 3



U Kyaw Myo, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications. **PHOTO: MNA**

Kyaw Zwa fertilizer plant was built in 1982 by UHDE GmbH Co. of Germany, operating by the use of inland natural gas from the Pyay oil field. It had the capacity of producing 600 tons of fertilizer a day, (which it did) for 35 years.”

The Deputy Minister added,



Dr Tun Naing, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy. **PHOTO: MNA**

“Now, as inland natural gas is decreasing in production from the above-said oil fields, No. 2 Kyun Chaung fertilizer plant stopped its production on 31st May 2009, with production from No. 3 Kyaw Zwa fertilizer plant stopped on 7th September 2010. Due to long

periods of production, amount of inland natural gas decreased and a shortage of raw material needed for fertilizer production, the plants had been stopped. There have no plans for production of fertilizer in cooperation with private entrepreneurs. Now, liquidation of the two plants is under way.”

Afterward, U Kyaw Myo, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications, replied to the question raised by U Ohn Khin of Palaw constituency.

“Survey and registration of waterway vehicles over 20hp are directly managed by Region and State Waterway Transport Directorate Offices. In surveying those kinds of vehicles, it must be examined as to whether there is strength of the vehicular ma-

chines, and whether staff is well qualified or not. Accordingly, examining officers who have completed examining officer training courses conducted by the department of waterway transportation has to calculate tonnage of cargo to be loaded by measuring oneself based on fundamental rules and experiences achieved from the training. With the high power of the machines in waterway vehicles, strength of the vehicles, security of fire-outbreak, sufficiency of the life-saving equipment are needed to be systematically checked. For now, there has no plan to empower the right of survey and registration of waterway vehicles with more than 20HP to the general administration department.”—Aye Aye Thant (MNA) ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 6th regular session holds its 4th day meeting

AT the 4th day meeting of the 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 6th regular session held at 10 am yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw, Dr Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, replied to a question raised by Daw Htu May of constituency 11, Rakhine State on the region's preparedness against storms.

“Rakhine State is situated along the coast, so it is naturally in the storm-prone area. Accordingly it faces risks of storms annually and construction of cyclone resistant shelters is under way in cooperation of Union Government and Rakhine State Cabinet. The department of relief and resettlement had already built 12 units of cyclone shelters during the period—from FY 2013-2014 to 2016-2017 with



Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw. **PHOTO: MNA**

the national natural disaster management fund”, Dr Win Myat Aye said.

The Union Minister added, “In the fiscal year 2015-2016, 10 cyclone shelters were built under the arrangement of Rakhine State Government. In the coming year — 2018, a total of 32 units of multi-purpose cyclone shelters

are to be built — 28 to be built under the national natural disaster management fund and four others to be built with the donation of Bangladesh. These shelters will be completed in 2018. More cyclone shelters are to be built after making necessary surveys depending upon the desires of local populace and parliamentarians' demands.”

As regards the questions raised by U Ko Ko Naing of constituency 8, Sagaing Region, U Min Oo of constituency 6 of Bago Region and U Lin Tin Htay of constituency 4 of Mon State, Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye and Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw replied respectively. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar, Bangladesh agree to solve...

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“Both sides mainly discussed establishing the border liaison offices, promoting information, exchange and understanding between the two countries and formation of joint working groups. Our side mainly discussed going through the process step by step, especially in the information exchange sec-

tor,” said U Kyaw Zeya, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

“We also discussed the agreement between Myanmar and Bangladesh signed in 1992 and the four agreements between immigration official-level meetings between the two countries in 2000, he added.

Though Rohingya fami-

lies have lived in Myanmar for generations, they are denied citizenship and access to basic civil rights such as freedom of movement, decent education and healthcare.

Hundreds in Rakhine on Sunday protested to urge Myanmar's government not to repatriate the Rohingya.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than welcomes United Nations Resident Coordinator Ms. Renata Nicola Lok-Dessallien in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives UN Resident Coordinator in Myanmar

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than received United Nations Resident Coordinator Ms. Renata Nicola Lok-Dessallien at the receptionist room of Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed about cooperation

of UN and Myanmar and ongoing agendas about developmental processes of the Hluttaw.

Deputy Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung and other officials also attended the meeting. —Myanmar News Agency ■



President U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su Lwin arrive in Don Mueang Airport in Bangkok to attend the funeral of Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej yesterday. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi shakes hands with UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Renata Nicola Lok-Dessallien. **PHOTO: MNA**

President and wife in Bangkok for Thai king's funeral

A delegation led by U Htin Kyaw, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and his wife Daw Su Su Lwin, departed for Thailand yesterday to attend the funeral of Thailand's former king Bhumibol Adulyadej.

The President and party were seen off at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Vice Presidents U Myint Swe and U Hnery Van Thio, Senior General Min

Aung Hlaing, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr Myo Aung and wife, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command General Myint Maw, Thailand Ambassador to Myanmar, Mr. Jukr Boon-Long and wife and other officials. The delegation led by the President arrived at Don Mueang International Airport in Bangkok Thailand at 4 pm. Thailand's Justice Minister General Paiboon Koom-

chaya, Dr Atchaka Sibunruang, the Thai Minister of Science and Technology, the Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Myo Myint Than and wife, the Myanmar Military Attaché in Bangkok Brig-Gen Khin Zaw and wife welcomed the President and party at the airport. The President and delegation were then transported to Okura Prestige Hotel in Bangkok— Myanmar News Agency ■

State Counsellor receives United Nations Resident Coordinator

STATE Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received United Nations Resident Coordinator Ms. Renata Nicola Lok-Dessallien at 11:00 hrs on 25 October 2017 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting,

they exchanged views on the issues relating to the cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations and Myanmar Government's determination to resolve issues in Rakhine State with the cooperation of the people.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Rakhine resettlement will be fast-tracked

FROM PAGE-1

He also stressed the important role of the media in chronicling the rehabilitation and resettlement efforts by UEHRD and the committee on implementing recommendations on Rakhine State.

When implementing the tasks, acceptance among all groups should be taken into account, said U Nyi Pu, Chief Minister of Rakhine State.

"While working for development of the state, they expect that the two communities can live in harmony," U Nyi Pu said.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Housing for displaced people to be built with UN-HABITAT technical assistance in northern Rakhine

UN-HABITAT has agreed with the government to provide technical assistance in building housings for displaced people in northern Rakhine.

UN-HABITAT's Senior Human Settlements Officer Mr. Bruno Dercon also said at the meeting with Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday that the UN agency will work closely with ministries concerned to implement the projects to be favourable to Myanmar's social culture and administrative system.

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye is also the vice-chairman of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, the chairman of the

committee on implement recommendations on Rakhine State.

At the meeting, he said the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development (UEHRD) invited UN-HABITAT to Myanmar to discuss housing for local ethnic villagers and Muslim villagers so that the resettlement for the communities affected by the terrorist attacks could possess similar village characteristics.

The suggestions from the UN agency would be helpful for UEHRD's efforts for rehabilitation, resettlement and repatriation of refugees and their development and for eliminating areas of conflict in the future.

UEHRD is also currently working on the construction of houses for the villagers in north-



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye, centre right, holds talks with UN-HABITAT's Senior Human Settlements Officer Mr. Bruno Dercon, left, centre, at a meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on 25 October 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

ern Rakhine.

Construction of houses for villagers are being carried out by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Border Affairs and other related ministries, including the Rakhine State Govern-

ment in cooperation with private donors.

UN-HABITAT will meet with respective ministries and the Rakhine State government on 8 November.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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MOALI signs MoU with CCA for My Finance Project

WITH a view to long-lasting survival of cooperative businesses and township cooperatives in central Myanmar, the Cooperative Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Canadian Cooperative Association (CCA) for My Finance Project yesterday at Grand Amara Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

Present at the signing ceremony were Union Minister Dr Aung Thu, permanent secretary U Kyaw Ngwe and directors-general, Executive Director Mr. Michael Casey from CCA and officials from cooperatives.

The Union Minister gave an opening speech at the signing ceremony and



Director-general of the Cooperative Department U Aung Phyu and CCA Executive Director Mr. Michael Casey signing a MoU to implement My Finance Project in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Executive Director from CCA explained My Finance Project.

U Aung Phyu, director-gen-

eral of the Cooperative Department and CCA Executive Director Mr. Michael Casey signed a

MoU to establish long-lasting vocational schools, implement My Finance Project spending US\$3 million to establish people-based organisations, cooperatives and financial organisations in order to reduce poverty.

During 32 months of that project, training courses will be conducted to the members of cooperatives, executive members and staff from Myingyan, Natogyi, Taungtha, Pakokku, Yes-ago townships. A pledge fund will be set up. Also, there will be exchange visit and workshop. This project will support to introduce ways to make money to the members of cooperatives in a bid to build trust with them, cover vesting, help develop monetary planning to purchase highly demanded input and marketing strategy. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Floods cause destruction of betel farms, doubles the price

THE price of betel leaf has doubled after floods destroyed betel farms in Kyaiklat Township in Ayeyawady Region, according to yesterday's report of City News.

