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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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in
Picture

National Verification Process speeds up

Members of a Hindu family led by Authiyan, 48, far right, of Zedipyin Village in Maungta Township, Rakhine State wait outside the office of a mobile immigration team in Zedipyin Village for national verification, the next step toward achieving citizenship. The family received their National Verification Cards three days ago. **PHOTO: YE KHAUNG NYUNT**

Peace Commission, DPN hold talks over ceasefire

THE Union Government's Peace Commission and representatives from the government and the United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC) who have yet to sign the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) held a meeting yesterday to discuss matters related with military issues.

At the opening of the 7th meeting, Dr. Tin Myo Win, Chairman of the Peace Commission, called on representatives of both sides to reach a ceasefire deal, as progress was seen in the previous meeting.

"Making the best use of the progress we have seen in the previous meetings, the leaders of both sides at this meeting are to cooperate with each other to be able to bring peace to the entire indigenous people of the country," said Dr. Tin Myo Win.

The 7th meeting will focus on issues related with the Joint Monitoring Committee, including locating military camps, measures to be taken during the transition period and the role of foreign experts in the joint monitoring sector, said Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, representative of the Tatmadaw. In the meeting, representatives of the Tatmadaw will make clear some points of the JMC's works, as they are considered unclear by the ethnic armed organisations, he added.

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Mrauk-U in Rakhine touted for UNESCO's cultural heritage list

Thura U Aung Ko, the Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture, said that the Ministry is making arrangements for putting Mrauk-U, an ancient city in Rakhine State, on the tentative list of 2018 UN-

ESCO cultural heritage sites.

At the 10th day meeting of 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 6th regular session held yesterday, concerning the question raised by U Maung Kyaw Zan of constituency 9 in Rakhine State, the

Union Minister replied, "The 1st Coordination meeting was held for putting forward Mrauk-U, the ancient city of Rakhine cultural heritage.

At the meeting, it was decided to systematically carry

out the tasks of designating Mrauk-U as a world cultural heritage site in combination with global countries, to cooperate with local people and Rakhine State Government and

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BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

Awarded by FinanceAsia 2017

Pyithu Hluttaw

2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 6th regular session holds its 10th day meeting

By Aye Aye Thant

At today's meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, replies to five asterisk-marked questions and discussion from the Hluttaw representatives over one motion and acquisition of the approval of the Hluttaw concerning one bill were made.

Concerning the motion urging the Union Government to monitor the use of Information Technology which can possibly ruin youths' characters and threaten regional peace and stability put forward by Daw Yin Min Hlaing of Gantgaw constituency, Hluttaw representatives discussed at length.

Major Ne Win, Tatmadaw Hluttaw representative said, "Myanmar has reached the stage where every individual can use the internet. It has been found that effective use is very weak. Social media, especially ethnics in using Facebook, should be educated. It is of great importance to avoid the use of words which can ruin Myanmar culture, facts and stories which can badly affect readers, state-

ments and writings which can damage national security, and cause hate speech, which can result in hatred between races, individuals, institutions and religions, facts which can harm national solidarity and rule of law. Being the best and most effective weapon in organising and instigating people, social media should broadly be used only in the supportive spheres for the people and organisations."

He also added, "Previously, SIM Cards were available freely. Now, SIM Cards were made to be used by having them registered with the National Scrutiny Cards. It was found that online registration is easy, but registration can be made by dubious ways and means — such as purchase on behalf of others and transfers of users. Responsible officials from respective companies should effectively control the sale of SIM cards through systematic registration.

Measures for promulgating Cyber Law should be implemented as soon as possible. Regarding excessive use of social websites by youths and



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint. PHOTO: MNA

the spread of rumours and false news, educating, sharing knowledge and organising should be made among users. Simultaneously, those who violate existing rules and laws should be found out and arrested in accord with the law".

U Win Win of Minbu constituency, U Ne Htoo Aung of Nantogyi constituency, U Myo Zaw Aung of Kawlin constituency and U Ye Lin of Ahlone constituency also took part in the discussion.

In regards to the motion, U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for Transport and Communications replied, "Most internet

users in Myanmar are using social media such as Facebook, Messenger, Viber and Twitter. Out of them, Facebook users are on the top of the list, reaching nearly 14 million, according to estimates made in January, 2017.

Weather forecasts, situations on natural disasters, local and international news on politics, education, social activities and economic situations can be known with the changing times. It helped people to broaden their knowledge scope. But without judgment and reasoning as to the news and information, it can

ruin characters of youths, cause sexual arousal, drug trafficking, defamation of a person or an organisation, accusations, racial and religious conflicts, and ruination of regional peace and stability due to political agitation. "

The Union Minister added, "For emergence of social website users who are dutiful and conscientious, educating, promulgating necessary rules and laws, controlling licence-holding telecommunication operators, cooperating with those that are giving services of social media and website, monitoring and arresting from the respective authority are to be carried out. In doing so, so as not to harm privacy of users the tasks are to be implemented in negotiation with President Office and the Office of Union Attorney General.

Concerning the motion, U Win Myint, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw announced the motion was approved by the Hluttaw.

The 11th day meeting of the 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw, 6th regular session will be convened on 14 November, it was learnt. ■

Overripe rice fields in Maungtau, Rakhine State harvested

ABOUT 779 acres of overripe fields had already been harvested in Maungtau region from 26 October to 7 October according to Agricultural Mechanization Department.

Over 620 acre of overripe rice paddy fields in Myothugyi ward in Maungtau Township were harvested by two harvesters yesterday morning.

An official of the Yangon Agricultural Mechanization Department U Maung-MaungLwin said "We are attempting to harvest paddy fields near Myothugyi ward using two harvesters but we can only harvest about 7 acres of rice paddies per day by a harvester as the fields are narrow".

There are about 40,000 acres of paddy fields among the total of 70,000 acres of rice paddy fields across the Buthidaung and Maung-

tau region are healthily ripened and ready for harvest. This year the production rate of the paddy are falling.

Last year's production rate of the paddy was about 65.84 baskets per acre while it is expected to produce only 54 baskets per acre this year.

As some terrorist attacks occurred in the region, we could not use sufficient fertilizers on the plantations said deputy head of Maungtau Agriculture Department U Than Kyaw.

