

PARLIAMENT

2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 6th regular session holds its 8th day meeting

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**PARLIAMENT**

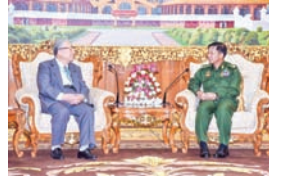
2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 6th regular session holds its 8th day meeting

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**NATIONAL**

Senior General receives JPN-MYN Friendship Association Chairman

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Coalition launched in response to wild elephant skinning crisis



This baby elephant is one of a dwindling number of wild elephants left in Myanmar. If rising levels of poaching continue, the elephant population will disappear in a few years, officials said. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

By Nay Lin

MYANMAR is losing at least one wild elephant per week to poaching and skinning, according to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, and if this continues, Myanmar could lose its wild elephants in a matter of years, officials said.

In a bid to reverse this decline, six conservation organisations have come together to form Voices for Momos (Voices for Myanmar Elephants), a multi-sector coalition in support of Myanmar's national plan to protect its elephants: the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environmental Conservation (MONREC)'s Myanmar Elephant Conservation Action Plan (MECAP).

His Excellency U Ohn Win, the Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation said, "The Myanmar Elephant Conservation Action Plan has been developed and designed to reverse the decline in the wild elephant population and to secure their future for the next generation of Myanmar people. We welcome the partnership with Voices for Momos and look forward to working together

in putting an end to elephant poaching and illegal wildlife trading."

Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA), Fauna & Flora International (FFI) Myanmar, Friends of Wildlife, Grow Back for Posterity (GBP), the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) are the founding partners of Voices for Momos, which calls on individuals and organisations to use their voice to drive awareness, education and call for the end of illegal wildlife sales in Myanmar.

"Myanmar's wild elephants will be wiped out unless we take action now. We are calling upon individuals and organisations across all sectors to join Voices for Momos and use their voice to speak up before our wild elephants are silenced forever," said Nay Myo Shwe, Taninthayi Conservation Programme Coordinator, Fauna & Flora International Myanmar.

A high demand for elephant body parts including skin has turned the country into a poaching hotspot.

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BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

Awarded by EUROMONEY 2017

Pyithu Hluttaw

2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 6th regular session holds its 8th day meeting

Aye Aye Thant

AT the 8th day meeting of 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 6th regular session held yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw, five Tatmadaw Hluttaw representatives-to-be were sworn in,, formally signing the letters of oath in the presence of U Win Myint, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw.

At yesterday meeting, U Kyaw Lin, Deputy Minister for Construction replied to a question raised by U Kan Myint of Thayet constituency on the possible construction of a bridge across Ayeyarwady River in Magway Region

“Ayeyawady Bridge (Aunglan-Thayet) is the one linking with the eastern bank of the Ayeyawady—Aunglan and the western bank of the river—Thayet, measuring 2,300 meter, in length, in estimation. If it will be built, there will be easy

access to and fro between east and west of the river. If implemented, on the west bank the road will reach Thayet, Mindon, Pathein, Monywa and thence to Kyaukpyu deep sea port, SEZ Development Project, and on the east bank of the river the road will reach Aunglan, Yangon, Pyay, Taungdwingyi, Magway, Kyaukpadaung, Myingyan and the Mandalay Expressway. Cement bags will be easily able to be distributed to the eastern parts of Ayeyawady River. And it will speed up economic development of the western part of the Ayeyawady River in Magway Region and help development of related areas. Smooth transport will make the local people develop their economic, social, education and health sectors. A feasibility study is being carried out for successful implementation of the bridge with the aid of the Korea Inter-



Pyithu Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

national Cooperation Agency (KOICA). A budget allotment from the 2018-2019 budget will be demanded, and construction will be implemented depending upon the allotment acquired.”

The Deputy Minister added, “Myoma Street of Chipwe is the one of township development committee. Its measurement is 6,000 feet in length, 18 feet in width and 9 inches in height.

If implemented as a concrete road, it will cost Ks416.832 million in estimation. If a 25 feet-long concrete bridge will be built, the cost is estimated at Ks4 million.” ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 6th regular session holds its 8th day meeting

Aung Ye Thwin

AT the 8th day meeting of the 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 6th regular session held at 10 am yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw, Tatmadaw Hluttaw representatives-to-be sworn an oath, formally signing the letters of oath in the presence of Mahn Win Khaing Than, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw.

Afterward, U Ohn Maung, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism replied to the question raised by Dr. Khin Maung Win of constituency 11, Taninthayi Region, about the development of Salon Island.

“Salon Island is the one which entrepreneurs from home and abroad have been interested in investing for hotels and tourism during reigns of successive governments. It is concluded to be a promising source for tourism development. But a feasibility study should be made to find solvable solutions by finding out the difficulties encountered in carrying out, as the above-said entrepreneurs could not implement. The Ministry is making negotiations with organisations from private sectors and entrepreneurs concerning the matters, which will support the development of tourism in My-

eik Archipelago, including Salon Island. As the Taninthari Region Cabinet will manage designation of the land area to build hotels and tourism industries on Salon Island, the proposal for implementation of building hotels and tourism businesses on the Island should be submitted to the Taninthari Region Government. The Ministry can arrange holding feasibility study programmes and give guidance on the industry in the coming open season, in combination with tourism industries from the private sector including the Myanmar Tourism Federation”, U Ohn Maung said.

Following that, Major General Aung Soe, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs replied to a question raised by U Kyaw Toke of constituency 7 in Mandalay Region, on farmland.

“Acquisition of land lease grant, at the time when the land is changed into town land area of Nyaung-U from the original type of land is to be performed under the supervision of Mandalay Region Government in accord with the farmland act of 2012. Expenses to be spent in measuring town land area were demanded to be included in the financial fund of FY 2018-2019 of the Department of Agriculture Land Manage-



U Ohn Maung, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism. PHOTO: MNA

ment and Statistics (headquarters). Upon completion of the said matters in respective sectors, the person who wants to get land lease grant can apply for and take out grants in accord with rules and regulations”, said Major General Aung Soe. Major General Aung Soe also replied to questions raised by U Bwe Khein of constituency 3, Chin State, U Kyaw Swe of constituency 11, Magway Region and U Lin Tin Htay of constituency 4 of Mon State.

In addition, U Kyaw Htwe, of constituency 8, Yangon Region, Chairman of Committee on Labor Affairs (home and



Six Amyotha Hluttaw parliamentarians take an oath during Amyotha Hluttaw meeting. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

abroad) put forward a motion to second the bill on the 2nd amendment of law on solving labour arguments.

“The law on Solution of Labour Arguments was promulgated on 28th March, 2012 under the notification of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law no/5, 2012. It was definitely described that the law was promulgated with a view to protecting labour rights, developing better relations between employers and employees and enjoying rights in just, fair and quick ways by helping to solve labour problems. On September 30, 2014, the amendment law was added with three sections, and

four wordings of the original law. But in applying the law actually, there are still necessities of hopes included in the introduction. Accordingly, the motion was put forward to the Hluttaw for discussion.”

Concerning the motion, Daw Ei Ei Pyone of constituency 8, Ayeyarwady Region discussed in support of the action.

After that, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw announced that the motion was to be seconded and handed over to Drafting Committee.

The 9th day meeting of 6th regular session will be held on 6th November 2017, it was learnt. ■

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye holds talks with Danish Minister, officials from UNHCR, WFP and USIP

The Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye received a delegation led by the Danish Minister for Development Cooperation Ms. Ulla Toernaes yesterday at the ministry.

During the meeting, they discussed implementation of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD), cooperation and knowledge sharing between the government of Myanmar and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for the repatriation of the refugees and to hold the Workshop on Voluntary Repatriation.

The Union Minister also received a delegation led by Assistant High Commissioner for Protection Mr. Volker Turk



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye holds talks with Danish Minister Ms. Ulla Toernaes at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on 1 November 2017. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

from UNHCR at May Khalar Hall in the ministry.

During the meeting, they discussed aid and assistance for

refugees to be repatriated and the negotiated agreement on repatriation processes between Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Next, Union Minister also received a delegation led by Regional Director for Asia and The Pacific Mr. David Kaartud from

the World Food Programme (WFP) and discussed social welfare processes, assistance for Rakhine State and the people to be repatriated, a solution for refugees in Rakhine and UEHRD, implementation processes for quick access of national identity cards for people in Rakhine and financial support by WFP for education and nutritional plans in the State.

After that, Union Minister received Ms. Nancy Lindborg from the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) and talked about the history of the USIP and peace making processes, the processes between UEHRD and other committees from Myanmar for Rakhine affairs and solutions for sustainable peace in the region and the holding of a Diversity Management Forum. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Dr. Win Myat Aye receives donation for UEHRD

To implement the works of Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD), the vice chairman of the enterprise as well as the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye received the

following donation and presented certificates of honour to the donors.

Ks13.495 million, equal to US\$10,000, was donated by Community and Family Services International (CFSI) on Tuesday. Also accepted were donations of Ks10 million by

Daw Tin Moe Lwin, Ks1 million by Bago Thathana Region, Ks1 million by Thuwanna Yangon Thit Church and Ks3 million by Myanmar Baptist Christian Church. The donations and presentations were made yesterday at the ministry hall. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Two electric sub-power stations will be opened in Pawkaw and Myebon Townships in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

Coalition launched in response ...

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Elephants are typically shot with poisoned darts or high-velocity rifles, and die a prolonged and painful death before being skinned, environmental officials said. Their skin, teeth, tusks and other parts are sold locally and

overseas.