Floods inundated betel farms in some villages of Kyaiklat Township in June and July.

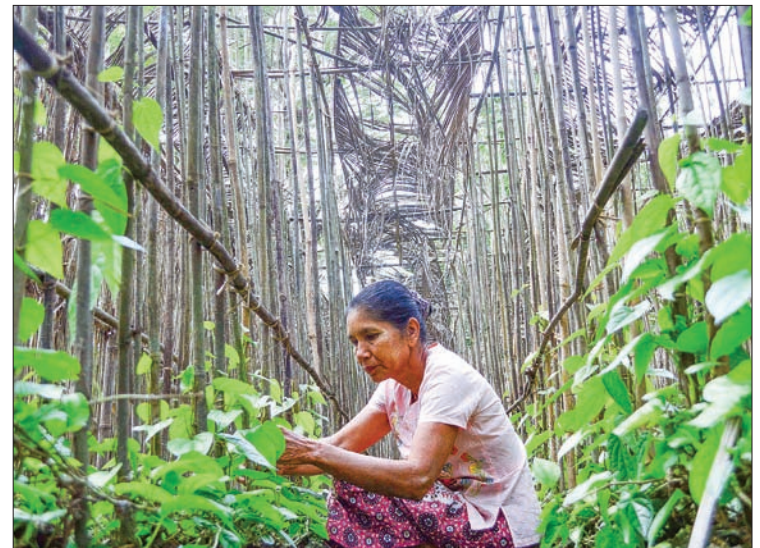
The destruction of betel farms quickly led to unusually high prices. Betel leaf did not fetch a good price shortly after betel farm owners plucked the leaves early as an immediate response to flood.

At present, the price has

soared. The betel plants are newly cultivated in some areas but the yield is low. The scarcity of supply has forced the price higher, said a betel farm owner.

The betel price in June and July was only Ks2,500 per viss (3.6 pounds). Betel leaves fetched up to Ks8,000 per viss for special quality and Ks6,500 for normal quality.

The betel price was on the rise during rainy season. The price shoots up when the supply is low, as it has good quality and steady demand, said a betel seller.—GNLM ■



A woman nurtures betel plants at her farm in Bogalay, Ayeyawady Region. **PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE**

Hotel zone planned for Kanthaya beach in Rakhine State

A hotel zone will be developed at Kanthaya beach in Gwa Township, Rakhine State for tourism development, according to yesterday's report of Myawady Daily.

The plan hopes to convince local visitors and

tourists to stop in Gwa Township en route to Ngapali beach in Thandwe Township, Rakhine State.

The authorities will supervise operations to ensure cheaper hotel prices and guesthouses in this zone.

To develop the hotel zone, the tourist site will be created in the Zeegon area near Kanthaya Beach, complete with souvenir shops, recreation sites, hotels and guesthouses.

Moreover, bridges and roads will be upgraded to en-

sure smooth transport from Gwa Township to Thandwe Township in about two hours time. At present, a master plan has been drawn up for the hotel zone project and tender invitations will soon be announced.—GNLM ■



Women workers process fish at a seafood export factory in Hlaingthaya Industrial Zone in Yangon. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

International trade hit US\$16.9 billion since April

EXTERNAL trade between 1 April and 13 October in the current fiscal year amounted to US\$16.9 billion, a significant increase of \$2.9 billion than that in similar period of last FY.

During that period, Myanmar had a trade deficit of \$2.28 billion, as imports surpassed exports. In the same period of the last FY, there was a trade deficit of only \$1.94 billion.

Exports fetched \$7.3 billion and the import value was estimated at \$9.6 billion. The country's agro products, livestock, forestry products, minerals, fishery products and finished

industrial goods are exported to foreign trade partners.

Capital goods such as machinery, construction tools including steel, materials used in telecommunication, vehicles and auto parts, raw industrial materials including petroleum products, plastic raw materials, fertilizers, chemicals, etc and pharmaceuticals, the largest consumer item, are imported into the country.

There was a sharp decline of \$151 million in border trade. Nevertheless, trade through sea routes increased by \$3 billion.

Myanmar conducts border trade with neighbouring countries via 16 border trade gates. Trading with China is through the Muse, Lweje, Kanpikete, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung checkpoints, while its border trade with Thailand flows in and out of the Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Htee Khee, Maese and Mawtaung border gates. Cross-border trade camps between Myanmar and Bangladesh are Sittway and Maungtaung. The country conducts border trade with India via the Tamu and Reed border gates.— Ko Khant ■

Netherlands is third-largest investor this FY

THE Netherlands stood at third place with foreign direct investments of US\$519 million as of the end of September, according to statistics of the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC).

Singapore is at the top spot with investments of \$1.7 billion so far, followed by China with an estimated investment of \$829 million.

The Netherlands is the ninth-largest foreign investor in Myanmar, with 61 projects approved by MIC. Capital of \$1.5 billion has been brought into the country since FY 1988-1989. Its

investment has increased in current FY. The Netherlands had been providing a considerable amount of development assistance in many sectors, including agriculture, education, culture, tourism and management of water resources in Myanmar.

Bilateral trade between the Netherlands and Myanmar in the first five months of the current fiscal year amounted to only \$81 million. The country's trade with the Netherlands is still weak. Bilateral trade values were about \$141million in FY 2016-2017, \$61 million in FY 2015-

16, \$42 million in FY 2014-2015, \$26 million in FY 2013-2014, \$9 million in FY 2012-2013 and \$23 million in FY 2011-2012.

However, business-matching event between Dutch businesses and Myanmar businessmen which was held in June this year showed that the Dutch companies have a keen interest to expand business ties with Myanmar businesses. Multinational corporations headquartered in the Netherlands – Shell, Unilever, Heineken and Phillips — are also doing businesses in Myanmar. —Htet Myat ■

Norwegian Company to build solar power plant at Thaton Industrial Zone

A SOLAR power plant will be constructed by Energeia Asset Management (EAM) Company from Norway at Thaton Industrial Zone in Mon State, according to yesterday's report of Myawady Daily.

This solar power plant construction project is slated to commence in August, 2018 and be completed in October, 2019.

The first phase of this project is planned to generate 28 megawatts. Ministry of Industry and EAM Company have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the solar power plant construction project. Solar power plant projects will continue to be implemented in 10 factories under the Ministry of Industry. —GNLM ■

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● Market Place by City Mart (Damasidi Road)	● City Mart (Junction Maw Tin)
● Market Place by City Mart (Junction City)	● City Mart (Sule Square)
● City Mart (Aung San Stadium)	● City Mart (Star City - Thanlyin)
● City Mart (47th street)	● City Mart (Waizayandar)
● City Mart (Yankin)	● City Mart (Hledan)
● City Mart (China Town)	● City Mart (Myanmar Plaza)
● City Mart (Myay Ni Gone)	● City Mart (Junction 8)
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Implementation Coordination Meeting on Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement

A meeting was held in the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre office in Yangon yesterday morning to discuss the negotiation process between the Union Government and armed ethnic groups towards the nationwide ceasefire agreement.

The opening remarks at the meeting were given by Union Attorney General U Htun Htun Oo, Tatmadaw Representative Lieutenant General Yar Pyae, and the head of the NCA appraisal committee Yebaw Than Gae.

U Htun Htun Oo said the appraisal meeting was held with agreement from everybody and that it was necessary to review the decisions made and what steps were necessary to move forward.

"I believe that we were able to carry out most of the NCA's necessary requirements," said U Htun Htun Oo.

He said they were able to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the NCA meeting and figure out the steps needed to move forward.

He said that the NCA's view-



A joint implementation coordination meeting on Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement held in progress in Yangon on 25 October 2017. **PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG**

point was mostly from the ethnic people's perspective and was carried out since the previous government's administration.

Lt-Gen Yar Pyae said the realisation of the NCA agreement took two years to complete, but that the current processes were not utilised in the negotiations, so it is needed to control the current progress. The current necessary structure of the NCA will

be discussed in the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) and the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) meetings.

Lt-Gen Yar Pyae said it is up to the government and the ethnic armed groups to make sure the traction of the NCA meeting does not halt so that we reach the federal democracy that our country envisioned. He said the NCA is a means to reach a fed-

eral democratic country and that it is important for both sides to discuss which part of the NCA needs more attention. He hopes that, "we as ethnic brothers discuss this with brotherly spirit in our hearts."

There are seven parts to the NCA agreement: (1) The basics (2) Goals (3) Ceasefire Agreements (4) Strengthening Ceasefire agreements (5) Agree-

ments on Political Dialogue (6) Necessary steps moving forward (7) Miscellaneous.