All rice paddies will also be harvested with a total of 32 harvesters, including 14 State owned harvesters and 18 state government owned harvesters starting from 26 October until January 2018 according to the Agricultural Mechanization Department.—Nay Htet Khaung ■

Mrauk-U in Rakhine touted for UNESCO's cultural heritage list

FROM PAGE-1

to put forward the designation of Mrauk-U as a world cultural heritage site in the UNESCO world heritage conference to be held in June 2018, by combining an advisory board, a scholar group, local people and historians."

Concerning the question raised by Dr. Kyaw Than Tun (Canton) of constituency 3 of Mandalay Region, the Union Minister replied, "Tagaung Old Region in Thabeikkyin Township

was being conserved under the law on conservation of the regions as cultural heritage sites on 5th June, 2007 by designating an ancient edifice zone, ancient region zone and conserved area zone. To put forward as a world heritage site there are many requirements, data on the history, strength, accuracy, perfectness, being qualified with designated standards, cooperation and participation of the local populace, effective conservation of

cultural heritage and abiding by restrictions strictly. Moreover, Tagaung Old Region is of great importance for Myanmar history, but there are many necessities to include the region in the world heritage nomination list, and historians and researchers are to be sent for further research work. Accordingly, there are not any plans yet for putting forward Tagaung Old Region as the tentative list of world cultural heritage."—Aung Ye Thwin ■

Peace Commission, DPN hold talks over ceasefire

FROM PAGE-1

He also said that the Delegation of Peace Negotiation (DPN) proposed a better way for discussion with the UPDJC, as there are some deadlocks between the Peace Commission and the DPN.

During the meeting yesterday, the two sides reached agreement on inviting interna-

tional representatives for the joint-monitoring committee.

Khu Oo Ral, leader of the DPN, expressed his hope that the leaders of both sides could find consensus of the deadlock.

The two sides have met seven times in 15 months in seeking ways for all to sign the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.

The meeting was attended

by Dr. Tin Myo Win, U Thein Zaw, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Lt-Gen Min Naung, Lt-Gen Tin Maung Win, Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint, U Naing Ngan Lin and members of the Peace Commission, members of the JMCU, members of the DPN and observers. The meeting continues today at the same venue.—Zaw Gyi ■

Union Auditor General attends 4th ASEANSAI Summit



Union Auditor General U Maw Than and senior officials pose for a documentary photo at 4th ASEANSAI Summit in Vientiane, Lao. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

U MAW THAN, Union Auditor General, attended the 4th ASEANSAI Summit held in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic

Republic, on 6 November. Present at the summit meeting were Auditors General from ASEAN and represent-

atives and those who represent donor countries.

At the summit meeting, reports on the working per-

formances of the years 2015 to 2017, of the Strategic Planning Committee, Rules and Procedure Committee, Knowledge Sharing Committee, Training Committee, Head of Administration Function and Head of Secretariat Function were clarified and approval was made. Following that, Financial Statements of ASEAN Auditor General Offices for the years 2016 and 2017, preparation for Rules and Procedures and strategic project for the years 2018-2021 were approved.

Then, projects and budgets of working committees for

the year 2018-2019 and ASEANSAI were explained and approval was made.

At the summit meeting, chairman of the Office of LPDR Auditor General was appointed as the chairman of ASEANSAI for the year 2018-2019, with the Malaysian Auditor General appointed as vice-chairman.

For the tenure between 2018-2023, the Indonesian Auditor General Office was approved as the secretariat office, with Office of Auditor-General, Thailand approved as the auditor to check financial statements for the years 2016-2017, it was learnt. ■



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and party inspect the harvesting rice paddy fields. **PHOTO: MIN HTET**

Rakhine State Chief Minister inspects storage of grains in Maungtaw

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, the State Ministers and entrepreneurs from building and infrastructure construction inspected the conditions of the storage of grains after harvesting in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State yesterday morning.

The Rakhine State Chief Minister and party also inspected the rice harvesting in the fields near Chainkhalain village and Myinlaut village in southern Maungtaw region. The paddy fields are harvested by the Agricultural Mechanization

Department and the Settlement and Land Records Department.

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu also viewed the drying storage places in Alalthankyaw village. The Chief Minister, the State Ministers and entrepreneurs inspected the harvesting paddy fields in Ohntaw village and Kyaukpadu 100 houses construction project. The cabinets members and officials from the Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Department gave sector-wise clarifications

regarding the difficulties of the construction.

Then, the state chief minister and officials met with the local people at construction of Kyaukpadu 100 houses construction project implemented by the Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Department in Kyaukpandu village. Afterward, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu encouraged the local people during implementing the construction of the project. —Nay Htet Khaung ■

American companies introduce digital advances at tech summit

May Thet Hnin

In an attempt to persuade Myanmar businesses to use digital technology, the US ICT Council for Myanmar, which includes the American companies Microsoft, vmware, Oracle, Google, Cisco, and Visa, held a Digital Transformation Summit yesterday at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI).

Some of those tech companies have been providing technical solutions to banks and telecommunication enterprises for the past two years. This summit aims to further introduce digital technologies to Myanmar commerce.

Small firms are far removed from digital technology due to monetary problems and other difficulties. However, this summit aimed to prove that digitizing can actually reduce costs, a technology expert said.

"The smaller the firm is, the more they need to change into digitisation. It can save labour costs and it is cost effective. This summit also aims to help local businessmen understand about digitisation. Digitising awareness needs to be raised among SMEs. At present, most of the local banks are using digital technology. We also supported our technical solutions for the e-government process by establishing data centres", said U Tun Tun Lin, territory manager of vmware. "Oracle introduced the Oracle Cloud solution. We

are providing our solution for large companies. They can run their business at low cost with a cloud application", said May Lei Thiri, sales manager for Oracle.

Oracle is a technology provider that helps businesses transition their IT operations to the cloud, an online storage system that is always accessible provided there is adequate internet connections.

Myanmar is lagging behind neighbouring countries in utilisation of digitisation in commerce. Businesses utilising digital technology account for less than one per cent of the entire industry, according to a survey of the US ICT Council. However, the survey points out that the number of businesses using digitisation has increased from 2,500 to over 9,000.

"Frankly I say, tech companies will persuade the businesses to sell their solutions. We requested them to offer reasonable price with our small firms. We also asked for technical sharing to our local businesses. If many businesses are interested in it, they will make a profit later", said U Thaung Tin, the vice chairperson of UMFCCI.