Elephant skin has long been part of the illegal wildlife trade, but never at these levels, conservation experts said. In 2016, 18 wild elephants were killed, according to the ministry, but by August, NGOs working

in the field put the figure of poached and skinned elephants at “at least 30”, averaging one per week. Official estimates put the wild elephant population in Myanmar at 1,400 to 2,000 but the actual figure could be far lower. ■

Thura U Shwe Mann receives several groups from Kachin Christian delegation

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Chairman Thura U Shwe Mann yesterday morning received multiple groups from the Kachin Christian delegation at the Hluttaw



Thura U Shwe Mann meets with multiple groups of the Kachin Christian delegation in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Building (I-1) in Nay Pyi Taw. During the meeting, drug threats that occurred in Kachin State, the condition of youths taking drugs,

social problems encountered were discussed and suggestions made for laws to prevent future occurrences. —MNA ■

Two sub-power stations launched in Rakhine State

Two sub-stations that will provide electricity to about 50 townships in Rakhine State were officially opened today in Pawkaw and Myebon townships.

The sub-station in Pawkaw Township was built starting on 21 November 2015 and finished on 20 March 2016 and has been supplying electricity round the clock to 976 households in the Township from 2 October 2017.

The sub-station can supply electricity to households in Pawkaw and an additional 30 townships nearby, according to Rakhine State's electricity department.

The electricity from that sub-station will supply elec-

tricity to 3,082 households in Pawkaw Town and 31 villages in Rakhine State.

The power station in Myebon Township was built starting on 15 September 2015 and finished on 20 March 2016 and has been supplying electricity round the clock to 1,165 households in the township since 31 March.

The sub-station in Myebon Township can supply electricity to households in Myebon and an additional 20 neighbouring, according to Rakhine State's Electricity Department.

The electricity from that sub-station will supply electricity to 2,628 households in Myebon Town and 20 villages in Rakhine State.—Maw Si ■

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

Indawgyi Biosphere Reserve Inauguration held last Tuesday near Indawgyi Lake

INDAWGYI Biosphere Reserve Inauguration was held last Tuesday at the Indaw religious building and Indawgyi Lake, the country's largest freshwater lake in Mohnyin District, Kachin State was recognised as UNESCO's Biosphere Reserve on 15 June.

At the ceremony, Union Minister U Ohn Win for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation said that biodiversity helps develop the eco-system. On the other hand, the destruction of biodiversity leads to many challenges such as climate change, water scarcity, natural disasters and insufficient energy. In an attempt to reduce the loss of biodiversity and environmental degradation, natural sites are being established across the globe.

To preserve the eco-system in Myanmar, the country is also focusing on setting up natural sites. Ten per cent of the area of the country has been set as natural sites and forty sites have been established.

Setting Indawgyi Lake area as a Biosphere Reserve is a great opportunity for sustainable development of natural resource maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem. It is the third largest lake in South East Asia. The



Union Minister U Ohn Win, German Ambassador and representatives from NGO, INGO, CBO and ASEAN center for Biodiversity, officials observed and toured Indawgyi Lake with boats. **PHOTO: MNA**



lake surrounding wetlands and forest is home to globally threatened water birds, turtle species, endemic fish, mammals, reptiles and primates. In addition to government and international assistance, the cooperation of the local residents plays a vital role to maintain the biodiversity and eco system. However, it takes time to develop the region, he added.

Union Minister and State Chief Minister Dr Khat Aung signed an inauguration record after recognition of Indawgyi Lake area as UNESCO's Biosphere Reserve.

H.E. Ms Dorothee Janetzke Wenzel, German Ambassador to

Myanmar delivered a speech. Chairman of Germany UNESCO Biosphere explained about international partner organizations and Mr. Matthew Walpole from Fauna & Flora Myanmar introduced about Biosphere Reserve.

Director of the natural resources and wildlife conservation division and director of Germany Biosphere Reserve signed a partnership agreement. Director-General of the Forest Department and Mr Matthew Walpole from Fauna & Flora Myanmar signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

Union Minister, State Chief Minister and ministers, the German Ambassador to Myanmar

and her husband, Norwegian Ambassador to Myanmar, officials and representatives from Biosphere Reserve network, ASEAN center for Biodiversity, representatives from NGO, INGO, CBO toured Indawgyi Lake with boats.

There are 669 Biosphere Reserve sites in 120 countries. Myanmar's Inlay Lake and Indawgyi Lake have been recognised as Biosphere Reserves.

The lake was an ASEAN Heritage Park due to its rich biodiversity. It was also designated as a Ramsar Site in early 2016 and as a Man and Biosphere Reserve (MAB) in 2017.—IPRD (Kachin State) ■

Six Yangon townships to get modern sewage system by 2040

A modern sewage system in six townships in Yangon will be completed by 2040, said Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe yesterday.

He made the remark in his answer to a question raised by Yangon Region MP Daw Kyi Pyar at the Yangon Region Parliament on whether the Yangon City Development Committee

has plans to use modern machinery for the sewage systems in the six townships.

"We are cooperating with international organisations to modernise Yangon City, including the sewage system in six townships with future populations in mind. We have drawn the master plan for that," said U Maung Maung Soe.

Regarding the plan, the YCDC is working together with international organisations such as the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the World Bank to receive technical and monetary assistance.

Meanwhile, the YCDC has signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with Sumitomo Corporation to construct a sew-

age water treatment plant and to lay pipes in the city

"At present, the YCDC is working its best on the sewage systems with the use of compressors and manpower," said the mayor. The current sewage system in six townships including Kyauktada, Pabedan and Latha have been in use for more than 100 years.—Ko Moe ■



Security members found one gun, bullet cartridge and revolver yesterday. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Two guns lost during ARSA attacks recovered

One BA-94 automatic rifle, one bullet cartridge and one revolver were seized yesterday morning at Adula Kane's house in Myin Lut Ywar Thit village, Maungtau Township, Rakhine State.

While a combined team comprised of security members and immigration department authorities was conducting a survey for drawing a village map and record-

ing buildings at Myin Lut Ywar Thit Village, two guns in bag that were buried in the back of Adula Kane's house were discovered. No one is currently living at the house, authorities said.

It was learnt that the seized guns were lost by the Myin Lut Police Station during the violent terrorist attacks of 25 August.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Mung bean and pigeon pea prices rise due to foreign demand

May Thet Hnin

THE price of mung bean and pigeon peas increased slightly with demand from Bangladesh, Pakistan and the UAE, said U Min Ko Oo, secretary of the Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

The price of mung bean increased from Ks425,000 to Ks490,000 a ton compared to last month's price. Similarly, pigeon peas rose from Ks310,000 to Ks335,000 a ton.

Following India's import restriction on pulses in August, mung bean and pigeon peas prices plummeted. Prior to this announcement, a ton of pigeon peas fetched up to Ks650,000, while mung bean price was Ks800,000 per ton.

In an attempt to control the pea prices, merchants united to form a committee and launched an investment fund of Ks50 billion to purchase the pulses. Starting from 12 October, more than 3,800 tons of mung bean and about 10,000 tons of pigeon peas were purchased so far, said U Min Ko Oo.

Around 100,000 tons of pigeon peas and nearly 200,000 tons of mung bean were stockpiled in August when India suspended pulses importation.

At present, a huge stock of around 70,000 tons of pigeon peas and 200,000 tons of mung beans are piling up. "The stocks will gradually decrease with local demand", he added.



Myanmar pulses are kept on display for sale in a shop at a market. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT

The growers cultivated pigeon peas in June and at least about 300,000 tons is likely to be produced in December. In order for the growers to do well during the time that India has suspended pea purchases, the government will buy directly from the local growers with a Ks15 billion fund.

"The fund allocated to purchase pulses was already vested in the Commerce Ministry.

It will make direct purchases from the growers in the respective regions and states during the harvest time of pigeon peas.

At the new harvest time, I'm satisfied with this action that the government will purchase the peas from the growers who need to cover their cultivation cost, according to the Law of Protection of Farmer Rights", said U Min Ko Oo.

However, details about

set prices and purchase volume are not yet known. "I appreciate this action that the government considers for the growers to reap benefits.

If not, the growers will not be able to escape from the circle of debts and might end up giving up their cultivation land.

We hope the agriculture information to determine that which crop is better for this season or which crop might fetch a good price will widely disseminate", said U Zaw Khin, a grower from Shwebo District, Sagaing Region.

India's suspension on pulses imports forced the growers to tend to other crops in the coming pulses cultivation season.

India is the main buyer of Myanmar's pigeon peas, mung beans and green grams. About 1.5 million tons of pulses were exported to that market a year. ■

Rice bran oil mills to be established in Myaungmya, Kyaiklat and Twantay townships

May Thet Hnin

RICE bran oil mills will be set up in Myaungmya and Kyaiklat townships in Ayeyawady Region and Twantay Township in Yangon Region in order to produce value-added rice bran oil, said U Ye Min Aung, the secretary of the Myanmar Rice Federation.

Construction of the mills will start this fiscal year and the mills are slated to begin operation in early 2019, he continued.

Rice bran oil is highly nutritious and highly valued due to its health benefits. Also, it can be used in cooking and cosmetic products and the healthcare industry.

In addition to rice bran oil, de-oiled rice bran cake can be used as feedstuff. Thus, it helps support the domestic livestock industry.

"Myanmar is heavily reliant on imported edible palm oil. About 500,000 metric tons of palm oil is annually imported into the country. Domestic pro-

duction of healthy oil like rice bran oil is a strategic planning. It will help reduce the import of palm oil.

Locally produced rice bran oil will ensure health safety to the public", said U Ye Min Aung.