NCA appraisal committee Yebaw Than Gae said there were some difficulties during the implementation of the NCA agreements. He said the meeting was focused on finding solutions for those difficulties. The first and second part of the NCA were focused on agreements of policies. He said the third and fourth parts of the NCA were focused on the Joint Monitoring Committee, and the fifth part was more of a political roadmap. He said the sixth part of the NCA was for affairs during the intervals of the agreement to focus on education, IDPs and other cases between the two sides.

"We will overcome the different parts together," said Yebaw Than Gae. The meeting held yesterday was attended by 11 members of the union government, Hluttaw and Tatmadaw and eleven other representatives of armed ethnic groups who signed the NCA agreement. —Ye Khaung Nyunt ■



Medical officer giving a medical check-up to a Hindu woman in the IDP camp in Sittway. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Healthcare for Hindus in Sittway IDP camp

OFFICIALS from the Department of Public Health and the Ministry of Health and Sports provided healthcare services yesterday morning for displaced Hindus in the IDP camp at the Danya Wattti playground in Sittway Township.

Most of the patients in the IDP camps were treated for seasonal flu, coughing, nasal congestion, skin diseases, in-

juries and diarrhea. No infectious diseases were found, according to Dr Htain Lin Aung from the Department of Public Health.

Dr Htain Lin Aung was one of four health professionals (the others were three nurses from the Department of Public Health) who provided medical care for 55 Hindus yesterday. — Win Min Soe (IPRD) ■



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, centre right, meets with ambassadors from the US, Denmark and the UK, at left, at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister receives US, Denmark and UK ambassadors to Myanmar for Rakhine project

Dr Win Myat Aye Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement received H.E. Mr. Scot Marciel, United States Ambassador to Myanmar, H.E. Mr. Peter Lysholt Hansen Ambassador of Denmark to Myanmar and H.E. Mr. Andrew Patrick, British Ambassador to Myanmar at the Makhalar Hall of the ministry yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed the development

of Myanmar endeavoured by Myanmar's new government elected by the people, the obligations of UEHRD, which invites public cooperation, the committees which were formed for Rakhine State's affairs and their relating works, the humanitarian aid in provision with raised momentum, the core purpose of UEHRD, humanitarian aid plans, and the implementation processes of the obligations in cooperation

with related ministries.

Rehabilitative works initialised by choosing places and priority works, making people understand and accept diversity by holding a Diversity Management Forum, implementation works for the recommendations of Dr Kofi Annan and offering scholarships by international societies for the development of Rakhine State were also discussed. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Discussion on Cyber Space held

A DISCUSSION on cyberspace occurred at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, at which the Union Minister for Information, Dr. Pe Myint, delivered an opening speech.

During the discussion, Dr. Pe Myint pointed out the fact that social engagement is increasing throughout the world as communication becomes much improved these days, and the impact of communication comes to be more evident and distinct. Digital internet, also known as IT (information technology) are the essential base of the Cyber Space. Someone can post his own idea, opinion or imagination in different forms in cyberspace. Political, economic, social and other activities in the world can be seen through cyberspace in real time.

Therefore, in the current epoch, it needs to be understood how the activities are done using high technology. Acquisition of individual development in high technology should be endeavoured at all cost. Individual development can bring about the development in the department concerned, and then in development of the country. Today three expert professionals are invited and they will impart their technological knowledge as much as possible. The attendees shall take all what they are given. The visiting experts will share their knowledge regarding cyberspace



Dr. Pe Myint, Union Minister for Information, at podium, speaks to attendees of a seminar on internet security. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

extensively. Police Lt Col Moe Aung of the Ministry of Home Affairs said, "With the emergence of the three operators — MPT, Telenor and Ooredoo — our country's internet conditions improved remarkably. With the improvement of the communications sector in the world, the cyber safety of media and international and internal organisations are being threatened. Now prevention and crime are to be discussed. It has been found that there had been information leakage of instructions and meeting records of media. News media, which are posting their news and information on websites and social pages by registering officially, sources are accurately presenting news, whereas personally used social pages are fighting the government and the ministries as desired by them.

Office personnel are required to keep confidential files and instructions in safety. Some media are found to have fought departments and ministries by use of cyber space. Through internet, political agitations can be made."

Afterward, police major Kyaw Thu Win of Ministry of Home Affairs said, "Technical terms are designated according to international own usages, for example, cyber attack, client attack. There is no longer broadly made hacking. DOS, DTS means types of mischievous hoax nuisances by phones. These calls can be blocked so as to protect ourselves. In Myanmar, defamatory wording or photos are commonly posted on Facebook. Most spend their hours on Facebook in the country. Internet users are spending much time on Facebook."

U Ye Naing Moe, Director of the Information Technology and Cyber Security Department of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, has warned the civil servants, in his discussion, that the free g-mails they are using are not safe and their information is leaking, saying that "free is not free." Out of 15 million people who are using an IT network, 14 million do not log out their accounts, he said.

The three areas where cyber security can be broken are users, networks (communication operators) and ICT device, said U Ye Naing Moe.

He has urged the civil servants not to store important information in their mobile phones in order to prevent being stolen when mobile phones are sent to hardware technicians when they

are broken.

The official has also stressed cyber security awareness at governmental offices, urging civil servants to strictly abide by the rules for users.

Afterwards, Assistant Director Daw Yi Yi Mon of the Ministry of Commerce clarified about the electronic office works of the ministry, which establishes three websites, three trade portals, and an e-payment system, putting daily updated instructions of the ministry on the ministry's websites.

Besides, the ministry has been jointly operating the Myanmar Payment Union (MPU) with KBZ Bank since 2017, she added.

The ministry is also using e-Bio (Employee Bio Data Information System) connected with the attendees system and the DEMS (Document Exchange Management System), she said.

Afterwards, Daw Win Pa Pa Thu, Assistant Director of the Ministry of Commerce, clarified the ministry's e-commerce system, urging the civil servants to understand the pros and cons of the ICT. "As far as the e-commerce's success, cyber security is important and becomes a concern," she said, "How can we carry out checks and balances for cyber security by law in order to build trust also becomes a concern," she said. The ceremony ended with concluding remarks by Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint. — Myanmar News Agency

Minister for Border Affairs meets with UN Humanitarian Coordinator

UNION Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung met with UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Myanmar, Ms. Renata Dessallien at the Hall of Union Minister yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed: the cooperative works between the ministry and UN organisations; the cooperative works for local peace and socioeconomic development processes; security; food; clothing; shelter; healthcare services; resettlement works and humanitarian aid for the people in

Rakhine State displaced by extremist terrorist attacks; the conditions for news medias to be able to gather news freely; work being done so that international countries will know the true situation in Rakhine State; aid given by well-wishers of Myanmar; international countries and organisations helping with the resettlement and long-term development of Rakhine State; peace, stability and the development processes of Rakhine State and cooperative works in the future. — Myanmar News Agency

China company to invest \$390 million to Mandalay-Myotha Industrial Park

A company from China will soon start operations on 50 acres of land at Myotha Industrial Park in Ngazun Township, Mandalay Region with capital of US\$390 million.

The company was set up under the name Mandalay Baoshan Myotha Industrial Development Co. in December 2016. With approval of the Myanmar Investment Commission in June, first phase activities will be carried out on 50 acres by 2018, including factories, storage, staff apartments and office buildings, officials said.

Mandalay Region government and Mandalay Myotha Industrial Development Public Co. (MMID) is implementing the Myotha Industrial Park

project on over 10,000 acres of land. Techong Industrial Park Investment Development Co. from Yunnan Province, China will make an investment on 323 acres of the park.

"That company will lease the land from us to construct the factories. Then, they will rent the factories which they develop.

Therefore, the investors do not need to build the building and they are ready to start production", said U Aung Win Khaing, the chairman of MMID.

The Mandalay Region Chief Minister has also inspected areas of Myotha Industrial Park. This project is closely supervised by the regional government, said U Myat Thu,

the Minister for Planning and Finance of Mandalay Region.

Five factories are currently running at that industrial park: foodstuff processing factories (one each from Indonesia and Denmark); a plywood factory from Hong Kong, a concrete production plant from Thailand and a snack factory from China. About 20 other factories also showed an interest in investing in Mandalay-Myotha Industrial Park.

"This project is the largest of its kind in upper Myanmar. We would like to invite investors who want to be part of this project as co-developers", said U Aung Win Khaing. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)

May all live in peace in harmony and understanding forever!