Officials from the US ICT Council at the tech summit discussed topics such as "Digitising Business Processing and Advancing Cybersecurity" and "Using the Internet to Improve Marketing and Business Expansion". Attendees also raised questions for further discussions. ■

Three men arrested for illegal logging in Bamauk

A TEAM from local forestry department in Bamauk, Katha District in Sagaing Region, found three men illegally logging teak trees and sawed teak weighing more than 42 tons and an elephant near Thayatkon Village

in Bamauk Township, Sagaing Region, on 7th November.

Acting on a tip-off, the team comprising officials of the Forest Department and local police inspected a forest reserve No. 12 near Thayatkon Village and dis-

covered 100 logs weighing more than 29 tons, sawed timber weighing more than 13.5 tons, one chainsaw, one elephant and three men. Bamauk Police Station has opened a file against them. —Maung Chit Lin (Indaw) ■

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Yangon to receive 24-hour electricity supply

Ko Moe

YANGON will get an around-the-clock supply of electricity in the Yangon Region with the help of over 430 megawatts which will be produced by three power plants next year, said Daw Nilar Kyaw, Yangon Region minister for Electricity, Industry and Transportation.

In a bid to get full access to a 24-hour electricity supply, the Yangon Region will be powered by a total of 439 megawatts produced by three power plants, with 106MWs by Thakayta Power Plant, 108MWs by Thaton Combined-cycle Gas Turbine Power Plant and 225MWs by Myingyan Combined-cycle Gas Turbine Power Plant. Those plants are likely to produce electricity by

January or February 2018, she said.

At the Yangon Regional Hluttaw meeting held on 7th November, Daw Nilar Kyaw had responded a question raised by U Nay Win, Thongwa constituency, on plans for reduction of power cuts.

In addition, emergency electrical services will be provided with the use of diesel powered generators or CNG generators, she continued. Yangon is consuming an estimated 1,190 megawatts of electric power a year, which is about half of the total consumption of the whole country. Its electricity demand has increased yearly by 15 per cent. The more foreign direct investment that enters the country, the higher the electricity demand,

she said.

Yangon is currently powered by ten 230 kilovolt substations. There are expired 113.64-mile underground power grids between 50 and 100 years old in the Yangon Region. Yangon region government and Yangon City Electric Supply Board and companies authorised to generate electricity supply are preparing for construction of sub-stations, power grids and transformers.

Also, they are also performing maintenance of power cables and transformers, said Daw Nilar Kyaw. The commercial city of Yangon has 29 industrial zones and more than 6,200 small-and-medium-sized enterprises, all of which hike up electricity demands compared to other

regions and states.

The Yangon Region is mainly dependent on electric power provided by power plants such as Yeywar, Shweli and Paunglaung, which are far from the city. Additionally, a small number of thermal power stations are one of the reasons for the insufficient electricity supply in Yangon, according to Yangon City Electric Supply Board. Yangon's electricity consumption is 370 MWs in the eastern district, which is the main location of industrial zones, 380 MWs in the northern district, 360 MWs in the western district, which is the central point for most of the hotels and supermarkets, and 44 MWs in the underdeveloped southern district, according to Yangon City Electric Supply Board. ■

Many people visit Pakhan Gyi Ancient Monastery

THE ancient monastery, Pakhan Gyi was built by U Pho Toke and Daw Phae about 150 years ago in Yesagyo, Pakokku District and was named "second Bagan" So; many people visited Pha Khan Gyi.

The ancient monastery was built out 254 teak poles and the girth of one pole is from 6' 4" to 7' 2" and its height is from 50' to 90'.

These poles are straight lines without any joints.

It takes two years for them

to be built. Many visitors including young people and older adults came to see it when it was decorated with priceless architecture.

During the peak season, there were many local people visiting the monastery because the transportation was better than before.

There 771 foreign visitors between January and October this year. This year has seen more visitors than previous years. —MDN ■

File photo shows an ancient monastery, Pakhan Gyi, in Yesagyo, Pakokku District. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**



Trucks seen at 105-mile trade zone Muse, northern Shan State. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Border trade over 4 months worth US\$4.1 billion, a decrease of US\$260 million

THE Value of border trade from 1st April to 27th October this fiscal year was down by US\$260 million compared to the same period last year.

Border trade from 1st April to 27th October this fiscal year hit US\$4.15 billion, US\$2.54 billion in exports and US\$1.6 billion in imports, according to the official statistics of the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar conducts trade with neighboring countries — China, India, Bangladesh and Thailand. Sino-Myanmar border trade is carried out through the Muse, Lweje, Kanpikete, Chin Shwe Haw and Kengtung gates, while Myanmar carries

out border trade with India via the Tamu and Reed gates. The country's border trade gates with Bangladesh are Sittway and Maungtaw as well as Thailand via Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthaung, Myeik, HteeKhee, Mawtaung and Maese.

The decrease in export through border trade is due to a major decrease in Muse border trade camps, which used to perform the largest amount of trade out of all 16 border trade camps.

The value of border trade as of 27th October in the current FY was \$2.86 billion in Muse, \$103 million in Lweje, \$299 million in Chin Shwe

Haw, \$59 million in Kanpikete, \$98,000 in Kengtung, \$42.4 million in Tachilek, \$497 million in Myawady, \$93.8 million in Kawthaung, \$123 million in Myeik, \$3.05 million in HteeKhee, \$3.4 million in Mawtaung, \$33,000 in Maese, \$6.34 million in Sittway, \$5.43 million in Maungtaw, \$18.1 million in Tamu and \$19.6 million in Reed.

Myanmar mainly exports agricultural products, animal products as well as forest products, minerals, fishery products, manufactured goods and other products, while capital goods, raw industrial materials and consumer products are imported into the country. — GNLM ■

Myanmar's regional trade hit US\$5.7 billion in first half of this FY

MYANMAR'S regional trade with ASEAN countries through sea routes and border gates totalled about US\$5.7 billion in the first half of the current fiscal year, comprised of US\$2.29 billion worth of exports and \$3.42 billion worth of imports, according to statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Since April, Thailand was ranked first among ASEAN countries having the largest trade value of \$2.45 billion with Myanmar, followed by Singapore in second place with about \$1.86 billion. Malaysia was in third place with trade values of \$534 million, while Indonesia

stood at fourth place with an estimated \$461 million worth of trade. Myanmar's trade with Viet Nam was about \$377 million.