The capital goods for rice bran oil mills will be imported from India, which will also share technology. Currently, there is ongoing discussion with organisations which will support machines and technology. ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း "Sunday Special" အချုပ်ပို (၈) မျက်နှာပါဝင်သော The Global New Light of Myanmar နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကိုအောက်ပါမြို့များတွင်ဖုန်းနံပါတ်ဖြင့်

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Independent journalists visit troubled areas in Maungdaw

Three dead, one hurt in IED explosion in Maungdaw Tsp

"Sunday Special" အချုပ်ပို (၈) မျက်နှာပါဝင်သည်

နေပြည်တော်၊ ဗဟိုဒုတိယဌာန၊ ရုံးအမှတ် (၇) နေပြည်တော်၊ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရုံးချုပ်)၊ စီမံရေးရာဌာန၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၄၁၂၁၀၈

နေပြည်တော်၊ နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တပ်ကုန်း)၊ ယောက္ခဦးမြန်းလှ၊ ခရိုင်လမ်း၊ နေပြည်တော်၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၃၆၁၄၈၊ ၀၆၇၃၆၁၂၉

ရန်ကုန်၊ The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊ ငါးထပ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ဗဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၁၀၆၀၅၅၂၊ ၀၉၅၇၄၄၄၂၄၁၁၄

မန္တလေး၊ လမ်း (၂၁ x ၂၁) ကြား၊ (၁၂ x ၈) လမ်းကြား၊ ပုလဲဇွေရောင်ရမ်းမန္တလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၂၃၂၇၂၉၊ ၀၂၃၂၇၅၀

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

မကွေး၊ နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ တပ်မ (၈၈) တပ်နယ်ရေးအနီး၊ မကွေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၃၂၃၇၁၂

ကချင်တိုင်း၊ မြို့သစ် (၃-၈)၊ အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းသွယ်၊ မြို့ပတ်လမ်း၊ ကချင်တိုင်းမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၄၂၂၄၉၂

ကလေး၊ အောင်ဇေယျရပ်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊ ကလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၂၁၃၃

မြင်းကြီးမား၊ အမှတ် (၄၁)၊ ရေရပ်ကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊ မြင်းကြီးမားမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၂၄၆၂

ဝင်းတော်၊ ရွှေဘိုလမ်းနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊ မိမိတော်ကြီးအနီး၊ မန်ကျည်းမြိုင်ရပ်ကွက်၊ စစ်တွေမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃၂၃၀၆၈

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

ခြောက်၊ မေတ္တာလမ်း၊ ရှမ်းရောင်းရပ်၊ ကလေးကျေးရွာအုပ်စု၊ ခြောက်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၉၄၂၁၈၃

မော်လမြိုင်၊ ကြာအင်းကျေးရွာ၊ မော်လမြိုင်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၇၂၇၂၅၊ ၀၅၇၂၇၂၆

ပုံရွာ၊ နန္ဒဝန်ရပ်ကွက်၊ ဆက်သွယ်ရေးတပ်မတော်အနီး၊ ပုံရွာမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၁၂၆၇၃၅၊ ၀၇၁၂၆၇၃၃

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Residents in Maungtaw get NV cards

MOBILE immigration teams have been working on issuing National Verification Cards to residents in Shwezar Village-tract in Maungtaw Township in northern Rakhine since 12th October.

The team at the Shwezar Village has issued so far more than 160 villagers and took records from 33 with the biometric method.

The other teams have issued the NV cards to more than 2,600 people from Shwezar (North), (West) and (Middle) villagers in mid-October and provided mosquito nets and food to the villagers.— Myanmar News Agency ■



Mobile immigration officials conducting national verification process to the villagers in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

Short-term priority projects in northern Rakhine underway

NOW that Rakhine State has started to regain regional security and stability after the terrorist attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) in northern Rakhine State, relevant ministries are implementing short-term priority projects in multiple sectors, it was learnt.

Starting from 5th September, there were no longer military operations in northern Rakhine State, according to the Union government. Out of the security forces which are launching measures for the rule of law, some columns of the Tatmadaw were made to withdraw from Buthidaung and Maungtaw conflict areas to be reformed as reserve forces and stationed on standby, officials said.

On 17 October, the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development (UEHRD) was officially formed for effective performance of long-term project of freedom from conflicts.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement said it has been performing the tasks of providing rice provisions for half a million people, subsidizing Ks100,000 each for 1,500 families, giving out monetary aid to disabled persons at Ks20,000 each, Ks30,000 each for every pregnant women and children under two, Ks20,000 each for every person over the age of 60, Ks100,000 each for every injured person, Ks50,000 each for children who are in need of hygienic aid and other necessities, and Ks10,000 per month for those aged above 90. Giving necessi-

ties to the disabled according to categories, building weaving machines and sewing factories for creation of job opportunities and supporting of needed properties to conflict-affected people depending upon their necessities are being implemented under the Red Cross Movement Programme.

The Ministry of Industry said it is performing the tasks of supporting 500 bags of 18 kinds of supplies, 250 sets of 20-watt solar home lighting systems and 150 sets of solar home lighting systems and opening mobile industrial and vocational trainings.

For the time being, the Union information committee said, the Ministry of Health and Sports are performing the tasks of providing medical care and treatment of malnutrition, giving teacher training in seven townships in Sittway, Thandwe, Kyaukpyu, Minbya, Maungtaw, Buthidaung and Yathedaung, providing nutritious ground-nut snacks, implementing projects for promotion of preliminary hygienic care in Buthidaung and Maungtaw townships and carrying out three health projects in cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population is performing the task of the national verification process, the government information committee said. Also, the Ministry of Border Affairs is making arrangements for building up to 50 low-cost housing estates in Kainggyi (Mro), and 50 similar houses in Nant Thar Taung Vil-

lage. In building roads, 6/1 mile at Mee Dike junction-Mee Dike camp up to milestone 37, 2/5 mile up to Leit Ya junction-Leit Ya camp, 3/3 mile up to Kyun pauk junction-Kyun Pauk and 2/5 mile up to Ngakhura-Sabai Pinyin outpost, the committee said.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is making lakes, ponds, and irrigation channels. And it is helping local farmers in harvesting and distributing pedigree seeds plus giving drugs for animal husbandry and veterinary services. Linking with local and foreign associations to perform the tasks of expanding livestock breeding and dairy products, building 200 low-cost housing estates are underway, the committee said.

The Ministry of Construction is performing the tasks of building roads and bridges, and the Ministry of Home Affairs is making arrangements for fencing the remaining part of the Myanmar-Bangladesh border area — 39.217 miles and 107 remaining outposts and purchasing 48 meter-long patrol motor boats under the General Agreement Plan, officials said.

The Ministry of Transport and Communications is making arrangements for changing the mobile phone numbers of MPT and other telephone operators' SIM cards of their own accord and upgrading other communication systems.

The Ministry of Education is also making arrangements to build five schools in Maungtaw, according to the Information Committee. —MNA ■

PRESS RELEASE

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of H.E. Mr. Tom D. Kijiner as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, with residence in Tokyo.

H.E. Mr. Tom D. Kijiner was born on 29 August 1945 in Likiep, Marshall Islands and studied General Education at the University of Guam and University of Hawaii from 1965 to 1973. He served as Member of Parliament (Nitijela), Minister for Education, Minister for Finance, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Minister for Health and Environment and Ambassador-at-Large from 1974 to 2009. Currently, H.E. Mr. Tom D. Kijiner is accredited as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Marshall Islands to Japan since 2012 and concurrently accredited to Vietnam, Singapore, Brunei, the Philippines, India, Thailand, Mongolia and Indonesia. He speaks Marshallese, English and is married with seven children.—Ministry of Foreign Affairs ■

Plans for University of Fish underway

By Ko Moe

PLANS are underway to establish the University of Fish by 2018, as the fishery sector is of vital importance in growing the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), according to the Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF).

"The project for founding the University of Fish in the next year is underway. The project is being implemented as quickly as possible depending on human resources acquired.

Now, the teachers who instruct subjects related are being gathered", said Dr. Toe Nandar Tin, vice chairperson of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

The University of Fish will be founded and operated using international standards. After the founding the university, an academic institution of a high standard will be created, not a so-called "degree mill", Dr. Toe Nandar Tin said. To be able to establish the university, negotiations are being made with related ministries for cooperation, she added.

Founding the Universi-

ty of Fish is necessary, even though the Department of Fisheries currently conducts training in cooperation with local and international organisations, Dr. Toe Nandar Tin said.

"Classes such as quality control, production and catching methods conducted by the Fisheries Department in the past were stopped for various reasons. Now classes and training need to be conducted by a university and vocational schools related with water resources", said U Myo Nyunt, secretary of Myanmar Fishery products Processors & Exporters Association.

At present, fish breeding in Myanmar is mostly done with a type of fish that needs a long time to reach full maturity. Technical assistance is needed to switch the breeding method.

The Yangon Region Government has said that the activities for the development of the fishery sector in Yangon will be carried out at the end of the rainy season this year.

In fiscal year 2016-2017, Myanmar aquatic products exported abroad were valued at US\$600 million. ■

South Korea's Moon says cannot recognise North Korea as nuclear state

SEOUL/BEIJING — South Korea will never tolerate North Korea as a nuclear state, nor will Seoul have nuclear weapons, President Moon Jae-in said on Wednesday, as China pledged to work on denuclearisation after setting aside a dispute with Seoul over an anti-missile system.

The North Korea nuclear crisis will take centre stage when US President Donald Trump begins a trip to Asia at the end of the week and diplomacy has been ramping up ahead of that visit.

A series of weapons tests by Pyongyang and a string of increasingly bellicose exchanges between Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in recent months has raised fears about an armed conflict. Speaking to parliament, Moon said there can be no military action on the Korean peninsula without the South's consent, adding the government will continue working for peace on the peninsula.

"According to the joint denuclearisation declaration made by North and South Korea, we cannot tolerate or recognise North Korea as a nuclear state. We too, will not develop nuclear (weapons) or own them," he said.

"Our government was launched in the most serious of times in terms of security. The government is making efforts to stably manage the situation it faces as well as to bring about peace on the Korean peninsula."

China's foreign ministry said Beijing and Seoul will continue to use diplomatic means to address the Korean peninsula issue, after a meeting in Beijing between Lee Do-hoon, South Korea's representative of stalled six-party nuclear talks, and his Chinese counterpart, Kong Xuanyou.

Moon's remarks and China's statement came a day after China and South Korea agreed to normalise relations to end a year-long standoff over the deployment of the US Terminal High Altitude



South Korean President Moon Jae-in delivers his speech on the 2018 budget bill during a plenary session at the National Assembly in Seoul, South Korea on 1 November, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Area Defence (THAAD) system.