Khin Maung Oo

CRITICS of Myanmar concerning the affairs in the Rakhine State are saying that any social community has a right to name themselves as desired. Although individuals have may choose their own names, a social community needs the unanimous consent of other communities of the country when that particular community claims to be one of the indigenous ethnic races. In this case, it should be reiterated that to be able to put forth a credible claim as one of the ethnic races of Myanmar, irrefutable evidence is needed such as historical facts, anthropological evidence, archeological evidence, a distinct language what would stand the test of linguistic analysis (such as vocabulary, morphology, sentence structure, grammar and phonetics) and most important of all, that particular community should be able to prove beyond a doubt that they are different and distinct from

citizens of Bangladesh. On top of all this, this particular community should be willing and able to live in peaceful co-existence with the rest of the other national ethnic races, particularly the Rakhine ethnic race. They should have the desire to integrate as peaceful resident of the Union of Myanmar. We have no reason to believe that any country in the world would accept immigrants (legal or otherwise) who wish to impose their culture and religion on the natural citizens of the host country.

Some people of Bengali extraction in Rakhine State are claiming for the right to be accepted as one of the national ethnic races under a strange name which is loathed by all citizens of Myanmar including all the national ethnic races. Although they might have lived in Myanmar for 100 years, the Bengalis who settled here from across the border are guests only. A guest has no right to demand any of the rights enjoyed by the natural born citizens of

Myanmar. The Union Government and the people have agreed to grant citizenship rights to the guests in accordance with the citizenship laws of the State.

As for Bengalis who will come into Rakhine State and the existing Bengalis, they all need to decide over their future with prudent consideration. Provided that they decide to co-exist together with other ethnic national races, living in weal or woe, there is a chance that they would be accepted to live in Myanmar in accordance with the laws of the country. They will never get unanimous consent and hospitality of local nationals if they stubbornly claim that they have the right to choose any name they desire without being able to prove that they are indeed one of the national ethnic races. Taking into consideration that there are over 160 million Bengalis on the other side of Rakhine State border line, it must be acknowledged that Rakhine nationals will have a great concern over

the likelihood of losing their own national characteristics. Though being guests, if they have an attitude of living as they wish to live without paying attention to the host, it will be completely contrary to deterrent principles of shame and fear which guard the world from falling into chaos.

The attitude that there must be a special zone for Bengalis in Rakhine State under the protection of an international police force is a flagrant violation of the national sovereignty of Myanmar. Myanmar would never accept such an arrangement. We do not think that any race of nation would ever accept such a demand. No race or nation in the world would ever accept such a demand. Last but not least, Bengalis in Rakhine State must live in peaceful co-existence with Rakhine nationals and other ethnic national, sharing weal or woes, without being influenced by external instigations or propaganda. May all live in peace, in harmony and understanding. ■

Terrifying new elephant poaching epidemic to meet demand for 'health' jewellery made from their skin

Warren Manger

MYANMAR'S elephants, whose numbers are already declining due in part to being poached for their ivory tusks, now face an additional threat that experts say could hasten their extinction.

The majestic animals are now in demand for their thick hide, which is made into popular jewellery that allegedly wards off illness. Record numbers of Asian elephants are now being killed not for their tusks, but for their skin, which is polished and made into blood-red bead bracelets and necklaces.

Demand for the illegal jewellery is already so high in China that dealers are ordering more and more elephant skin from smugglers.

Last year, rangers found more than 60 elephants butchered for skin in Myanmar,



The skin is polished and made into blood-red beads, which are sold as bracelets and necklaces at up to £75 each. **PHOTO: WWF**



A slain elephant stripped of its skin was the victim of a new epidemic threatening Asian elephants in Myanmar which are already endangered. **PHOTO: WWF**

which has now become the epicentre of this poaching epidemic.

This year has been worse, experts said. Investigators seized 66 trunks in a single haul. Two herds were slaughtered, with a further six skinned elephants found in six weeks in the summer. If demand for beads continues to grow at this rate, these already endangered animals could be poached to the brink of extinction within two years.

Christy Williams, WWF's Myanmar director, said: "This is the last chance for Myanmar's elephants. Poaching and skinning is at unprecedented levels. If it continues, it could lead to the extinction of wild elephants here."

Just 20 years ago Myanmar's lush

forests were seen as a safe haven for Asian elephants, but the rise in poaching in its largely lawless countryside has decimated the 10,000-strong population.

Just last week, the UK's Environment Secretary Michael Gove announced plans to ban all ivory sales in Britain, in an attempt to help save elephants across the globe. But rising demand for the jewellery made from their skin has only intensified the killing of Asia's elephants.

Monica Wrobel, head of conservation at wildlife charity Elephant Family, said of a recent, grisly discovery of dead elephant carcasses in the middle of a forest: "These elephants were killed to order. The herd were tracked, slaughtered, and every bit of skin taken."

The bracelets and necklaces made from the elephant's skin is sold for up to US\$100 each. Meanwhile, experts fear fewer than 1,400 wild elephants remain here. Experts say the spike in demand for skin could see them disappear from much of Myanmar by 2019. Tuskless mothers and calves were previously immune to ivory poaching but are now targets, preventing the species from reproducing and replenishing itself.

And with poachers using poisoned darts to protect the skin, the animals face a cruel death. Mr Williams said: "It can take up to three days for an elephant to die. As the poison slowly takes effect, the elephants wander in terrible pain."

"As someone who has seen many elephant deaths, even I am shocked by the brutality of these skin poachers."

In the past, Chinese medicine used elephant skin to ease stomach pains and in a paste for arthritic joints and diseased skin.

But until now, medics generally used skin from animals that villagers had encountered by chance and killed to eat.

That changed in 2014, when elephant beads were first spotted in markets on either side of Myanmar's border with China. It coincided with a dramatic increase in the number of butchered carcasses found, with only the animals' skin taken. Ms. Wrobel said: "It seems the beads are jewellery, but these traders start by asking what your ailment is. Then they will say, 'Well, these beads are perfect for that'. They're deliberately trying to create a new market for poached animals."

SEE PAGE 9

19th National-level monsoon forum held

UNDER the aegis of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the Ministry of Transport and Communication, Department of Meteorology and Hydrology and Thailand-based Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System held the 19th national-level monsoon forum yesterday at the Royal ACE Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

Dr Kyaw Moe Oo, director-general (joint) of the department of meteorology and hydrology, gave a welcoming speech, followed by an address from Ms. Ruby Rose S. Policarpio, Institutional Development Specialist of the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES).

Afterward, responsible offi-

cials of the department of meteorology and hydrology and RIMES made reviews of preparations as per season, an assessment of suggestions from the monsoon discussions, preparation of the implementation process, a review of the wet seasons in 2017 and a pre-review of the dry seasons in 2018, sharing knowledge on uses of weather forecasts, news releases on weather for Myanmar and major facts from the research of necessities, preparations for the dry season (winter) 2017-2018, risks of earthquakes and preparations. In response to the clarifications, those present at the meeting engaged in discussions. Concerning holding the monsoon forum, Dr Kyaw Moe Oo said, "The forum was held with a view to making bet-

ter forecasts by taking the advantages and disadvantages of weather forecasts after applying previous forecasts on natural disasters and making preparations for worksites by making known to public natural disasters from the weather forecasts."

Ma Su Su Myint, Project Officer of RIMES said, "Since the advent of the 2017 national level monsoon forums were held, two times in a year — pre-monsoon and post-monsoon. By using suggestions received from previous forums, at the 18th national level monsoon forum we introduced an application on agriculture in monsoon season for farmers. This year, the application can be used in Myanmar. This is a success gained from holding monsoon forums."—MNA ■

Thura U Shwe Mann receives outgoing UN Resident Coordinator



Chairman Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with United Nations Resident Coordinator Ms. Renata Nicola Lok-Dessallien in Nay Pyi Taw on 25 October 2017. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

PYIDAUNG SU Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Chairman Thura U Shwe Mann yesterday received United Nations Resident Coordinator Ms. Renata Nicola Lok-Dessallien, who is concluding her tour of duty in Myanmar, at the Hluttaw Building Hall in Nay Pyi Taw, at 10:00 am.

During the meeting, the Commission Chairman ex-

pressed thanks to the UN Resident Coordinator for her cooperation and efforts for assisting Myanmar within her tour of duty.

Also present at the meeting were officials from UN Resident Coordinator Office, U San Shwe Aung, member of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and officials from the office.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Participants pose for a documentary photo after holding 19th National-level monsoon forum. **PHOTO: MNA**

Terrifying new elephant poaching epidemic to meet demand for 'health' jewellery made from their skin

FROM PAGE 8

"It could be disastrous. With China banning ivory, more traders are going to think, 'Why don't we sell skin instead?' We need to stop this before demand for beads really takes hold." Charities are working with the Myanmar government to deploy anti-poaching teams, fit tracking collars to elephants and crack down on illegal wildlife markets.

Last year, Elephant Family, a London-based elephants conservation group, enlisted British detectives to probe the trade. They found it was growing rapidly. Most skin is trafficked through Mong La, a

border town where Myanmar's government has no control. It is a notorious hub for the illegal wildlife trade and child prostitution.

Ex-policeman John, whose name has been changed to protect his undercover work, said: "One trader told us he delivered 30kg of elephant skin to a customer for the first time and he sold it all. He ordered more straight away. Several traders said the same thing.