The value of bilateral trade with the Philippines was \$21 million. Bilateral trade value between Cambodia and Myanmar was about \$2 million, while trade value with Laos was about \$1 million. Brunei's trade with Myanmar fetched less than \$1 million.

The country mainly exported agricultural products, fishery products and minerals, while food and beverages, electronic tools, motor vehicles and

consumer goods were imported into Myanmar.

Regional trade value was about \$9.6 billion in 2016-2017 FY and in FY 2015-16 was \$10.4 billion. Myanmar's trade with ASEAN countries reached \$12.6 billion in 2014-2015 FY, \$11 billion in 2013-2014 FY, \$8.4 billion in 2012-2013 FY and \$8.69 billion in 2011-2012 FY.

Apart from the main trade with partner China, Myanmar's external trade is mostly carried out with regional partners. Trade with countries of the European Union cannot compete against regional trade.—Ko Htet ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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

Independent journalists visit troubled areas in Maungtaw

Three dead, one hurt in IED explosion in Maungtaw Tsp

"Sunday Special" အချုပ်ပို (၈) မျက်နှာ ပေါင်သည့်

နေပြည်တော်
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နေပြည်တော်
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ရန်ကုန်
The Global New Light of
Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊
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ကလေး
အောင်ဇေယျရပ်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊
ကလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၂၁၃၃

ခြင်္သေ့ဘေး
အမှတ် (၄၁)၊ ရေရပ်ကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊
မြစ်ကြီးနားမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄၂၂၄၆၂

စစ်တွေ
ရွှေဝတ်လမ်းနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊
မိမိစက်ကြီးအနီး၊ မန်းကျည်းမြိုင်ရပ်ကွက်၊ စစ်တွေမြို့၊
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လားရှိုး
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(၁၂) ရပ်ကွက်၊ မန်ဆူဘုရားရှေ့၊ အဝေရာလမ်း၊
လားရှိုးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၂၂၄၀၆၇

မြိတ်
မေတ္တာလမ်း၊ ရှမ်းရောင်းရမ်း၊ ကလွင်ကျေးရွာအုပ်စု၊
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မော်လမြိုင်
ကြာအင်းကျေးရွာ၊ မော်လမြိုင်မြို့၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၅၇၂၇၂၅၊ ၀၅၇၂၇၂၆

ပုသိမ်
နန္ဒဝန်ရပ်ကွက်၊ ဆက်သွယ်ရေးတံတိုင်းအနီး၊
ပုသိမ်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၁၂၆၅၃၅၊ ၀၇၁၂၆၅၃၃

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New Delhi pollution hits dangerous level, putting runners at risk

NEW DELHI — Pollution in the Indian capital hit a dangerous level on Tuesday, putting residents at risk, forcing the closure of schools, and bringing calls from doctors for the city's half marathon to be canceled.

Delhi's Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said the city had once become a "gas chamber". Schools for younger children were ordered shut on Wednesday and all outdoor activity at high schools suspended.

A thick fog that hung over the sprawling city worsened conditions. Residents complained of smarting eyes and irritation in the throat. The air quality index, which measures the concentration of poisonous particulate matter in the air, hit the "severe" level of 451 on a scale where the maximum reading is 500 and where anything above 100 is considered unhealthy by the Central Pollution Control Board.

At the severe level, even healthy people will be affected while those who have existing diseases will be severely impacted, it said.

In some parts of Delhi, the air quality was so poor that it was beyond the maximum level, ac-



People cross the road in Delhi, India, on 7 November 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

cording to the US Embassy's real-time air quality index. It stood at 999 for RK Puram area beyond which no readings are available.

That level is equal to smoking 50 cigarettes a day, Dr Arvind Kumar, chairman for chest surgery at Sir Ganga Ram hospital, said. "We are in a state of medical emergency, schools should be shut, we need to bring these levels down. We are all shortening our lives."

The Indian Medical Associ-

ation urged Delhi's biggest running race, due on 19 November, to be called off to protect runners and volunteers from exposure to high levels of deadly particulate matter that lodge deep in the lungs. It said the air quality is particularly poor early in the day when the race will be run.

The air quality index measures concentrations of PM 2.5, PM 10, ozone, nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide among other indicators. The air quality is likely

to worsen in the next few days as a northwesterly wind is expected to bring toxic smoke from the neighbouring states of Punjab and Haryana where farmers burn crop stubble before the new planting season.

Delhi's deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said emergency measures such as banning the entry of trucks into the capital and suspension of construction activity will kick in, if the pollution level rose further. Last Novem-

ber, about a million children were forced to stay home from school, thousands of workers reported sick and queues formed outside shops selling face masks as New Delhi struggled with its worst pollution for nearly 20 years.

Vehicle emissions and dust from construction sites were the factors blamed for that spike, besides firecrackers and farm burnings. Bharti Airtel, the country's top telecoms operator that sponsors the Delhi race, said it had been assured by the organizers that steps were being taken to reduce the impact of air pollution on the runners.

Salt mixed with water will be sprinkled on the entire track to ensure that dust pollution is minimal, it said. No vehicles will be allowed on the route.

But going forward, the administration would have to take steps to improve air quality, the company said in a statement.

"Air pollution poses serious health risks and it is important that these concerns are addressed urgently and appropriately by the authorities for Airtel to continue associating with the event next year and beyond," it said in a statement.—Reuters ■

Viet Nam releases water from brimming reservoirs as APEC summit nears

DANANG, Viet Nam — Viet Nam released water from seven dangerously full reservoirs on Tuesday to avoid further flooding, after a weekend typhoon killed nearly 90 people.

Authorities said particular effort was being made to avoid flooding around the city of Danang, which will host US President Donald Trump, China's Xi Jinping and Russia's Vladimir Putin among Asia-Pacific leaders at a summit this week.

Water was being released from seven reservoirs, in line with a flood relief plan, the Steering Committee for Disaster Prevention said, and observers had been posted at major reservoirs to monitor water levels constantly.

Typhoon Damrey, which struck on Saturday, was the 12th major storm of the year. Eighty-nine people were known to have died because of the storm, 18 people were missing and 174



A traffic sign indicating APEC summit vehicles priority is seen along submerged street in UNESCO heritage ancient town of Hoi An after typhoon Damrey hits Vietnam, on 6 November 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

people were injured, the search and rescue committee said.

As much as 1,700 mm (67 inches) of rain was recorded at one weather station in the week to Monday. Rains are expected to

continue until Wednesday before reducing on Thursday.