The installation of THAAD had angered China, which feared its powerful radar could see deep into China. South Korea's tourism, cosmetics and entertainment industries bore the brunt of a Chinese backlash, although Beijing has never specifically linked that to the THAAD deployment.

North Korea's state media had no comment on the shift in ties between South Korea and China as of midday on Wednesday. It has not engaged in missile tests since mid-September or any nuclear tests since its biggest one early that month.

A senior Blue House official had said warmer bilateral ties had seemed to come about from better trust in Seoul by Beijing, which has expressed concerns regarding possible additional deployments of a US anti-missile defence system and military cooperation among South Korea, the United States and Japan.

Earlier this week, South Korea's Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-hwa had said South Korea has no intention to join a US missile-defence system in

the region and would not host additional THAAD batteries. South Korea would not enter any trilateral military alliance with the United States and Japan, Kang added.

The United States is deciding whether three aircraft carriers currently in the Asia Pacific will carry out an exercise to coincide with Trump's trip to the region, two US officials said. Japan's navy is considering sending one or more ships to the exercise if it is held, a Japanese government source said.

Trump's trip includes Tokyo, Seoul and Beijing but he will not go to the heavily fortified demilitarized zone (DMZ) on the border of North Korea and South Korea, a senior White House official said. China's top newspaper, the Communist Party's official People's Daily, wrote in a commentary on Wednesday that China expected South Korea to take seriously its responsibility to protect regional peace now that they had set relations back on the correct track.

"The appropriate handling of the THAAD issue by China and South Korea can provide

an opportunity for both countries to increase cooperation and communication on the peninsula issue," it said. But influential state-run tabloid the Global Times warned there would not be an immediate improvement in cultural and business ties, with South Korean firms having to make an effort to win back Chinese customers.

"Whether or not Chinese consumers buy South Korean products is not totally up to the Chinese government," it said in an editorial. The rapprochement meant both countries were able to walk away with gains, said John Delury, professor at Seoul's Yonsei University.

"It is arguably Moon's first foreign policy breakthrough, giving South Korea's economy a boost and enhancing his geopolitical leverage by strengthening the relationship with China," said Delury. "But Xi can also claim a victory — he made his point that Seoul needs to factor China's interests more seriously into its security posture, at least when it comes to things like missile defence that can alter the regional balance of power." —Reuters ■

Philippines arrests Indonesian pro-Islamist militant in Marawi

MANILA — Philippine security forces on Wednesday arrested an Indonesian national suspected to be among the pro-Islamist militants who seized control of parts of the southern city of Marawi in May, military and police officials said.

The seizure stoked concerns that the region had become a hub for Islamic State in Southeast Asia, triggering a five-month military effort to eject the militants, comprised of domestic fighters and foreigners such as Indonesians, Malaysians and Middle Easterners.

Community peacekeepers arrested the Indonesian on Wednesday morning, Colonel Romeo Brawner, deputy commander of the Marawi task force, told reporters.

The arrest highlights that "civilian participation is essential in our collective effort to secure our communities from terrorist elements," Zia Alonto Adiong, a politician who is assisting in rescue and relief, said in a statement.

The arrest came a day after a pro-Islamic State militant was gunned down and nine days after the Philippines wrapped up military operations. More than 1,100 people, mostly militants, died in the siege, which drove about 350,000 from their homes.

The militant identified himself as Muhammad Ilham Shaputra, 23, from Medan City in North Sumatra, said John Guyguyon, police chief of the province of Lanao del Sur, where Marawi is located.

His bag held a mobile phone, a .45-caliber handgun, a fragmentation grenade and Philippine and Indonesian currencies, along with some riyals, while he tried to escape through a lake, Guyguyon added.

"Our action is to file a case against him because he is part of the initial siege," Guyguyon told a news conference.

"We are preparing the investigation report so we can file cases of rebellion, terrorism and others," Guyguyon said, adding that the Indonesian confessed there were several gunmen still hiding in the main battle area in downtown Marawi. —Reuters ■

Cambodia's Angkor sees tourist, revenue surge in first 10 months

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia's famed Angkor Archeological Park received 1.94 million foreign visitors during the first 10 months of 2017, up 12 per cent compared to the same period last year, an official statement said on Wednesday.

The ancient site earned

gross revenue of 84.2 million US dollars from ticket sales during the January-October period this year; up 71 per cent over the same period last year, said the state-owned Angkor Enterprise's statement. The sharp rise in revenue was due to the hike in ticket prices

in February. Most visitors to the historic site were Chinese, South Koreans and Americans. The current entrance fee to the park is 37 US dollars for a one-day visit, 62 US dollars for a three-day pass, and 72 US dollars for a week-long pass. Located in northwestern

Cambodia's Siem Reap province, the Angkor Archeological Park, inscribed on the World Heritage List of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1992, is the country's most popular tourist destination. —Reuters ■

Rakhine State affair and cooperation

By Khin Maung Oo

IT was said there has been a growing concern among the global community that resurgent nationalism would appear in Myanmar concerning the Rakhine State affair. They are worried rising waves of nationalism will appear among social communities as a result of resurgent nationalism and thence become obstacles on Myanmar's road to reforms and democracy.

A strong sense of nationalism did not occur in the minds of the people without rhyme or reason. Based on the false allegations that ethnic cleansing was being committed in Rakhine State, nationalistic spirit welled up in the hearts of the Myanmar people as the said accusations affected the national dignity and image of the country. The Myanmar people felt deeply hurt because they believed that the international community had decided to neglect the dangerous threats

on Myanmar's national sovereignty by swallowing lock, stock and barrel the propaganda lines churned out by the numerous channels with dubious names but with one definite single intent – to bring shame to the Myanmar people, discredit our leaders and hurl continuous baseless accusations against the Myanmar Armed Forces. The ease at which the international community has fallen prey to the sight of crying babies or tales of human rights abuses, brings into focus the power of the internet, Face Book and other mass communications tools to sway public opinion towards a certain cause. Perhaps they did not find time to read the news reports in detail which stated that the border police outposts were surrounded not by a few dozen militants but by a host of villages armed with sticks and knives. This being the case, it seems natural that these same villages would have immediately decided to flee once they heard the

Myanmar Armed Forces entering the area to conduct clearance operations. It certainly does not take a legal expert to come to the conclusion that all those villages who took part in the raids are also punishable under the anti-terrorism law. This fact may perhaps explain why nearly half a million people decided to cross over to the Bangladesh side of the border. At least this may be one of the many reasons. The other reasons could be the lure of easy money in the refugee camps and perhaps the hope of getting refugee status in a third country for economic reasons.

Actually the problems in the Rakhine State could be best solved by taking an objective look at the situation without being overwhelmed by feelings of emotions. This is because the problems require careful study and deep understanding of the underlying causes which cannot be analyzed in simplistic terms. It needs a willingness to approach the complex problem from

many viewpoints – such as historic, political, social, economic, communal and religious. It has been clearly publicized that those who will comply with rules and laws will be granted citizenship rights after undergoing a strict and careful process of scrutinizing Bengalis said to have fled into Bangladesh. Every nation, institution and individual desirous of solving the Rakhine State affair with unadulterated minds are required to enthusiastically take part in implementing the process successfully. And they must collectively help by taking part in launching development projects in Rakhine State, as backwardness in economic development is one of the reasons which caused the current problem. We therefore humbly urge the international community to collectively solve the problem hand in hand with the Union Government in a spirit of cooperation, sincerity and genuine good intentions to alleviate the suffering of all communities in the Rakhine State. ■

MINDFULNESS is of paramount importance to achieve any goals and targets in our lives. Always be meditative, youthful, altruistic, nimble, munificent, astute and reliable. Knowledge (wisdom) is power and wish-to-do, work-hard (effort) and will (mind) are also powers for achieving our individual vision and missions as well as our global sustainable development goals by 2030. Enduring patience is the austere practice for all of us living in this planet.

Myanmar is rich with land and its scenic beauties (natural resources), labour (human resources) and famous with its abundant and unexploited resources; the capital (financial resources), machineries and equipment (physical resources) and technology (technological resources) yet need to be developed and improved. Youth population in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is of great importance and more productive for the implementation of the goals and targets of sustainable development agenda 2030. All the leaders who know the way, go the way, show the way and lead the way need to work together in order to achieve the democracy with the people, for the people, of the people and by the people. No one is above the law and every citizen must abide by the rule of law in order to build a peaceful, harmonious, stable, prosperous and just planet. Man is not perfect; man makes mistakes; you make mistakes, he makes mistakes, she makes mistakes, they make mistakes, I make mistake and we all make mistakes; but practice makes perfect through insight meditation with the eightfold noble path. Aim high act local; all communities of the Union of Myanmar must think about community

Make Myanmar More Mindful

Htun Tin Htun

security and alert to strengthen the solidarity for the sovereignty; for that we must pool our resources available within the community through the saving schemes both in cash and in kind in order to make self-defence and help other needy communities in case of emergency. Right understanding, right thinking (thought), right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness and right concentration are eight in one noble path for the cessation of sorrows and sufferings in this world and the next.

Man matters most, money matters most, mind matters most and materials matters most; in practice man is the architect of the world to make just, peace and prosperity or to make conflicts/ violence/ war; money (capital/investment) makes many things but not everything; mind precedes all mental states, mind is their chief, they are all mind-wrought; mind leads the matter (body), inner peace of the body is most important for the outer peace; materials development makes the people to feel more comfortable. One by one, moment by moment, little by little, drops by drops filled the drum/ tank/ pot and we all Myanmar people must learn and get lessons from the history and forgive the past but not forget the invaders near and far with

greed, hatred and delusion and we must strive on with diligence and vigilance to protect and safeguard the country with our might and means. Right resource mobilization in Myanmar's abundant resources is of great importance for the posterity and future of the Union of Myanmar and Balance Sheet Reading (how to read a balance sheet) is badly and deeply needed in State Economic Enterprises for public disclosure and there should be only one budget for the entire country. Efficiency is the ratio of input and output and maximum output using minimum input makes an enterprise to be thriving and boosting so that Myanmar people need to put and double their concerted efforts relentlessly in all economic sectors in order to reach the desired targets and goals. Ever grows the glory of him who is energetic, mindful and pure in conduct, discerning and self-controlled, righteous and heedful; by effort and heedfulness, discipline and self-mastery, let the wise one make for himself an island on which no flood can overwhelm.