"That rang alarm bells. If they can see there is a growing market, they're going to push it more."

Over the border, smugglers head to Xishuangbanna, in South West China. Investi-

gators did not find much skin, a sign that most was being shipped further into the country, where it can fetch \$120 per kilo – seven times the price in Myanmar.

But they found numerous traders looking for ways to refine the elephant skin to make it less likely to deteriorate when wet. The team also found bracelets being sold widely on Chinese websites.

There is a risk they will become a status symbol for China's rapidly growing middle class – and criminal gangs will muscle in.

With a population of 1.4 billion people, a Chinese obsession could kill off the world's

elephants within decades.

If demand increases, African elephants could be next. Vietnam and Thailand have previously been exposed as hubs for traffickers moving endangered animal products out of Africa.

John said: "We have to target the demand for elephant skin. If we fail, the consequences will be catastrophic."

Huge threat to gentle giants

In 1997 there were some 10,000 Asian elephants in Myanmar. It is feared there are now just 1,400 and the skin trade boom could kill them off in two years.

There are about 30,000 to 40,000 Asian elephants left, down from about 100,000 in 1900. They are endangered.

On the African continent, about 350,000 African elephants remain in the wild – a 97 per cent decline from the estimated 12 million in 1900.

The ivory trade was banned in 1990, yet this and antique ivory has still been booming.

Last year's Great Elephant Census found 144,000 African elephants killed for ivory in the past decade. The animals are also slain for meat and body parts.

This article is originally appeared in the Daily Mirror.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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

WORLD
BRIEFS

US House speaker says tax plan unlikely to swell deficit

WASHINGTON — The US Republican tax cut plan that President Donald Trump wants passed by the end of the year is unlikely to trigger a big deficit expansion because it will spur more investment and job growth, House of Representatives Speaker Paul Ryan told Reuters in an interview on Wednesday.

“We believe that we’ll get faster economic growth,” Ryan said. “We don’t anticipate a big deficit effect from this tax reform because we will broaden the base and lower the rates, plug loopholes and get faster economic growth. ... Those things combined, we believe, will give us faster growth and a more resilient tax code.”

Democrats have painted the tax plan as a gift to the rich and corporate America that would balloon the federal deficit and add to the \$20 trillion US national debt.

While the broad parameters of the tax proposal have been made public, detailed legislation has not yet been unveiled.

One of the key elements of the plan is to slash the corporate income tax rate to 20 per



US House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) participates in an onstage interview about tax policy with Thomson Reuters Editor in Chief Stephen Adler in Washington, US on 25 October, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

cent from 35 per cent.

Ryan said the plan would help US growth. “The reason we’re trying to do it with this timeline is we want to get a 3 per cent economy. We’re sort of limping along, growing between 1 and 2 per cent, and that is so far underneath our potential as a country,” he said.

Ryan previously said he

wants the House to pass the tax bill by the 23 November US Thanksgiving holiday.

Securing passage by Congress of his tax plan is important to Trump, who has yet to score a major legislative win since taking office in January amid a steady stream of distractions and Republican infighting.

Ryan predicted that Democratic lawmakers would eventually back the tax plan.

“At the end of the day, I do believe some Democrats will end up voting for this thing,” Ryan said. “It’s hard for me to see why — no matter what party you’re from — you’d want to vote against this.”

— Reuters ■

India agrees to hold talks on Afghanistan with US, Kabul

NEW DELHI — India has agreed to hold talks on Afghanistan with the United States and Kabul, Indian Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj said on Wednesday after meeting US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson in New Delhi.

Swaraj said she also discussed deepening economic ties with the United States.

—Reuters ■

Restoring legality in Catalonia is Spanish government priority: PM Rajoy

MADRID — One of the priorities for Spain’s government is restoring “normality and legality” in the wealthy northeastern region of Catalonia, Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy told parliament on Wednesday.

Catalonia is facing direct rule from Madrid from Friday, due to an independence bid which Spanish courts have ruled contravenes the country’s 1978 constitution. —Reuters ■

UK parliament vote on Brexit deal may come after Britain leaves — minister

LONDON — Britain’s parliament may not vote on the final terms of the country’s withdrawal agreement with the European Union until after the country has formally left the bloc in March 2019, Brexit minister David Davis said on Wednesday.

“It could be, yeah. It depends when it concludes ... it can’t come before we have the deal,” Davis told a parliamentary committee in response to a question from a lawmaker on whether if a deal was struck at the last minute before the exit took place, the parliamentary vote may not occur until after exit.

He repeated the government’s promise that the British parliament would get to vote before the European parliament. —Reuters ■

EU 27 start internal discussions on ties with London after Brexit

BRUSSELS — The European Union minus Britain will hold its first internal talks on Wednesday on how it envisages future relations with London and what sort of transition period there will be after Brexit in March 2019.

Brussels envoys from the 27 EU states meet in the afternoon for the first time since the bloc’s leaders last week denied Prime Minister Theresa May’s request to start talks on post-Brexit trade arrangements just yet.

They have softened that

blow, however, by offering positive language and assurances that the bloc would be ready to launch the second phase of talks in December should London improve its divorce offer by then.

To be ready for that, the 27 must first arrive at their own common stance. Wednesday marks the start of the process for agreeing on that.

Officials and diplomats said the envoys would be briefed by a senior EU official on how to organise their work. The floor will then be open to

member states to share their initial thoughts, including what sort of preparations they have already made in their capitals.

“It will be the first opportunity to look at how to take forward (the summit) mandate to start the internal discussions at 27 on possible transitional arrangements and the framework for the future relations,” said an EU official.

While the 27 are contemplating the future relationship — or “scoping” it, as Brussels has been calling it — there will

also be a transition period between Brexit and the moment the new arrangement takes effect.

Both sides currently expect the transition to last around two years. The EU’s chief Brexit negotiator, Michel Barnier, on Tuesday said that would mostly mean preserving the status quo.

“This can buy an extra two years for talks about a future agreement,” said a senior EU official. “The two sides are relatively close on transition.” — Reuters ■

Xi presents new CPC central leadership, roadmap for next 5 years

BEIJING — Soon after being re-elected general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), Xi Jinping on Wednesday presented the new CPC central leadership to the press and laid down a roadmap for the next five years.

Amid applause, Xi led the other six newly elected members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee into a brightly-lit room inside the grandiose Great Hall of the People, facing rows of eager journalists.

Xi, 64, was flanked by Li Ke-qiang, Li Zhanshu, Wang Yang, Wang Huning, Zhao Leji and Han Zheng.

He smiled, waved to the journalists and took the podium.

"I was re-elected general secretary of the CPC Central Committee," said a confident Xi against the backdrop of a giant Chinese landscape painting featuring the Great Wall.

"I see this as not just approval of my work, but also encouragement that will spur me on,"

he said.

Xi thanked all other members of the Party for the trust they have placed in the new leadership and vowed to work diligently to "meet our duty, fulfill our mission and be worthy of their trust."

The coming five years, Xi said, will see several important junctures and signposts.

"Not only must we deliver the first centenary goal, we must also embark on the journey toward the second centenary goal," he said.

The year of 2018 marks the 40th anniversary of the launch of reform and opening-up.

Xi said China will make determined efforts to comprehensively deepen reform and open still wider to the world.

The year of 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. The CPC will continue efforts to accomplish all the tasks laid down in the 13th Five-Year Plan, develop new blueprints for China's future, and see the flourishing of all the endeavors, he said.

Xi reiterated the resolve to



Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), speaks when meeting the press at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China on 25 October, 2017. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

establish a moderately prosperous society across all metrics in 2020.

He said the Party must remain committed to a people-centered philosophy of development and make steady progress toward enhancing the people's sense of fulfillment and realizing common prosperity for everyone.

The CPC will mark its centenary in 2021.

Xi said the Party will generate waves of positive energy which can build into a mighty and nationwide force driving China's development and progress.

"For a party which fights for

the eternal wellbeing of the Chinese nation, the centenary only ushers in the prime of life," Xi said. "As the world's largest political party, the CPC must behave in a way commensurate with this status."

Xi said China will work with other nations to build a global community with a shared future, and make new and greater contributions to the noble cause of peace and development for all humanity.

He said the 19th Party Congress has received extensive and detailed reporting and the media coverage has captured the atten-

tion of the world.

A total of 452 major political parties in 165 countries have sent 855 messages of congratulation to the CPC on the congress.

Xi encouraged the press to continue to follow China's development and progress, and learn about and report on more dimensions of China.

"We do not need lavish praise from others, however, we do welcome objective reporting and constructive suggestions, for this is our motto: 'Not angling for compliments, I would be content that my integrity fills the universe,'" Xi said. — Xinhua ■

Israel approves 176 new settler homes in East Jerusalem

JERUSALEM — Israeli authorities approved on Wednesday a major expansion of a Jewish settler enclave in the heart of a Palestinian neighbourhood of East Jerusalem, issuing building permits for 176 new housing units.