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meetings began in Danang on Monday, and Trump, Xi and Putin are due

to join other regional leaders at the main summit on Friday and Saturday.

The schedule of meetings has not been disrupted by the rain, but the leaders' spouses may not be able to make a planned excursion to the UNESCO heritage town of Hoi An on Saturday.

Waters in the streets rose to head height at the weekend, although they had subsided somewhat by Tuesday.

Because of its long coastline, Viet Nam is prone to destructive storms and flooding. Floods killed more than 80 people in northern Viet Nam last month, while a typhoon wreaked havoc in central provinces in September.

The storm hit a key coffee-growing region of the world's biggest producer of robusta coffee beans near the start of the harvest. But farmers in Daklak, the heart of the region, said the damage was limited.—Reuters ■

Hong Kong to play active role in China's "going global" campaign

HONG KONG — A Chinese official said here Wednesday that China will continue to go global in this new era with new opportunities brought to the world, especially to Hong Kong.

Xie Feng, Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (CPC) in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), made the remarks at a briefing to foreign chambers of commerce in Hong Kong and representatives of multinational corporations on the outcome as well as significance of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

"We are promoting China's socialist modernization drive and are working to ensure the faithful implementation of 'one country, two systems' in Hong Kong. This will bring opportunities to not only Hong Kong but also countries and business communities around the globe," Xie said.—Xinhua ■

Xi, Trump have afternoon tea at Palace Museum

BEIJING — Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan welcomed their US counterparts with an afternoon tea at the Palace Museum on Wednesday.

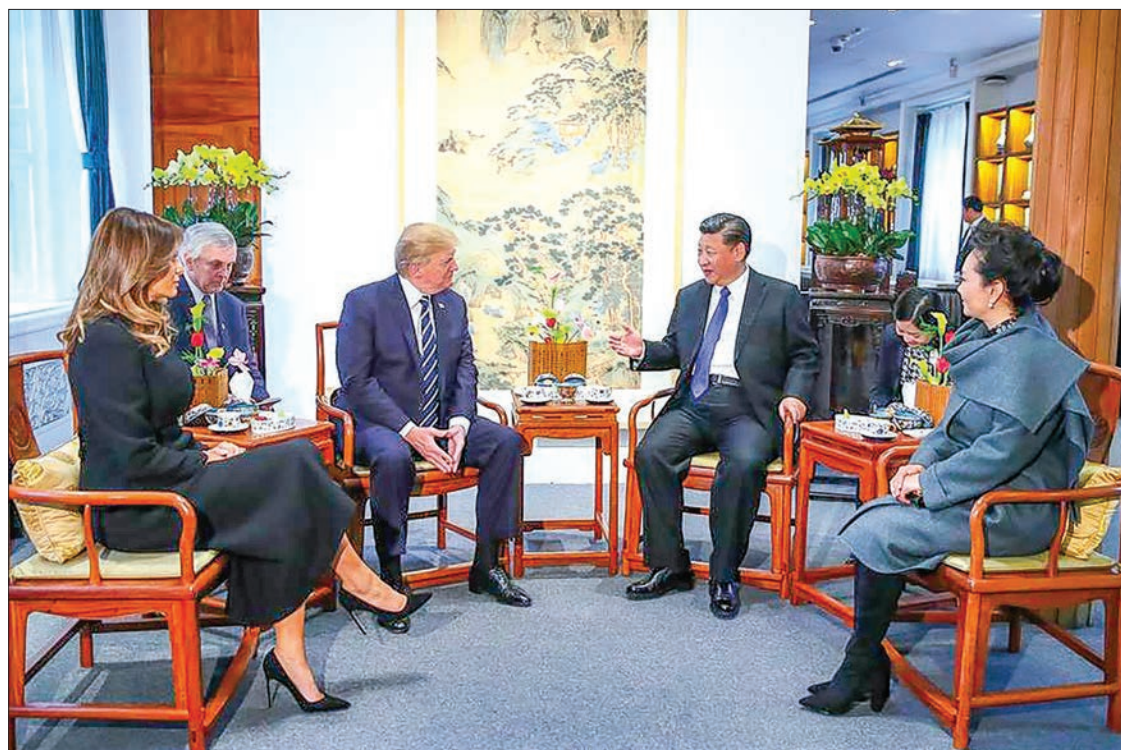
President Donald Trump and his wife Melania Trump arrived in Beijing earlier on Wednesday.

They had the brief afternoon tea in the Baoyun Building, also known as the Hall of Embodied Treasures, in the southwestern corner of the Forbidden City.

Xi thanked his guests for their kind reception at the Mar-a-Lago estate when he visited the United States in April and wished them a pleasant time in China.

With a tablet computer, Trump showed Xi and Peng video clips of his granddaughter, Arabella Kushner, singing in mandarin and reciting a part of the Three-Character Classic and ancient Chinese poems.

Xi spoke highly of the child's Chinese skills and said her per-



Chinese President Xi Jinping (3rd R) and his wife Peng Liyuan (1st R), and U.S. President Donald Trump (3rd L) and his wife Melania Trump (1st L) have an informal afternoon tea in the Baoyun Building of the Palace Museum in Beijing, capital of China, on 8 November 2017. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

formance deserves an "A+."

Arabella is already a child star in China, said Xi, adding that he hoped she would visit China

in the future.

Built in 1915, the Baoyun Building is a Western-style architecture in the former imperial

compound. It was used to store antiques, but now serves as an exhibition hall for the museum's history.—Xinhua ■

FBI tries to access cellphone of Texas church mass shooting gunman

HOUSTON — The FBI agents collected the cell phone of the gunman, who killed 26 people in a shooting rampage in a Texas church, but have yet to access it, said Christopher Combs, FBI special agent in charge on Tuesday.

Combs said during a press conference outside the church in Sutherland Springs, the US state of Texas, "we will know more when we are able to explore his phone," adding the gunman is not in the FBI database.

A local law enforcement official confirmed there are 136 officers working on the "massive crime scene" and investigation can go on for days.

The suspect was identified as Devin Kelley from New Braunfels, a city about 50 kilometres north of Sutherland Springs.

Kelley received a bad-conduct discharge from the US Air Force for assaulting his wife and child, and was sentenced to 12 months' confinement after a 2012 court-martial.