Most of Myanmar people are Buddhists who are the last defenders for the Theravada Buddhism in this planet and our active, bright, courageous, disciplined, equable, fast and generous people of the Union of Myanmar must

protect ourselves and our religion and must safeguard our sovereignty and must defend our territorial integrity International community are warmly and friendly requested to learn more about Myanmar history, geo-politics, her richness of resources and most of Myanmar people are smiling always and famous for their generosity/charity/ philanthropic activities and we are easy to forgive and forget though we dare to fight for our sovereignty, peace and independence. Neither in the sky nor in mid-ocean, nor by entering into mountain clefts, nowhere in the world is there a place where one may escape from the results of evil deeds. Do not give way to heedlessness; do not indulge in sensual pleasure; only the heedful and meditative attain great happiness; the foolish and ignorant indulge in heedlessness but the wise one keeps his heedfulness as his best treasure. Follow not the vulgar way; live not in heedlessness; hold not false views; linger not long in worldly existence; arise! Do not be heedless! Lead a righteous life; the righteous live happily both in this world and the next. Understanding clearly the excellence of heedfulness which is the path to the Deathless and the heedful die not; the wise exult therein and enjoy the resort of the Noble Ones. Let a man guard himself against irritability in thought, speech and bodily action; let him be controlled in mind, speech and deed; abandoning mental misconduct, verbal misconduct and bodily misconduct, let him practice good conduct in thought, speech and deed.

May all Myanmar People be free from all dangers, sufferings and enmity, be happy, healthy, prosperous and peaceful!!! ■

Outcome Statement of Workshop on Consideration of a Moratorium on the Application of Death Penalty, pending its abolition

THE Workshop on the Moratorium of the Death Penalty was held at Hotel Max, Nay Pyi Taw on 30-31 October organised by the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission and supported by the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF).

The workshop was attended by 33 participants including parliamentarians, senior government officials, representatives from civil society organisations, the media and Members of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission.

The objective of the workshop is to ask the government to consider initiating a moratorium on the application of death penalty, pending its abolition.

The workshop commenced with welcoming remarks by U Win Mra, Chairman of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission. In his remarks, the chairman stated that Myanmar has not carried out an execution since 1988 and that

it is considered abolitionist in practice, although the death sentence is imposed on offenders in serious crimes.

The chairman requested the participants to freely express their views and comments with regard to considering a moratorium on the application of the death penalty based on prevailing practices.

Presentations were made by the international expert Dr. Jon Yorke, Professor of Human Rights in the School of Law, Birmingham City University in the United Kingdom and Director of the Centre for Human Rights. He shared his views and experiences regarding the Evolution of the UN Legislative Mandate Towards the Abolition of the death penalty, and on the theme of Multilateralism and the Movement Towards Global Abolition, based on the human rights perspective on the death penalty.

Dr. Yorke raised pertinent points regarding the denuncia-



tion of the death penalty as an expression of legitimate contemporary state sovereignty and the solidity of the human rights standards for rejecting the use of the death penalty and for enhancing the human dignity of the victims of crimes.

It was then followed by a presentation made by U Soe Phone Myint, a member of the Myanmar National Human

Rights Commission, focusing on the relevant provisions of the domestic criminal laws, rulings and precedents relating to the imposition of the death penalty in serious crimes, and granting of pardon by the President under the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

U Khin Maung Lay, a member of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission also

made a presentation, discussing his experiences with regard to the 6th World Congress on the Abolition of Death Penalty.

Since Myanmar is considered abolitionist in practice, the workshop recommends the government to consider a moratorium on the application of the death penalty, pending its abolition. — Myanmar News Agency ■

YCDC to build parks, playgrounds in every townships

Ko Moe

Yangon City Development Committee-YCDC will build parks and playgrounds in the vacant land in the city.

“As part of efforts for health care of the residents in Yangon City, we will build parks and playgrounds in vacant land in every township in Yangon Region. So, MPs in the town-

ships are requested to inform us the vacant land in their respective townships,” said U Maung Maung Soe, Mayor of Yangon City, at the Yangon Region Parliament yesterday. Most townships in Yangon Region which has 45 townships have no recreation centers and playgrounds for the residents.

“It is dangerous for the children to play on the streets

and roads as there is no playgrounds and parks for them,” said Dagon Myothit (South) Township’s MP U Nyi Nyi in his debate at the Yangon Region parliament.

Currently, Yangon City Development Committee is building the public recreation infrastructures in the city in accordance with the instruction of the Union Government. ■

AGD introduces new interest rates for fixed deposit



AGD Bank has introduced its new service with new interest rate for fixed deposit. “Fixed Deposit Plus PlusPlus +++” program has offered interest rates: 1 month: 9% per year, 2 months: 9.10 % per year, 3 months: 9.25 % per year, four months: 9.3% per year, five months: 9.40% per year, 6 months: 9.5 % per year, seven months: 9.60% per

year, eight months: 9.70 % per year, 9 months: 9.75 % per year, ten months: 9.85% per year, 11 months: 9.95% per year and 12 months: 10 % per year. “The new service is expected to attract more customers as it make easy using and bring more benefits to them,” said U Ko Moe, Deputy General Manager of the AGD Bank. — GNLM ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Notification 17/2017

13th Waxing of Tazaungmon, 1379 ME
(1 November, 2017)

Defence Services Personnel representative from State Hluttaw name declared

The following Defence Services Hluttaw Representatives nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services in accordance with the State Constitution for 2nd Shan State Hluttaw was scrutinized by Union Election Commission and they are announced as representatives of Defence Services for State Hluttaw in accord with the Section 31 of the Region or State Hluttaw Election Law.

Shan State Hluttaw

(1)	BC 34706	Major San Lin Kyi
(2)	BC 38162	Major Aung San Day

By order,
(Hla Thein)
Chairman
Union Election Commission

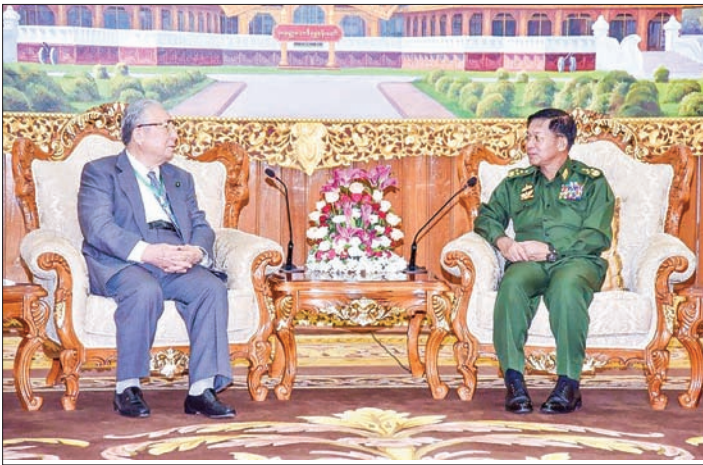
Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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

Senior General receives JPN-MYN Friendship Association Chairman

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing received Mr. Hideo Watanabe, former parliamentarian of the House of Councillors and Chairman of the Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association at the hall of the Bayintnaung Guest House yesterday afternoon in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the two representatives discussed bilateral cooperation for strengthening the friendship between the two armed forces of the two countries, the Tatmadaw's important role in Myanmar's democratic reforms, the impact by the international media related



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets with Mr. Hideo Watanabe in Nay Pyi Taw on 1 November 2017. PHOTO: MNA

to the affairs in Rakhine, and the necessity to make world leaders aware of the true situation regarding the events in Rakhine State. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance issues a Statement of declaration. Following is the full-text of the Statement.

မြန်မာအင်္ဂလိပ်ဝေလီရစ်သန့်မဟာမိတ်အဖွဲ့ချုပ်
Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance
No.144-145, Karyah 6th Street, Pale Myothit, Mingalardon Township, Yangon.
Hp : 09-796874526, 09-421138011, 09-264133833 Email: mecaooffice2015@gmail.com
ubsgalilee@gmail.com

Rev. Dr. Aye Min
Chairman

Rev. Dr. Zin Hla
Vice Chairman (1)

Rev. Lincoln Bill
Vice Chairman (2)

Rev. Dr. Naing Thang
Vice Chairman (3)

Rev. Dr. Morris R.Liana
General Secretary

Rev. Dr. Gideon Htoo
Associate GS (1)

Rev. Dr. Charity Htoo
Associate GS (2)

Rev. Thein Than Tun
Treasurer (1)

Rev. Dr. Dorothy Colney
Treasurer (2)

Commissions

Rev. Dr. Aung Mang
Theological Education

Rev. Dr. Moses Aung Thein Myint
Relief and Development

Rev. Dr. Peter Thein Nyunt
Evangelism and Mission

Rev. Dr. John Tuan Hre Thang
Literature and Publication

Rev. Myo Win
Religious Liberty

Rev. Khin Maung Yin
Youth

Sayama May Pan Lynn
Women

Rev. Peter Ngun Za Cug
Public Relations

Pastor Gilbert David
Family and Children

Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance (MECA), recognized by World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) and Asian Evangelical Alliance (AEA), hereby issues the following statement.

1. Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance (MECA) strongly condemns the ARSA terrorist violence and is deeply saddened by the injury, death, threats, forced religious conversion, rape and other violations all people in Rakhine including minority ethnic groups.
2. Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance (MECA) deeply regrets the omission of accurate information and bias reporting by some international media outlets and by some countries.
3. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar is a country where people from different race and religion coexist and live peacefully, with the right to worship freely. Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance is deeply concerned about the international pressure placed on the government with possible sanctions which make it seem like these countries themselves are violating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
4. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed by the United Nations targets the individual and not a nation not a particular race. The incident of Rakhine state has led to some countries taking a bias stand for all ethnic and religious groups and their socio-economic development. Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance is deeply saddened on behalf of all nationals in Myanmar.
5. Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance believes that the government of Myanmar will do its best to find a solution to the current situation. Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance also acknowledges the government's efforts and contribution for Myanmar.
6. Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance would like to request the international community to give consideration to the efforts being made by the government at a time when democracy is at its infancy, for the peace and welfare of all people in Myanmar and give support to its efforts.