The construction, which a Jerusalem municipal spokeswoman said was approved by the city's planning committee, was swiftly condemned by the Palestinians as a violation of international law.

Construction of the new units will nearly triple the number of settler homes in the Neve Zion settlement, which currently has 91 dwellings and is surrounded by Palestinian houses in the Jabel al-Mukaber neighbourhood.

The area is located in ter-

ritory that Israel captured and annexed in a 1967 Middle East war and which Palestinians seek as part of a state they want to establish in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

"We are unifying Jerusalem through actions on the ground," Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat said in a statement about the settlement's expansion.

Israel's claim to all of Jerusalem as its capital has not won international recognition, and many countries regard the settlements it has built on occupied land as illegal and obstacles to any future land-for peace deal. Israel disputes this.

Wasel Abu Yousif, a mem-

ber of the Palestine Liberation Organization, called the construction plans in Jabel al-Mukaber "a challenge to all the calls by the international community" to halt settlement building.

Last week, Israel announced approval for the construction of several hundred additional homes for settlers in the West Bank, drawing condemnation from Palestinians and the European Union.

Israeli-Palestinian peace talks have not been held since 2014, with settlement building one of the issues that led to their collapse.

Some 500,000 Israelis live in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, areas that are home to more than 2.6 million Palestinians. — Xinhua ■

Russia's upper house calls on US to lift its economic blockade of Cuba

MOSCOW — Russia's upper house of parliament, the Federation Council, passed a statement on Wednesday calling on the United States to end its economic blockade against Cuba, which it has maintained since 1960.

The senators urged Washington to "stop the vicious economic and political pressure on the Republic of Cuba, lift its trade, economic, financial and maritime blockade without any preconditions, and bring to an end the attempts to violate the sovereignty of the Republic of Cuba and meddle into its domestic affairs."

The upper house also calls on the General Assembly of the United Nations, and the parliaments of UN member-states and international parliamentary organizations to take decisive steps aimed at ending Washing-

ton's blockade of the Caribbean country.

The statement says that the Federation Council expresses solidarity with Cuba, "a friendly and peace-loving nation, an influential state that has a constructive role in global affairs" and is deeply outraged by the continuing blockade.

"The continued anti-Cuban discourse in the US leadership is a threat to international security. Time has shown that the arrogant style of dealing with the Republic of Cuba is doomed to failure," the document says.

The years-long blockade of Cuba has not attained the goals of changing its political and economic model, and has not forced the Cuban people to drop plans of fighting for independence, sovereignty and the chosen track of development, it says. — Tass ■

Russian-Indian development of 5th-generation fighter jet goes according to plan

MOSCOW — Russia and India continue their joint project to develop the Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft (FGFA), the press office of Russia's state arms seller Rosoboronexport said on Tuesday.

Defence News earlier reported citing a report by the command of the Indian Air Force that the plane being developed on the basis of the Russian Su-57 fifth-generation fighter jet did not meet desired stealth features. Besides, in the opinion of Indian Air Force officials, the fifth-generation fighter aircraft does not have a modular engine concept, which makes maintenance and serviceability of the fleet expensive. That is why, they proposed to the Indian authorities to get out of the Russian-Indian FGFA programme, Defence News reported.

"Currently, the Russian-Indian inter-governmental agreement is in effect; there are commitments, under which the parties are implementing the joint project for developing the 5th-generation plane in accordance with the agreed stages and time limits," Rosoboronexport said.

The agreement on the



Su-57 fifth-generation fighter jet. PHOTO: TASS

FGFA project was signed in 2007. In early May, a source in India's Defence Ministry told the Indian news agency PTI that a contract on the development of a detailed project of the new

fighter jet would be signed in the second half of 2017.

In spring, Russian officials announced that Russia was fully implementing its obligations under the project and expected

a decision by the Indian side.

The Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft (FGFA) is being developed on the basis of the Russian Su-57 plane in compliance with the technical requirements

set by the Indian side. The Indian Air Force is expected to be the initial customer of this plane, after which these aircraft are planned to be exported to third countries.—Tass ■

German President calls for dialogue with Russia

BERLIN — German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier has called for dialogue between his country and Russia on Tuesday.

Speaking during an interview with the newspaper "Kommersant", which was also published on the website of the German presidency, Steinmeier said that politicians from Germany and Russia "owed it to their people" to prevent the two countries from drifting apart.

"We cannot allow ourselves, not to speak with each other", Steinmeier warned. However, the German president also noted that his country's government would continue to abide by the European Union sanctions against Russia because it did not recognise what he described as the "internationally-unlawful annexation of Crimea". Stein-

meier further sided with the German industrial concern Siemens with regards to the recent appearance of four of its turbines in Crimea in contradiction of the existing sanctions regime. Siemens claims that it is a "victim" in the affair, having been commissioned to deliver the turbines to a project on the Southern Russian peninsula of Taman. The German president criticized that Russian businessmen had hereby broken their contract with Siemens and "damaged the trust" of German investors. Steinmeier arrives in Moscow for talks on Wednesday as the first German Head of State to do so since 2010. During his visit, Steinmeier will hold discussions with Russian President Vladimir Putin, as well as former president Michail Gorbatschow.—Xinhua ■

Apple reduced Face ID accuracy to ease production — Bloomberg

NEW YORK — Apple Inc recently allowed its suppliers to reduce the accuracy of the iPhone X's facial recognition system to speed up production of the smartphone, Bloomberg News reported on Wednesday, citing people familiar with the situation.

The Face ID system — among the \$999 iPhone X's most talked about features — uses a mathematical model of users' faces to allow them to sign on to their phones or pay for goods with a steady glance at their phones.

Apple could not immediately be reached for comment outside regular business hours.

Apple has been facing a slew of issues with its latest set of phones that it launched on 12 September, with the iPhone 8 and



Apple Senior Vice President of Worldwide Marketing, Phil Schiller, introduces the iPhone x during a launch event in Cupertino, California, US on 12 September, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

8 Plus facing muted demand, and news and analyst reports suggesting reduced shipment plans

for the iPhone X. The iPhone X is set to be released on 3 November.—Reuters ■

Gov't retains economic view in October, pick-up in imports pauses

TOKYO — Japan's economy is recovering moderately, the government said on Wednesday in its report for October, reinforcing the view that what would be the second-longest postwar expansion phase is still in place.

But the government cut its view on overall imports for the first time since August 2015, saying the recent pick-up is coming to a standstill. The downgrade came after sluggish smartphone imports from China, particularly Apple Inc's latest iPhone 8.

"The Japanese economy is on a moderate recovery," the Cabinet Office said, using the same wording for the fifth straight month.

The current economic expansion, which began in December 2012, is likely to have entered its 59th month, surpassing the 57-month Izanagi boom between 1965 and 1970.

The Cabinet Office retroactively determines the length of an economic boom after its panel of



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (far L), members of his Cabinet and Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda (far R) meet at the prime minister's office in Tokyo on 25 October, 2017, over a monthly economic report for October. Japan's economy is recovering moderately, the report said, reinforcing the view that what would be the second-longest postwar expansion is continuing. (Kyodo)

experts examines relevant data. In postwar Japan, the economy saw the longest expansion of 73 months between 2002 and 2008.

In the monthly report released days after a big election win for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Liberal Democratic Party, the office kept its assessments on other major components of the economy.

Private consumption, accounting for 60 per cent of Japan's gross domestic product, is "picking up

moderately," while business investment, industrial output and exports are "picking up," according to the report.

Still, uncertainty remains over the outlook. "Attention should be given to the uncertainty in overseas economies and the effects of fluctuations in financial and capital markets," the paper said.

The potential economic impact of recent scandals hitting the country's manufacturing sector — one related to Kobe Steel Ltd's quality control

and the other concerning Nissan Motor Co.'s inspection procedures — will also come into focus.

"We do not know if there will be any impact at this point so we will keep close tabs on developments," a Cabinet Office official said.

The government maintained its assessment that the global economy has been "moderately recovering," using the same expression for the seventh straight month. —Kyodo News ■

German police find guns, ammunition in raid of suspected militant Islamist

BERLIN — German police confiscated large amounts of guns and ammunition in a Tuesday evening sweep of four locations in Berlin linked to a 40-year-old German man suspected of belonging to militant Islamist circles, police said on Wednesday.

Germany was hit by several Islamist militant attacks in 2016, including one in Berlin in December in which a Tunisian man shot dead a Polish lorry driver and then killed 11 more people by driving the stolen truck into a Christmas market.

Germany's domestic

intelligence agency has warned of further attacks by radicalised Muslims given growing numbers of foreign fighters returning from war zones in Syria and Iraq. Police said prosecutors were brought into the case given concerns that the seized weapons could have been used for an attack, but no information about a specific plan had been found thus far.