He served in Logistics Readiness at the Holloman Air Force Base in the southwestern US



Texas Department of Public Safety Regional Director Freeman Martin (C) speaks at a press conference in Sutherland Springs, Texas, the United States, on 7 November 2017. The FBI agents collected the cell phone of the gunman, who killed 26 people in a shooting rampage in a Texas church, but had not yet accessed it, said Christopher Combs, FBI special agent in charge, on Tuesday. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

state of New Mexico from 2010 until his discharge, US Air Force spokesperson Ann Stefanek told media earlier.

Stefanek later confirmed the Air Force didn't report the shooter's domestic violence conviction to the FBI, leaving the door open for him to buy weapons.

At least 26 people, including an infant and a pregnant woman, were killed in the worst shooting incident in Texas history, with 10 injured victims still in critical conditions, authorities said.

The shooting happened at the First Baptist Church. Kelley walked in around 11:30 am (1730

GMT) on Sunday and opened fire on the crowd of people.

At the press conference, Combs also warned people to take shootings very seriously and do everything possible to prepare for such crisis and try to prevent it from happening.—Xinhua ■

EU Election Observation Mission launched in Nepal ahead of two major elections

KATHMANDU — The European Union Election Observation Mission was launched here on Tuesday for the parliamentary and provincial elections of Nepal slated for 26 November and 7 December this year respectively. The mission was formally launched by Chief Observer Zeljana Zovko, who is a member of the European Parliament from Croatia. The European Union was invited to deploy the mission to observe the elections. The mission will comprise more than 100 observers including experts on political, electoral and legal issues. "The elections mark an important stage in Nepal's democratic development, and I hope that our presence will contribute to an inclusive and transparent electoral process," Zeljana Zovko said at a press conference on Tuesday. Over the last two days, Zovko held rounds of meetings with the Election Commission of Nepal, government officials, as well as representatives of various political parties.

During its observation and assessment, the mission will oversee legal framework and its implementation, work of election administration, campaign activities, conduct of media, role of state institutions and civil society, voting, counting and tabulation among others.

Zovko further informed that 38 long-term observers have already been deployed across the country to observe electoral preparations and the campaign. According to the mission, EU observers adhere to a strict code of conduct for international election observers that require they maintain strict neutrality and impartiality in the course of their work and do not interfere in the electoral process. The EU mission will publish a preliminary statement right after the second and final phase of election and a comprehensive final report including recommendations for future elections. The mission will remain in Nepal until the completion of the electoral process.—Xinhua ■

Let us open the door to negotiation

Khin Maung Oo

IN regard to the Rakhine State affair, the international community is criticizing Myanmar based on one single point of view, that of human rights. They do not seem to understand that Myanmar is a country made up of 135 national ethnic races. That is, they do not seem to be able to understand that there is a huge difference between ethnic nationals and citizens. They are saying that loss of human rights is the only matter of importance.

The international community needs to acknowledge without fail that the Union Government had already agreed to grant citizenship rights to those who are worth recognizing as citizens in accord with rules and laws among those of Bengali extraction. At the same time, it is necessary for the international community to recognize that Myanmar and Myanmar nationals cannot make any concessions regarding the claim by these people of Bengali extraction that they

are one of the national ethnic races of Myanmar. This claim of ethnicity is not a matter open for negotiation. Plus, the international community needs to realize is that Myanmar had agreed to carefully scrutinize in accord with the law and accept people of Bengali extraction who had fled to Bangladesh for reasons best known to themselves. There may be two factors at play here, one is the pull factor and the other is the push factor. The pull factor may be that they may have heard from their relatives and friends in the refugee camps that cash subsidies had been paid to the refugees in Bangladesh. Another simple answer may be that they wish to be together with members of their own community who share the same religion and race. At this point these are mere conjectures.

Provided that the global community is really desirous of peace and stability in Rakhine State, they are essentially required to recognize a fundamental fact of social science. That is none other than the fact that those of Bengali

origin living in Rakhine State are under the compulsory obligation to search for ways of peaceful co-existence with the remaining national races such as the Rakhines, the Mro, the Thet and also with Hindus of Bengali extraction. In this matter, the simple fact is that all those who live in Rakhine State must learn to live in harmony with full understanding that all national ethnic races and people of Bengali extraction who have been permitted to return to live in Rakhine State must learn to live like brothers and sisters of the same Union.

As for the international community, they should have openly disclosed that they will never accept any deeds and behaviors which will harm the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Union of Myanmar. During the period of performing the two processes—accepting and offering citizen rights after scrutiny, they should suggest as to how they would like to help in practical ways instead of trying to interfere in the internal affairs of a sovereign country with demands, allegations

and accusations which are totally uncalled for. Yet, what they are actually doing is completely different from what really should be done. The recent hasty decision to impose targeted sanctions on the Myanmar Tatmadaw shows a total lack of understanding of the real situation at the ground level. It is unfortunate that a foreign power has led its foreign policy to be swayed and influenced by lobbyists whose sole interest is to get what they want. If foreign policy makers are unable to think through the consequences of their actions, they would certainly get instant gratification but in the long run, the national interests of their own country would certainly suffer. It is a sad state of affairs when the loud voices of interest groups and well-paid lobbyists can drown out the logical reasoning of well-trained diplomats with years of relevant country experience. They should realize the fact that Myanmar does not stand alone and that Myanmar's national leaders and the Myanmar Tatmadaw have the full support of the people. ■

King Bayintnaung Bell, the fourth Memory of the World

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)

UNITED Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has started the program “Memory of the World” in 1992 to do assessment on the heritages of the countries and select the heritages that meet the required criteria to be registered in the “Memory of the World” UNESCO had issued the list of heritages that went as far back as 1700 AD registered in the “Memory of the World”. Those heritages registered in “Memory of the World” included both tangible objects and intangible culture.

The aims and objectives of the “Memory of the World” program is primarily to promote the conservation works on historical and cultural heritages of the respective countries.

104 countries in cooperation with 5 organizations had carried out the program and could have registered 338 heritages in the “Memory of the World” till 2015. Out of 338 heritages which won the registration in “Memory of the World”, the King Bayintnaung Bell Inscriptions at the Shwezigon pagoda in Bagan has become Myanmar's fourth registration in “Memory of the World” recently.

The first three heritages were from Myanmar. UNESCO usually makes the assessment on the heritages submitted and issues the list of winner biennially. The first three winners from Myanmar are the 150-year-old Pitakas Stone Slabs in the Maha Lawka Marazein Pagoda of Mandalay, Gold Leaf letter of Alaung Mintaya U Aung Zeya, the 904-year-old

Yaza Kumar Stone Inscription, the oldest-surviving inscription.