Rev. Dr. Aye Min
Chairman
Myanmar Evangelical
Christian Alliance (MECA)

Rev. Dr. Morris R. Liana
General Secretary
Myanmar Evangelical
Christian Alliance (MECA)

Member body of Asia Evangelical Alliance and World Evangelical Alliance
Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. (Mark 16:15)

MYANMAR GAZETTE

(1 November 2017)

Heads of service organizations transferred, confirmed and appointed

1. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations to the posts shown against their names from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(1) Dr Daw Si Si Hla Bu Rector University of Myeik Ministry of Education	Rector University of Patheingyi Ministry of Education
(2) Dr Maung Maung Naing Rector University of Lashio Ministry of Education	Rector University of Yadanabon Ministry of Education

2. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against their names on the expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(1) Dr Daw Tin Tin Lay	Director-General Department of Human Resources for Health Ministry of Health and Sports
(2) Professor Dr Daw Mya Mya Aye	Rector University of Medical Technology (Mandalay) Ministry of Health and Sports
(3) Dr Daw Khin Thet Wai	Rector University of Nursing (Mandalay) Ministry of Health and Sports

3. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against their name on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

(1) Dr Daw Aye Aye Myint Pro-rector Yangon University of Education Ministry of Education	Rector Yangon University of Education Ministry of Education
(2) Dr Daw Khin Aye Aye Pro-rector University of Distance Education (Yangon) Ministry of Education	Rector University of Distance Education (Mandalay) Ministry of Education
(3) Dr Daw Aye Aye Tun Pro-rector Dagon University Ministry of Education	Rector University of Bago Ministry of Education
(4) Dr Daw Khin Thida Pro-rector West Yangon University Ministry of Education	Rector University of Pyaw Ministry of Education
(5) Dr Aung Myat Kyaw Sein Pro-rector University of Mawlamyine Ministry of Education	Rector University of Mawlamyine Ministry of Education

Saudi-led air strike kills 26 people in Yemen

DUBAI — An air strike by a Saudi-led military coalition killed 26 people at a hotel and an adjoining market in Yemen's northern Saadah province on Wednesday, according to medics and a Reuters witness at the scene.

The attack which struck the Sahar district of the vast territory, on the border with Saudi Arabia, demolished the budget hotel and reduced market stalls outside to a heap of twisted sheet metal.

Medics gathered corpses and laid them in a group.

A military alliance led by Saudi Arabia has launched thousands of air strikes against Yemen's armed Houthi movement, which hails from Saadah and now controls much of the country.

The 2-1/2 year war effort has yet to achieve its goal of restoring to power the internationally recognized government, but the conflict has unleashed one of the world's worst humanitarian crises and killed at least 10,000 people.



People gather at the site of an air strike in the northwestern city of Saada, Yemen on 1 November, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Saudi Arabia and its allies, who receive logistical and intelligence help from the United

States for their campaign, accuse the Houthis of being a proxy of their arch-foe Iran.

The Houthi group denies those charges and says it is launching a patriotic re-

sistance against outside aggressors in thrall to the West. —Reuters ■

Man arrested after trying to sell original of Bosnia's peace treaty

SARAJEVO — A Bosnian Serb man was arrested after trying to sell an original document from the 1995 Dayton peace agreement that ended Bosnia's war, police said on Wednesday. The document had gone missing a decade ago.

Media identified the man as Zeljko Kuntos, a former driver for a Bosnian Serb ex-parliament speaker, and said he had been trying to sell the document for 100,000 Bosnian marka (\$60,000).

The US-brokered peace treaty that ended the war was reached at a US air base in Dayton, Ohio in November 1995 by the then presidents of Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia, the three sides involved in the conflict in which more than 100,000 died.

Under the treaty, Bosnia

was split into two autonomous regions, the Federation shared by the Bosnian Croats and Muslim Bosniaks, and the Serb-dominated Serb Republic.

"The person ZK, who obtained during 2017 the original document written in English of the Dayton peace agreement, is suspected of offering it for sale in order to gain illegal benefits," police said in a statement. They gave no further details.

In 2008, a then presidency member revealed that the original document of the peace treaty in English was missing.

Kuntos was arrested on Thursday in Pale, the Bosnian Serb wartime stronghold near Sarajevo. It is not clear how he obtained the document. —Reuters ■

Iraq plans parliamentary elections for 15 May

BAGHDAD — Iraq plans to hold parliamentary elections on 15 May to choose a prime minister, a statement from the prime minister's office said late on Tuesday.

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi hasn't yet said if he plans to seek a new term. Most executive power is held by the prime minister, who is also commander of the armed forces.

The 15 May date, agreed at a government meeting on Tuesday, has yet to be approved by parliament.

Abadi took over the premiership in 2014 from Nuri al-Maliki, a close ally of Iran held responsible for the army's collapse as Islamic State militants swept through a third of Iraq.

Abadi is credited for quickly rebuilding the army and defeating Islamic State in its main Iraqi stronghold, Mosul, last July, with strong assistance from a US-led coalition.

Maliki holds the ceremonial title of vice-president. As head of the Shi'ite Dawa party and the

largest block in parliament, he remains a powerful political figure.

The prime minister's office is reserved for Iraq's majority Shi'ite Arab community under a power-sharing system set up after the 2003 US-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein, a Sunni Arab.

The largely ceremonial office of president is reserved for a Kurdish member of parliament. The speaker of parliament is drawn from Sunni Arab MPs. —Reuters ■

Gunfire heard in Eritrea's capital as protests break out, US embassy says

NAIROBI — The US embassy in Eritrea said on Tuesday it had received reports of gunfire in several parts of the capital, Asmara, after protests erupted in one of Africa's most secretive nations.

"The Embassy advises US citizens to avoid the downtown area where protests appear to be more prevalent," it said in a

statement. "Avoid areas where demonstrations are taking place and exercise caution when in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations."

It was not immediately clear what had caused the protests.

Several UN reports have accused the Eritrean government of crimes against humanity in-

cluding torture, rape and murder. It denies the charges. A UN Commission of Inquiry report last year said that atrocities — including an indefinite military national service programme that amounted to mass enslavement — had been committed since the country's independence in 1991 and were ongoing. —Reuters ■



A new attack aircraft will have the same engines as the Su-34. PHOTO: TASS

Russia may use Su-34 bomber to develop one-seat attack aircraft

MOSCOW — A Russian multi-purpose fighter bomber may get a one-seat variant as an attack aircraft, Russia's Aerospace Force ex-commander and Chairman of the Federation Council Defence and Security Committee Viktor Bondarev told TASS on Wednesday.

"My opinion is that a new attack aircraft should be made on the basis of the Su-34 after all. This is a splendid plane. It

is maneuverable and has eight tonnes of the bomb load against four tonnes carried by the Su-25. It has excellent characteristics... I believe that it is simpler and easier to make a cockpit for one pilot and leave all the rest as it is," he said. A new attack aircraft will actually have the same engines as the Su-34, he added.

"An attack aircraft will always be needed. The Su-25 has been upgraded to the Su-25SM3

version. It has a very reliable airframe and huge modernization and repair potential. I believe it will fly for another 10-15 years. Naturally, we will have to replace it eventually and today various options are being considered," the Aerospace Force ex-commander said.

As a source in the defence industry told TASS, experimental design work on developing an attack aircraft on the basis of

the Su-34 bomber is expected to begin in 2018.

Russia's Defence Ministry signed the first contract on the delivery of Su-34 aircraft to the troops in 2008. The Russian Armed Forces are expected to get a total of 150-200 such planes. This aircraft can carry up to eight tonnes of combat load and develop a speed of up to 1,900 km/h and its operation range is 4,000 km.—Tass ■

Netherlands to hold referendum on new surveillance law

AMSTERDAM — The Netherlands will hold a referendum on legislation giving law enforcement authorities far-reaching surveillance powers, the Dutch Voting Commission said on Wednesday. A range of activists, politicians and media groups want to overturn the "tapping law", which was passed by parliament in July and allows agencies to gather data covertly from large groups of people at once. Dutch law obliges the government to hold a non-binding referendum if a petition with at least 300,000 signatures is submitted to the Voting Commission. The agency said it had received more than 384,000 valid signatures and that the referendum would be held on 21 March together with municipal elections. Opponents argue that innocent civilians will be dragged into the sights of intelligence agencies, while the government says the powers are needed to counter national security threats.

The referendum law is itself controversial and may be repealed by the newly appointed right-of-centre government under Prime Minister Mark Rutte.

After it was passed in 2015, a referendum was used to block the Dutch government from ratifying an economic treaty it and other European Union countries had negotiated with Ukraine. A large "no" vote on the referendum embarrassed The Hague and forced Rutte to seek minor amendments to the treaty with the other EU states, eventually leading to the Dutch ratifying it.—Reuters ■

British PM May's deputy denies inappropriate sexual advance

LONDON — Damian Green, number two in the British government, has denied an allegation that he made an inappropriate sexual advance on a young woman as discussion about an unhealthy culture of abuse by powerful men in British politics continues to swirl.

Green, Prime Minister Theresa May's deputy, said it was not true that he had touched the woman's knee and told her that his "wife was very understanding" during a meeting in a pub in which the pair discussed her career aspirations and gossiped

about sexual affairs in parliament.

As the shockwaves from the Harvey Weinstein sexual harassment scandal reverberate around the world, the Westminster parliament is among institutions now facing allegations of improper behaviour by men in powerful positions.

The allegation against Green came from Kate Maltby, an academic and critic three decades younger than him. She first met him as an acquaintance of her parents, and both are involved in a liberal Conservative

group called Bright Blue.