The investigation will continue and the suspect will go before a judge on Wednesday. The name of the suspect was not provided, as is customary in Germany. —Reuters ■

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

Starting from 15-Oct-2017, We, **Taungthu Aya Co.,Ltd**, has been appointed as Exclusive distributor in Myanmar for the following products, registered by **Saigon Plant Protection Joint Stock / Vietnam** to Pesticide Registration Board. If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Department of Agriculture from here to next 7 days. (1) Beron 10 WP, (2) Red Dragon 10 WP, (3) Vanicide 3 SL, (4) Sapen Alpha 5 EC, (5) Diaphos 10 G, (6) Sago Super 20 EC, (7) Saipan 2 SL. **Taungthu Aya Co.,Ltd** ph-09 5185947, 09 5185948

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SAN GIORGIO VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SAN GIORGIO VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

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CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RESTU VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RESTU VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
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US says 'administrative error' blocked Indonesia military chief's travel

JAKARTA — Indonesia's military chief was temporarily barred from travelling to the United States at the weekend due to an "administrative error", the US embassy in Jakarta said in an online statement on Wednesday.

General Gatot Nurmantyo was about to board a flight to the United States on Saturday when he was told that the Customs and Border Protection Agency had denied him entry, even though he had a visa and an official invitation from the chairman of the US joint chiefs of staff to attend a conference in

Washington.

"General Gatot Nurmantyo and his wife were delayed in their ability to board their flight due to an administrative error. The error was quickly corrected. We have taken appropriate measures to prevent this matter from occurring again," the US embassy said in a statement, without elaborating.

The incident prompted top US officials, including Defence Secretary Jim Mattis and envoys in Jakarta to apologise to Indonesia as it demanded details as to why Nurmantyo was blocked, where he

had been able to travel to the United States on official trips before.

US Homeland Security Department said earlier this week that the US embassy in Jakarta had informed Nurmantyo's office that he might be delayed in boarding his flight because of unspecified "US security protocols".

It added that the US government was unable to resolve the problem before Nurmantyo arrived at the airport and he was denied boarding. The general was eventually cleared and booked on another flight but he

chose not to travel.

Nurmantyo told reporters on Tuesday that he did not travel on a later flight because he had informed President Joko Widodo of the issue and that he would only travel "on further orders from the president".

"There's no signal (from the president) so I no longer have the initiative to go," Nurmantyo said, adding he was disappointed at not being able to meet his friend and counterpart General Joseph F Dunford, who had invited him to attend an anti-terrorism conference. —Reuters ■



Singer Pink performs at the 2017 MTV Video Music Awards Show in Inglewood, California, US on 27 August, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Pink's 'Beautiful Trauma' tops Billboard, one of 2017's biggest debuts

LOS ANGELES — Pop star Pink soared to the top of the US Billboard 200 album chart on Monday with one of the year's biggest album sales debut, beating out new albums from rapper Gucci Mane and rocker Beck.

"Beautiful Trauma," Pink's seventh studio album, sold 408,000 album units in its first week. This comprised sales from

albums and songs and streaming consumption, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

The strong first week sales is the biggest debut for a female artist this year and the fourth biggest album debut of 2017, coming in behind Kendrick Lamar's "Damn," Drake's "More Life" and Ed Sheeran's "Divide." The Billboard 200 chart tallies units

from album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album). Gucci Mane's "Mr Davis" debuted at No 2 with sales of 70,000 album units while Beck's "Colors" opened at No 3 with 46,000 album units. Singer-songwriter St Vincent was the only other new entry in the top ten of the Billboard 200 chart

with her album "Masseduction" at No 10. On the Digital Songs chart, which measures online single sales, alt-rockers Imagine Dragons climbed one spot to the top with "Thunder." Lin-Manuel Miranda's star-studded Puerto Rico hurricane relief charity single "Almost Like Praying" dropped from No 1 to No 51. — Reuters ■

Shah Rukh Khan mourns the death of cancer-battling fan

MUMBAI — Superstar Shah Rukh Khan has offered condolences on the death of his fan, Aruna PK, who was struggling with cancer.

The 51-year-old actor took to Twitter, where he posted a heartfelt message for Aruna's children Akshat and Priyanka Khot and wished the family strength to handle the tough times.

"May Allah give you

strength to deal with the loss of your beautiful mother. I know how sad it is to deal with the loss of a parent.

"Know that she is always with you and henceforth do things that give her reasons to smile in heaven," Shah Rukh wrote.

Aruna was an ardent fan of the "Jab Harry Met Sejal" actor and he got to know that she wanted to meet the

superstar as her last wish.

Shah Rukh later took to social media to send a video message to Aruna through his fanpage.

"I'm made to understand through your son Akshat and daughter Priyanka that you are fighting with an illness. I want to say this that me, my whole family, all our friends whoever knows about you, we are praying for your wellness," he had

said in the snippet.

The actor also promised Aruna that he would meet her soon and will also perform for her.

"You are in a state where meeting you is perhaps not a possibility. I know this for a fact, with the positivity that you carry around that you will get well soon and we will meet very soon," he had said. —PTI ■

Julia Roberts, Lucas Hedges to star in new drama 'Ben is Back'

LOS ANGELES — Julia Roberts, Lucas Hedges to star in 'Ben is Back' Julia Roberts to star in 'The Bookseller' Julia Roberts set to produce and star in a HBO limited series Julia Roberts backs LGBTQ rights Chris Martin performs 'Pretty Woman' for Julia Roberts

Actors Julia Roberts and Lucas Hedges will be teaming up for a new family drama "Ben is Back".

The "Manchester By The Sea" actor will play the charming-but-troubled Ben Burns, who returns home to his unsuspecting family one fateful Christmas Eve, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

While Roberts will play a wary mother Holly Burns to Hedges' character, who welcomes her son but soon learns that he is still very much in harm's way.

Hedges' real-life father, Peter Hedges will direct and co-produce the movie, along with Color Force and Black Bear Pictures.

The production will begin in New York in December.—PTI

Andrew Lincoln wants to play a Jedi Knight

LONDON — "The Walking Dead" actor Andrew Lincoln says his dream role is to play a Jedi Knight in a "Star Wars" movie.

The 44-year-old actor says he and his co-star Dave Morrissey, who played The Governor in seasons three and four of the zombie drama, were surprised they never got roles in "Harry Potter" as British men but they hope to be in "Star Wars" in the future, reports Contactmusic.

"Dave Morrissey and I... We used to sort of joke that we were the only actors in British Equity that hadn't been in the Harry Potter franchise, so maybe I would have been wizarding about Hogwarts or hobbit-ing about Middle Earth.

"And I always fancied the idea of getting my hands around a lightsaber," says Lincoln.—PTI ■

Red October: Russia of 1917 and 2017 closer than might be expected

LONDON — It is 100 years on Wednesday, using Russia's old calendar, since Vladimir Lenin's Bolsheviks stormed the Winter Palace in what is now St Petersburg and took power. Not a lot has changed.

Well, not in economic terms, according to research by Renaissance Capital, an investment bank specializing in the region. It says the Russias of 1917 and 2017 have more in common than might be expected.