Fourth Registration in “Memory of the World”

The King Bayintnaung Bell Inscriptions document the donations made for Buddhist religious merit and are inscribed in 3 languages; 43 lines in Myanmar language, 35 lines in Mon language and five lines in Pali language.

Recorded on the bell, are the name of the donor, their endeavor for the country, their meritorious deeds, prayers, and occupied regions with the dates; the date of throne ascendance and the donated date of this bell. Also the inscriptions include the accurate regal titles for the king and his chief Queen. The Bell inscriptions are now located at the Shwezigon Pagoda in Bagan and were donated by King Bayintnaung in 1557 AD.

Ministry of Culture made the submission on King Bayintnaung's 16th Century Bell to the UNESCO's program in December 2014.

The Bayintnaung Bell was cast with 2100 bowls of brass.

Bayintnaung Bell

The Bayintnaung Bell is 3 feet 8 inches high, girth is 3 ft. 6 in., girth of the base is 10 ft. 3 in., thickness is 6 in., diameter is 1 ft. 7 in., height of the hanger (paunggaing) is 1 ft. 7 in., girth of the hanger is 1 ft. 4 in. and the girth of the neck is 4 ft. 1 in. The inscriptions in both Myanmar and Mon language can be seen on the face of the bell. There are also 5 lines in Pali language inscribed in the part above neck and below the hanger.



Bayintnaung Bell was cast and donated to the pagoda in 1557 and since the military and political activities, victory in war against the neighbouring lands, meritorious deeds in culture during the reign of King Bayintnaung was written on the bell, the Bayintnaung Bell has been kept under national level protection.

According to the inscription record on the bell, King Bayintnaung had cast a bell and donated at the Shwezigon Pa-

goda which was one of the product of meritorious deeds of King Anawrahta and Kyansittha on 23 May 1557.

The inscriptions of 35 lines on the bell in Mon language was translated into Myanmar and published in the Anthology of Stone Inscriptions in Mon language in 1965.

King Bayintnaung won the Kaytumadi on Sunday, 11 January 1551 and could defeat the Thaye Khitaya (Sri Ksetra) on Saturday, 30 August 1551. Then the king conquered Hanthawaddy on Saturday, 12 March 1552 and ascended the throne in the Kanbawzathardi palace.

In 1555 January 22, Tuesday King Bayintnaung conquered Inwa and the king and queen together with his ministers, retinues and military transferred along the river to Inwa. The king and queen arrived in Inwa on Thursday, 24 December 1556. During the riverine trip to Inwa, the royal barge of the king and queen was splendidly and profusely ornamented and decorated.

Bayintnaung had vanquished Momeik, Thibaw and Ruby Land on Monday, 25 January 1557 and two weeks later the king held the ceremony of stake driving for Yadana Zedi (pagoda) in the northwest angle of Momeik and enshrined the sacred relics of enlightened one on 8 February 1557. Then the king left Momeik and marched to Htichaint (Dikyi) and reached it 3 days later. He then built a bridge across Dikyi river and proceeded his march and could occupy Monhyin on Saturday, 6 March 1557. On 25 March he won Mokaung.

SEE PAGE 9

Senior General arrives back home after attending Defence & Security 2017 in Thailand

A DELEGATION led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing who attended Defence & Security 2017 exhibition left Suvarnabhumi International Airport yesterday morning.

The Commander-in-Chief and delegation were seen off at the Suvarnabhumi Airport by Gen Ponpipaet Benyasri Chief of Joint Staff and senior officers of the Royal Thai Armed Forces, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Myo Myint Than, Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy, Air) Brig-Gen Khin Zaw and officials.

Then Senior General and delegation arrived at Yangon International Airport yesterday afternoon and welcomed by Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Tin Aung San, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Khin Aung Myint and high ranking officers from the office of



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing arrives back at Yangon International Airport on 8 November 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

Commander-in-Chief (Army), Yangon Common Commander Maj-Gen Thet Pon, Thailand Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Jukr Boon-Long and Thailand Naval Attache' and Air Attache' to Myanmar.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Final decree on 2017 by-election appeal No. 2/2017 to be made on 22nd November

THE Union Election Commission accepted the objection submitted by Dr. Wunna Soe, candidate for Shan State Hluttaw of constituency 2 of Kengtung township, Shan State over representative-elect U Shar Mwe La Shen of Union Solidarity and Development Party, with the objection rejected by the election

jury 1 after a hearing. Over the rejection, Dr. Wunna Soe put forward an appeal to the Union Election Commission, which accepted it as appeal No. 2/2017.

Under the Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw Acts 100, arguments from both parties and legal advice of the Office of the Union Attorney General con-

cerning the case were heard in the presence of the general jury court chaired by U Hla Thein, Chairman of the UEC, with U Aung Myint, U Soe Rae, U Htun Khin, U Hla Tint, U Myint Naing and U Than Htay as members. A final decree will be issued on 22nd November, it was learnt. —Myanmar News Agency ■

25 trainees receive vocational skills for making snack, juice

AUTHORITIES in Bago has conducted a vocational training on making value-added food, attracting about 25 people.

The course opened yesterday at the Cooperative Syndicate, Kyauktwingone Street, Bago Township, with an opening speech by Bago Region Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Aung Zaw Naing and Bago Region Small-Scale Industries Department's Deputy Director Daw Nwe Nwe Aung.

During the three-day course, the trainees will receive skills making rice powder based snacks including Crepe roll, Chiffon cake, Sesame cookies, Sugar coolies, Madolene, Pancake, Fruit cake and various juice such as lime, orange, lychee, Alovina, grape and straw berry and pigeon peas, green peas and soy bean based soy milk product.

The training is funded by Bago Region Government.— Maung Shwe Win (Pyay) ■



Officials and trainees pose for a documentary photo after conducting vocational training on making value-added food in Bago. **PHOTO: MAUNG SHWE WIN (PYAY)**

King Bayintnaung Bell, the fourth Memory of the World

FROM PAGE 8

Though he won Mokaung, he maintained the Mokaung Saophas in power as a leader of vassal state. The king's prominent work in the victory of Mokaung is prohibiting the rites in which slave men and women were executed and the bodies were buried together with their master who died. The king returned to his royal capital on 9 April 1557 and on 23 May the king cast the bell with bronze and donated to Shwezigon Pagoda in Bagan.