"He offered me career advice and in the same breath made it clear he was sexually interested," Maltby wrote in an article in the Times newspaper describing the meeting in the pub in early 2015.

"It was not acceptable to me at the time and it should not be acceptable behaviour in Westminster in the future," she said.

A spokesman for May's Downing Street office said Green strongly denied the allegation made against him.

"The prime minister has re-

ferred the matter to the cabinet secretary to establish the facts and report back as soon as possible," the spokesman said.

Maltby wrote that she had no contact with Green for a year after the meeting in the pub because she "wanted nothing to do with him".

A year later, Maltby wrote an article for the Times about the history of corsets, which was published with a picture of her wearing one.

After the article appeared, she received a text message from Green that said: "Long time

no see. But having admired you in a corset in my favourite tabloid I feel impelled to ask if you are free for a drink anytime?"

The Times quoted Green as saying: "It is absolutely and completely untrue that I've ever made any sexual advance on Ms Maltby." He said the allegation of the advance in the pub was deeply hurtful from someone he considered a personal friend, and that the text he sent her referring to the corset picture was sent in the spirit of friends agreeing to meet for a regular catch-up.—Reuters ■

Abe re-elected as Japan PM, eyes promoting constitutional debate

TOKYO — Liberal Democratic Party leader Shinzo Abe was re-elected as Japan's prime minister in a special Diet session Wednesday following the LDP's overwhelming victory in the 22 October lower house election, putting him on course to promote debate over a first-ever revision to Japan's Constitution.

Abe, who has been the country's leader for nearly five years, faces the pressing tasks of reining in North Korea and pulling Japan out of its decades-long deflation with his "Abenomics" economic policy mix. His re-election — and the re-appointment of all members of the Cabinet reshuffled in early August — comes just days before US President Donald Trump arrives on a three-day visit to Japan.

The 63-year-old premier was re-elected by voting in both the upper and lower houses of the Diet on the first day of a special session through 9 December. Abe's fourth Cabinet was formally launched after an attestation ceremony at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo. Major immediate tasks facing the Cabinet include drawing up a policy package totaling 2 trillion yen (\$17.5 billion) by the end of the year to address Japan's low birthrate and aging population.

At the first meeting of the new Cabinet later Wednesday, Abe plans to order the compilation of a supplementary budget for

fiscal 2017 centered on improving child care support, including building nursing facilities, according to a government source.

Abe dissolved the House of Representatives in late September for the general election. He has already decided to retain the top LDP executives, including Secretary General Toshihiro Nikai.

During election campaigning, Abe said he needed a fresh mandate for his administration's handling of the North Korean nuclear and missile threats and its intention to spend some revenue from a planned consumption tax hike in October 2019 on child care and education. Abe is scheduled to hold talks with Trump who arrives in Japan on Sunday, and the two leaders are expected to confirm coordination in efforts to address Pyongyang's nuclear and missile threats.

The election outcome strengthened the prospects of Abe running in the LDP leadership contest next September and becoming Japan's longest-serving prime minister; after he returned to power in late 2012. At present, he is the third longest-serving Japanese leader in the postwar era. As his long-cherished goal, Abe wants to amend Japan's pacifist Constitution. As part of its election platform, the LDP vowed to discuss changes including an explicit mention of the status of Japan's Self-De-



Lawmakers arrive at the parliament building in Tokyo on 1 November, 2017. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

fense Forces.

The SDF is currently governed by its own law and is not referred to in the supreme law, Article 9 of which requires Japan to renounce war and the maintenance of "war potential." The LDP currently aims to submit its constitutional reform proposal to the ordinary Diet session to be convened in January in the hope that parliamentary debate on the issue commences in earnest. The ruling coalition of the LDP and the Komeito party as well as forces supportive of amending the Constitution comprise the two-thirds majorities in both Diet chambers required to formally propose a revision, which must then be approved by a majority

of voters in a national referendum.

Earlier in the day, the lower chamber re-elected Speaker Tadamori Oshima and picked as vice speaker Hirotaka Akamatsu, a member of the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, the largest opposition party in the lower house.

The ruling and opposition parties agreed that the special Diet session will run for 39 days, during which Abe is expected to deliver a policy speech and answer questions from party representatives.

The ruling parties are arranging to set the date of Abe's speech in the Diet on 17 November, a senior ruling party lawmaker said.—Kyodo News ■

Singapore slaps prohibition orders on 2 people over 1MDB-related breaches

SINGAPORE — The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) on Wednesday said it has barred two individuals involved in breaches related to Malaysia's 1MDB fund from taking part in financial services management and advisory activities.

The MAS said it has

issued six-year prohibition orders against Ang Wee Keng Kelvin and Lee Chee Wai, which took effect from 30 October.

The orders will bar them from roles such as providing any financial advisory services and taking part in the management of any financial services firm

in Singapore.

The MAS said Ang, a former representative of Maybank Kim Eng Securities Pte Ltd, was convicted of an offence under the Prevention of Corruption Act for bribing Lee with S\$3,000 to expedite the preparation of a valuation report on PetroSaudi Oil

Services Limited (PSOSL).

Lee, who was the primary person in NRA Capital Pte Ltd working on the valuation of PSOSL, had accepted the bribe from Ang and applied inappropriate methodology and assumptions in the valuation of PSOSL, the central bank added.—Reuters ■

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BY the instruction of Fortune International Limited
Daw Khin Htar Mu
Advocate of the Supreme Court (No-7554)
Myanmar Legal Services Limited
Dated: 2 November 2017

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV LONG CHEER VOY. NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.11.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-2 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 WILHELMSSEN SHIP
SERVICES PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RAJIN VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAJIN VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.11.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT 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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Priyanka, Taylor Swift, Josh Groban mourn Manhattan attack

LOS ANGELES — Priyanka Chopra, Taylor Swift, Josh Groban and Ryan Seacrest are among the celebrities who have condemned the attack in New York's Lower Manhattan.

At least eight people were killed and 11 other injured in the area after a gunman in a truck plowed through a busy bike path, an incident the US termed as an "act of terrorism".

Priyanka praising the city, her new home, for its grit on Twitter and shared that the attack took place "five blocks" away from where she lives.

"NYC... As resilient as ever. I love you. My condolences to everyone affected by this tragedy.

"This happened five blocks from my home. As I drive back home from work, dreary sirens remind me that this is the state of the world," the "Quantico" star tweeted.

Taylor Swift shared a photo of a sunset on her Instagram Story and captioned it, "I love you New York" and a broken heart emoji.

Josh Groban narrated the incident in a series of tweets, saying that he heard gun shots and



Priyanka, Taylor Swift, Josh Groban. PHOTO: PTI

ran with downtown with his dog.

"I hope everyone's ok. Was half a block from me, didn't see it but heard 8-10 quick rounds fired off. Be safe with your kids out there.

"I'm shaking. That's the corner I was supposed to have my coffee but my dog pulled me into the park half a block away 10 min before shooting.

"Devastated for the victims

and their families tonight and inspired by the spirit of this city. Sirens and trick or treaters everywhere," he tweeted.

Zoe Saldana wrote, "My heart is broken. Sending prayers

to all the victims whose lives were taken today in NYC."

Host Ryan Seacrest condemned the attack, calling it a "cowardly act".

"My heart goes out to those who have lost loved ones today in NYC," he wrote.

"This is a terrible day. Families will be mourning their loved ones tonight. This is an action is the worst of mankind," wrote Patricia Arquette.

Comedian Billy Eichner retweeted a news article and wrote, "That's my high school in the picture. This is sad and horrifying. Sending love to everyone there."

Singer Sam Smith tweeted, "New York. My heart is with you always and forever. Devastating news. My soul and heart is with the victims and their loved ones. Horrific."

The incident that took place in Manhattan, the most densely populated of New York City's 5 boroughs, has sent shocking waves across the country.

The suspect, a 29-year-old man, was shot in the stomach before being taken into custody. — PTI ■

"Geostorm" tops Chinese box office

BEIJING — "Geostorm," a sci-fi thriller starring Gerard Butler, dominated the Chinese film market during its debut week ending 29 October, earning 210 million yuan (31.6 million US dollars), China Film News reported on Tuesday. "Kingsman: The Golden Circle" came in second with 144 million yuan last week at the box office. It has raked in more than 407 million yuan since hitting Chinese screens on 20 October.

Third place went to domestic comedy "Never Say Die," earning 81.3 million yuan last week. The film has taken in 2.11 billion yuan since its release on 30 September.

"Blade Runner: 2049" from Warner Bros landed in fourth place, generating 47.8 million yuan in its debut week.

Rounding out the top five was Thai comedy "Bad Genius," which grossed more than 34.3 million yuan last week. It has made 251 million yuan since its release on 13 October.—Xinhua ■

Activist Rose McGowan claims drug case is attempt to silence her

NEW YORK — Actress Rose McGowan, who has emerged as a prominent voice speaking out against sexual assault in Hollywood, said a months-old warrant for her arrest on drug possession charges was an attempt to silence her.

McGowan is one of more than a dozen women who have accused movie producer Harvey Weinstein of sexual assault or sexual harassment.

The felony drug charge stems from an investigation of personal belongings that tested positive for narcotics after being left behind on a United flight arriving at Washington Dulles International Airport in Virginia on 20 January, according to police.

"Are they trying to silence me?" McGowan said on Twitter on Monday. "There is a warrant out for my arrest in Virginia. What a load of horseshit."

The Metropolitan Washing-



Actor Rose McGowan. PHOTO: REUTERS

ton Airports Authority Police Department said in a statement on Monday that on 1 February it had issued the warrant for possession of a controlled substance.

"The Airports Authority po-

lice have attempted to contact Ms McGowan so she can appear in a Loudoun County, Virginia, court to respond to the charge," the statement said.

McGowan, who on Twitter has accused Weinstein of sex as-

sault, was linked publicly to him following reports by the New York Times and the New Yorker.