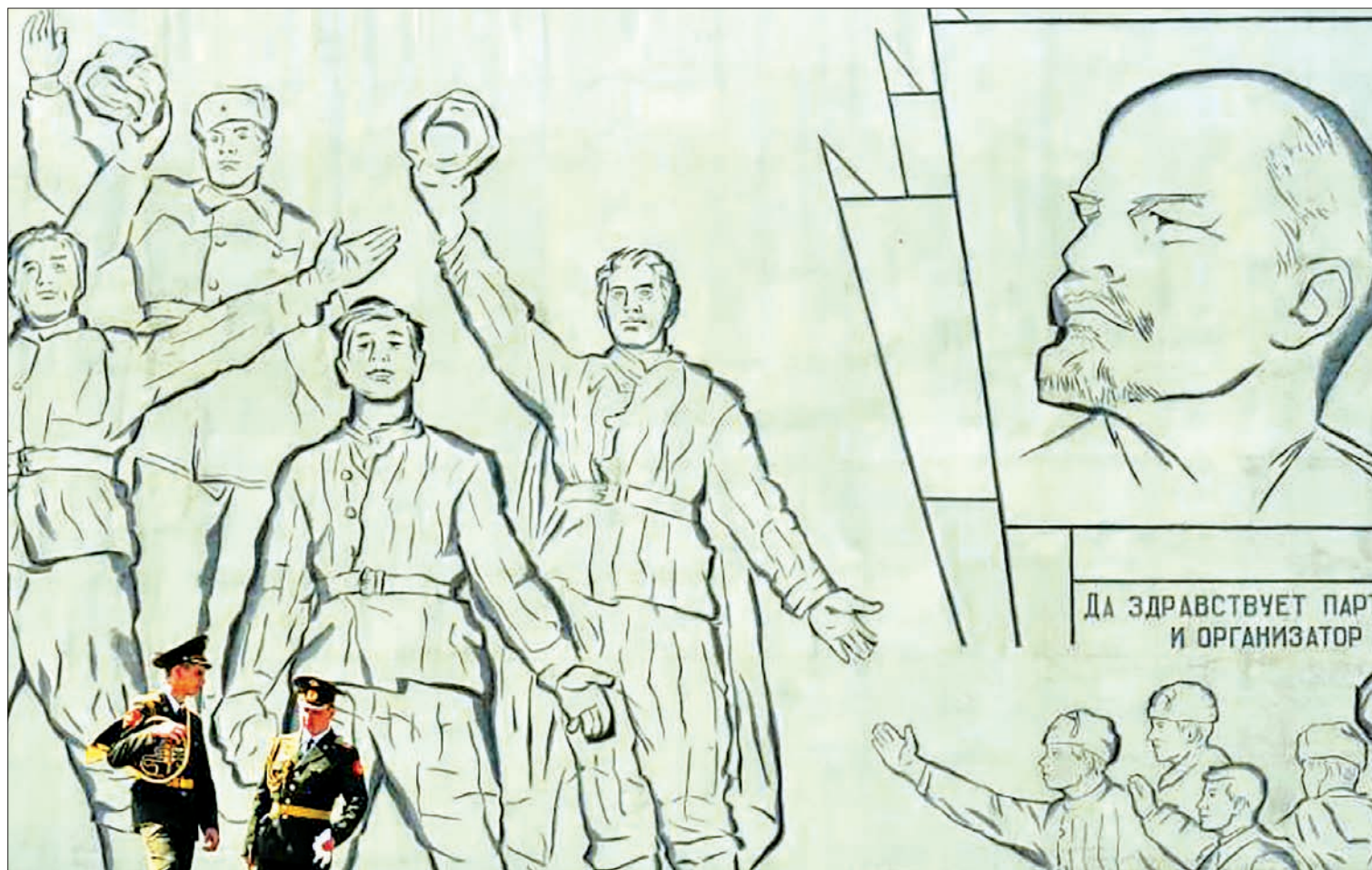
Take, for example, debt. Just before the Red October revolution, around a third of Russian debt was held by foreigners. Same today.

Pre-1917, foreigners got 5-8 per cent dividend yields from Russian utility shares. Same today.

Pre-Soviet Russia lagged the major world powers in industrial might, but was considered on a par with Brazil and Mexico. Pretty much the same as today.

Raw materials were pre-1917 Russia's mainstay, comprising two-thirds of its exports. It is still two-thirds in 2017, Renaissance, an emerging markets-focused investment bank, says.

Finally, Russia was the world's biggest exporter of grain back then. The bank calculates that over 2015-17, the countries of old imperial Russia were again the world's biggest exporter of



Army musicians stand in front of a World War II monument in Russia's southern city of Volgograd on 5 May, 2011. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

grain.

This is not to say, of course, that nothing has changed. The Soviet era, for example, brought widespread literacy, although RenCap economist Charlie Robertson notes today's most successful areas in Russia are where 1917 literacy was the highest.

The Soviet Union also saw industrialization, albeit uncompetitive compared with Britain, the United States and Japan.

Robertson reckons Russia could well have achieved far more but for the revolution and ensuing Soviet years which he says stopped the development of

a modern economy. "Russia was converging with Italy, industrializing as fast as Japan, and overtaking Spain in the first half of the 20th century," he wrote in a note.

"If that progress could have been maintained, and without ... famines and repeated invasion by foreign enemies, we think Russia

would be more populous, more wealthy and more democratic than it is today," he said.

"Without 1917, Russia may have suffered just three (or fewer) such disasters, like China or Germany, and be considerably more prosperous ... today." —Reuters ■

Sierra Leone to auction multi-million dollar diamond to benefit poor

RAMAT GAN (ISRAEL) — Sierra Leone hopes to raise millions of dollars for development projects by auctioning a huge uncut diamond, believed to be one of the world's largest, in New York in December.

It will be the government's second attempt to sell the 709-carat gem, known as the "Peace Diamond", after it rejected the highest bid of \$7.8 million at an initial auction in New York in May.

Over half of the proceeds from the sale will be used to fund clean water, electricity, education and health projects in

Sierra Leone, and particularly in the village of Koryardu, in the Kono region in eastern Sierra Leone, where the diamond was discovered.

"There's a reason God gave these diamonds to the poorest people in the world and made the richest people want them. This is Tikun Olam (Hebrew for correcting the world), this is making the world a better place," Martin Rapaport, chairman of Rapaport Group, a network of diamond companies which will manage the auction, told Reuters.

The diamond, which the



A 709-carat diamond, found in Sierra Leone and known as the "Peace Diamond", is displayed during a tour ahead of its auction, at Israel's Diamond Exchange, in Ramat Gan, Israel on 19 October, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

auctioneers described as the 14th largest in the world, was unearthed in Koryardu in March by a Christian pastor who gave it to the government.

Diamonds fuelled a dec-

ade-long civil war in Sierra Leone, ending in 2002, in which rebels forced civilians to mine the stones and bought weapons with the proceeds, leading to the term 'blood diamonds'.

—Reuters ■

Michelin to release San Francisco dining guide after wildfire delay

SAN FRANCISCO — Michelin said on Monday it will release the 2018 edition of its restaurant guide to the San Francisco area on Friday after postponing it following wildfires that killed more than 40 people and charred homes, wineries and businesses in the wine-producing region of nearby northern California.

The restaurant rater, whose "stars" are coveted by chefs around the world, said on 11 October it was delaying the launch because "we understand this is a time for grief and recovery, not celebration." Michelin will announce its 2018 rankings of San Francisco-area restaurants on Wednesday after awarding stars to 54 of them last year.—Reuters ■

Shan United crowns General Aung San Shield 2017 by winning Yangon United

Kyaw Zin Lin

SHAN United defeated Yangon United by a score of 2-1 and secured the championship of the General Aung San Shield 2017 tournament yesterday afternoon at Aung San Stadium in Yangon.

The teams were equally matched and played with intensity in their quest for the championship, but it was Shan United who scored the icebreaker at the 45-minute mark. Shan's efforts wane in the second half, scoring a second goal by its key striker Christopher at the 56-minute mark.

Two consecutive goals by Shan United compelled Yangon to go on the attack, resulting in Yangon's key player Ceazar scoring his team's first goal at the 60-minute mark. Although Yangon tried to equalise, Shan's defenders were strong enough to clear the ball.

This was Shan United's first tourney championship. ■



Champion Shan United team receiving the shield yesterday at Aung San Stadium. PHOTO:MNL

Gandamar draws YREO in KBZ Bank Women's League

IN one of the matches of week 13 of the KBZ Bank Women's League 2016-2017, Gandamar FC played against YREO FC at Padonmar Stadium in Yangon yesterday, ending in a 2-2 draw.

Though YREO tried to force play over Gandamar, there were no real opportunities for scoring until 30 minutes into the match.

The YREO team got its first goal at 31 minutes with a close-range shot by Win Sander Htun. The opening goal heated up the match, with Gandamar players speeding up their attack in a quest for the equalizer.

Gandamar got its equalizer at 43 minutes, scored by the team's reliable player Thinn Thinn Maw. The new strategic playing of YREO earned them their second goal at 48 minutes in the second half by Myat Noe Khin.

In response, Gandamar at-



Players from YREO and Gandamar vie for the ball in yesterday's match at Padonmar Stadium PHOTO:MWL

tacked and scored at the 80-minute mark as Tint Tint Htun showed great football skills in scoring the equaliser.

The match ended with the score 2-2, as both teams seemed to be losing their stamina. —Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Man United get Jones boost ahead of Tottenham clash

LONDON — Manchester United centre half Phil Jones has recovered from a leg injury and will be fit to play in Saturday's Premier League clash against Tottenham Hotspur, manager Jose Mourinho has said.

The England international was replaced by Victor Lindelof in the first half of the 2-1 loss to Huddersfield Town last weekend and the Swede's errors contributed to United's first league defeat of the season.

"I think Jones will be (back) because, today, he was on the bench and he told me he will be ready in case I need him," Mourinho said after Tuesday's 2-0 win over Swansea City in the League Cup fourth round.

"So I believe he'll be even better for Saturday. Apart from that, I have no news and no hopes (for any other players)."

United have not set a return date for injured midfielders Paul Pogba (hamstring), Michael Carrick (calf) and Marouane Fellaini (knee), while defender Eric Bailly is struggling with a groin problem.

Long-term absentees Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Marcos Rojo are expected to return from their knee injuries by the end of the year.

Jones's return will be a timely boost for second-placed United, who are tied on 20 points with Tottenham going into Saturday's clash at Old Trafford. —Reuters ■