She was the keynote speaker Friday at a women's conference in Detroit, where she urged attendees to speak out on sex assault. McGowan, whose acting career included a featured role in the 1996 horror film "Scream," also has tweeted regularly about the subject on Twitter with the hashtag #ROSEARMY.

The Times reported that Weinstein, 65, had reached eight previously undisclosed settlements with women who accused him of sexual harassment and unwanted physical contact.

The New Yorker reported that 13 women had claimed that Weinstein sexually harassed or assaulted them.

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

Press show of “We Were Kings,” discovery of royal family of King Thibaw

By Thi Thi Min

Screening the documentary film, “We Were Kings,” the discovery of Myanmar’s lost royal family of King Thibaw’s as cast

and press show and press conference was held at 2 pm yesterday at the Strand Square on Strand Road, Yangon.

Mr Alex Bescoby, producer of the documentary, “We Were



Kings,” said that Myanmar’s history was thoroughly studied some 10 years ago. He wanted the people to be well convinced of the Myanmar History.

He continued to say that he has a plan to continue filming about Myanmar, urging Myanmar people to shoot about Myanmar with zealous efforts.

U Soe Win, one of the great grand children of King Thibaw recounted, “They want to make documentary film about the king, the last dynasty, who disappeared as they deposed. On our part, we took part in the film as casts, for being born with the history of ab-

solute sovereignty, with a view to helping to develop Myanmar.”

He added, “They will show what they want to say in their country. We assume that they come to help.” Essence of the film is to show the past of Myanmar. They want to give a message that we will go forward in future from the present.”

The documentary film started to have been shot since 2014, with playing period 56 minutes or so long.

It won the prize in the competition of documentary films held in England, and it was shown in London for the first time, in My-

anmar for the second time.

101 years ago, the Last King of Burma died in exile in India, 3,000 miles from home. Broken and forgotten, he would never see his ancestral seat of Mandalay again. His memory would be almost wiped from history, following a concerted campaign by the new British overlords of Burma to keep him from undermining their rule.

Last December, to mark the 100th anniversary of his death, the surviving members of his family – including the heir to Burma’s Lion throne, U Soe Win – made a historic return to India. ■

Hastings Pier scoops Britain's top architecture prize

LONDON — A pier rebuilt after a devastating fire in a town famed for one of England’s most famous battles won the most coveted prize in British architecture Tuesday night.

RIBA, the Royal Institute of British Architecture awarded the 2017 Stirling Prize to Hastings Pier.

The award was announced at a glittering ceremony at the Roundhouse in London when six short listed projects were in the running for the prestigious prize, described as the most coveted award in British architecture. The old pier, built in the days of Queen Victoria when thousands of people thronged to seaside resorts, was destroyed seven years ago.

It has taken the Hastings Pier Charity since then to see the pier rise from the ashes.

Designed by dRMM Architects, the pier has again become a major attraction in Hastings, famed as the scene of the Battle of Hastings which took place in 1066, with a famous victory for

William the Conqueror, starting the Norman Conquest of England.

In their citation, the judging panel said: “It has taken a seven-year heroic collaboration to turn a smoldering pier in disrepair and decline into a vibrant public space with a palpable sense of ownership”.

The judges said the decision not to follow tradition by deciding there would be no buildings at the end of pier was an extremely powerful move.

“The large open space provides a sense of calmness and delight, with a strong connection to the sea and the seafront,” the judges said. The citation said from a conservation perspective, the project has reinvigorated a fire-damaged historic structure and facilitated a contemporary and appropriate new 21st century use. Material from the original pier has been incorporated in the new design, with the process of restoration used to help train a new generation of craft specialists.—Xinhua ■

Green tea cafes aim to revive interest in Japan's traditional beverage

TOKYO — With Japan’s consumption of green tea in steady decline, a new breed of casual cafe specializing in the traditional brew aims to reverse the trend by introducing customers to a wide variety of brands, as well as unconventional serving methods.

Customers including visitors from overseas and young Japanese are able to learn about green tea and perhaps find a new favorite variety at such cafes.

Tokyo Saryo opened in January in the Sangenjaya district of the capital’s Setagaya Ward.

Part of the cafe’s appeal is that customers can not only drink tea but also discuss it with staff.

In an overheard conversation, a customer said, “This tea tastes deep.” A staff member replied, “When you make tea at a low temperature you get the (taste of) amino acids. Some told me the color of tea looks like broth.”

The cafe’s location is fitting, as the name Sangenjaya, literally “three tea houses,” is derived from the fact three popular tea houses stood there hundreds of years ago.

The cafe staff makes tea

using a method resembling the brewing of hand-drip coffee — pouring hot water by hand onto tea leaves instead of brewing them in a pot.

It offers different menus each month, presenting a selec-

tion from among 25 brands of tea. Customers are served the first cup of tea brewed at 70 C to taste its richness, and the second cup brewed at 80 C for a bitter and astringent taste, according to the staff.—Kyodo News ■



A staffer at Tokyo Saryo cafe makes traditional Japanese green tea on 16 September, 2017, using a method resembling the brewing of hand-drip coffee — pouring hot water by hand onto tea leaves instead of brewing them in a pot. With Japan’s consumption of green tea in steady decline, Tokyo Saryo, which opened in Tokyo’s Setagaya Ward in January, aims to reverse the trend by introducing customers to a wide variety of brands, as well as unconventional serving methods. **PHOTO: KYODONEWS**

Myanmar misses final in 2017 AFF Futsal Championship

MYANMAR missed the chance to go to the finals of the AFF Futsal Championship 2017 by losing to a world-class Thailand team by a score of 3-8 outcome in yesterday's semifinal at Phu Tho Indoor Stadium in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam yesterday.

Both teams played carefully at the start, and the Myanmar defence seemed to be too strong for Thai's strikers to score an opening goal.

But Myanmar eventually made a mistake in their defense and Thailand was able to break the deadlock off a quick counter from Nawin Rattanawongswa in the early minutes.

Four minutes later, Thailand's Muhammad Osaman-musa doubled their advantage with Captain Nattavut Madyalan providing the corner.

Myanmar's players played stronger in the second half. Just a minute in, Pyae Phyto Maung, the most prolific scorer of this tourney, stroked in a goal by passing the Thai defence of Kanison Poophun.

But Thailand continued pressing Myanmar and showed



Thailand (black) and Myanmar (red) struggle for the ball at Phu Tho Indoor Stadium in Ho Chi Minh City yesterday. **PHOTO: MFF**

the large difference in talent between the two teams, adding further goals by Madyalan at 26 minutes and 27 minutes, Osaman-musa at 28 minutes, Peerapol Satsue at 34 minutes, Chaivat

Jamgrajang at 36 minutes and Weerasak Srichai at the 40-minute mark.

Myanmar went into damage control mode with two other goals by Nyein Min Soe at

27-minute mark and a score by Chaivat into his own net at the 40-minute mark. Myanmar will play against Vietnam for the third place tomorrow at the same stadium. —KyawZin Lin ■

Myanmar-Thai-Japan Lethwei challenge to be held today in Taungoo

Kyaw Zin Lin

UNDER the supervision of the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Myanmar Traditional Boxing Federation (MTBF), a Myanmar-Thai-Japan traditional boxing (Lethwei) competition will be held today at 1pm at Kaytumadi Indoor Stadium in Taungoo, Bago Region, according to the MTBF website.

The competition is mainly sponsored by Naing Moe Entertainment. There will be a total of 10 fights, with men's old generation, men's new generation and women's matches.

The main three fights will be the widely acclaimed Myanmar fighter Htun Naing Oo versus Thailand's Chai Ehsin in the men's division, Shwe Sin Minn, alias Mway Hout Minn versus Thailand's Nwel Ai in the women's division, and Naw Ohnmar Soe from the Myanmar Traditional Boxing Federation and Mwey Hout Phyu alias Mwey Hout Minn in the women's division, it is learnt. ■

Roma make peace with the Champions League

ROME — The Champions League has often spelt trouble for AS Roma in recent seasons but their 3-0 win over Chelsea went a long way towards mending their previously unhappy relationship with the competition.

Roma had won only three of their previous 19 matches in the competition before Tuesday's game. Their poor series of results included a 7-1 home defeat by Bayern Munich, a 6-1 thumping at Barcelona and a 3-0 home defeat by Porto, which cost them a place in last season's group stage.

Go further back and a 7-1 defeat against Manchester United also sticks in the memory.

"We said in the dressing room before the match that we have not had many great nights in the Champions League and there have been a few where

we have been battered," captain Daniele De Rossi said.

"Few believed in us, but we are top of the group and deservedly. But we don't win matches like this so we can take photos and put them on the mantelpiece; we must to push on from here."

Roma lead Group C with eight points from four games and are one win away from a place in the last 16.

They have won eight out of 10 matches in the league and not conceded a goal in their last four outings in all competitions.

Yet they started the season amid uncertainty.

Two of their key players, winger Mohamed Salah and defender Antonio Ruediger, left during the transfer window and, for the first time since 1993, there was no Francesco Totti in the



AS Roma's Diego Perotti celebrates scoring their third goal with Radja Nainggolan and Daniele De Rossi during the match of Champions League between AS Roma and Chelsea at Stadio Olimpico in Rome, Italy on 31 October, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

squad, the talismanic player having retired at the age of 40.

Coach Luciano Spalletti also departed despite guiding them to second place in Serie A with a record points haul last season

and was replaced by Eusebio Di Francesco, who had no previous experience coaching a big club.

But the 48-year-old has galvanised the team and the players have adapted quickly to his 4-3-3

formation.

"I like the results and the way we are trying to play," said De Rossi.

"The coach has changed the way we confront the opponent. We are always aggressive, against everyone, even against teams that in the past we would have waited and been timid with."

Remembering their goalless draw at home to Atletico Madrid in September, De Rossi was quick to point out that opinions can change very quickly in football.

"We didn't deserve the stick we got for that result and we mustn't get carried away now," he said.

"Football is much more difficult that it seems when people are talking about it in a bar." —Reuters ■