According to the Bell Inscription, after the demise of King Tabinshwehti on 1 May 1551, King Bayintnaung conquered Taungoo (Kaytumadi) and Pyi (Sri Kestra) in 1551, Bago (Hanthawaddy) in 1552, Inwa in 1555 and Momeik, Thibaw, Monhyin and Mokaung in 1557 and could have established the 2nd Myanmar Empire.

The first line of inscription in Mon language states the regal title of King Bayintnaung as Thiri Marama Maha Dhamma Yazadirit whereas in the 8th

line the title given to the Queen is stated as Thiri Agga Maha Dhamma Yaza Daiwi.

Bayintnaung had made many repairing and renovating the old religious edifices and also had collected new merit by building new religious edifices in every localities he arrived.

He also prohibited not to misuse the fund of Pagoda, Dhamma and Sangha. The bell inscription recorded that Buddha's teaching had been flourishing under the rule of King Bayintnaung.

King Bayintnaung after

making Buddha's teaching more brightened and extended, he got an opinion to make Buddha's teaching flourished in Sri Lanka. He sent a missionary including a set of Tri-Pitaka, Sanghas, mason and craftsmen to Sri Lanka. Myanmar has a long historical background and has a lot of archaeological records and regions which are now being discovered and endeavoured to become listed in world heritage program. So we all are obliged to discover, maintain and preserve the ancient tangible and intangible

heritage of Myanmar.

Ref:

1. Memory of the world (UNESCO publishing)
2. မွန်ကျောက်စာပေါင်းချုပ် (ဦးချစ်သိန်း)
3. နှစ်ဆယ့်တစ်ရာစုမြန်မာ့အလင်းအလင်း(ဒေါက်တာသန်းထွန်း)
4. လက်ရွေးစင်ရှေးဟောင်းခေါင်းလောင်းစာများ (ဦးစိန်မောင်ဦး)

Translated by
U Khin Maung Win

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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



Russian President Vladimir Putin. PHOTO: TASS

Putin ready for meeting with Trump — Russian top diplomat

DA NANG (Viet Nam) — Russian President Vladimir Putin is prepared for holding a meeting with his US counterpart Donald Trump on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit and their schedules are being coordinated, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Wednesday.

“We hear Donald Trump’s statements that he plans to hold

this meeting with President Putin, and President Putin is ready for this. The Americans know about this,” Lavrov said.

“The protocol services are in contact, and when the leaders’ schedules are finally clear, you will be told about this,” he told reporters.

Russia’s top diplomat added that his contacts with US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson could be held as well, but that will be

possible only on the sidelines of the APEC summit on November 10-11, since Tillerson is accompanying the US president during his Asian tour. “Tillerson will arrive here only with President Trump, that’s why we will contact already during the summit directly,” Lavrov noted.

When asked what issues are expected to be discussed, Lavrov explained that these will be all issues on the agenda.

“These will include both bilateral ties, which should be mended thoroughly after the team of [previous US President Barack] Obama worked hard to worsen them, and international relations, Syria, North Korea and Ukraine,” he added.

Trump is in South Korea on Wednesday and will be travelling to China after that. The US president is expected to arrive in Da Nang on 10 November. —Tass ■

UK aid minister facing sack over undisclosed meetings with Israelis — Sun newspaper

LONDON — Britain’s aid minister Priti Patel’s future was in doubt on Wednesday after the Sun newspaper reported she had held two further undisclosed meetings with Israeli politicians.

As Prime Minister Theresa May heads towards a 2019 EU divorce that will shape Britain’s prosperity for generations, her minority government has stumbled into several controversies that risk shattering her dwindling authority.

Development Secretary Patel apologised to May on Monday

for failing to report she had met senior Israeli officials, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, during a private holiday.

She had failed to follow the usual procedures that ministers inform Britain’s Foreign Office before conducting official business overseas and said she regretted suggesting Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson had been aware of her trip.

On Wednesday, the Sun said Patel had also met Israel’s Foreign Ministry’ Director General Yuval Rotem in New York and

Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan in London but had not informed May about either meeting despite giving her assurances there had been no other undisclosed talks.

A government source confirmed the meetings took place. The source said that no UK government officials were present for these discussions, and they were set up and reported in a way which did not accord with the usual procedures.

There was no comment from May’s office or from Britain’s

Department for International Development, and Patel could not be reached for comment. A Downing Street source said May had not yet spoken to Patel.

Besides her government’s sometimes contradictory signals on Brexit, May has faced criticism from opponents for her handling of other issues: from a deadly apartment block fire in June to a sexual harassment scandal in parliament that prompted Michael Fallon, her loyal defence secretary, to resign on 2 November. —Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

ILO closes workers’ complaint against World Cup host Qatar

GENEVA — The International Organization for Labour closed a workers’ complaint against Qatar on Wednesday after the government introduced legislation to protect workers and pledged further reforms as well as technical cooperation with the UN agency.

The unanimous decision, taken by the ILO’s Governing Body after a 45-minute meeting in Geneva, means it will not set up an ILO commission of inquiry into alleged exploitation in the 2022 World Cup host, a rare sanction. —Reuters ■

South Korea’s Moon first suggested Trump visit DMZ — Blue House official

SEOUL — South Korean President Moon Jae-in had initially suggested on Tuesday that US President Donald Trump make a visit to the demilitarized zone (DMZ) between North and South Korea, a Blue House official told reporters on Wednesday.

Trump had told Moon he had been considering such a trip, and Moon said he would accompany Trump should the US president decide to visit the DMZ, the official said.

The US president aborted a surprise visit to the DMZ on Wednesday morning due to fog after two attempts. —Reuters ■

UK defence minister: PM May decides on cabinet hiring and firing

LONDON — British defence minister Gavin Williamson said on Wednesday it was up to Prime Minister Theresa May to decide who serves in her top team, responding to a question about the political future of aid minister Priti Patel.

“The prime minister makes her own decision on actually who is serving in her cabinet, and they’re only the prime minister’s decisions,” he told reporters in Brussels. —Reuters ■

Short on boots and backing, West Africa force faces uphill battle

SEVARE, (Mali) — Snipers from a new West African force lie prone on a rooftop in central Mali, scanning the horizon for Islamist militants who have infiltrated this sparsely populated region south of the Sahara and made it a launchpad for deadly attacks.

Thousands of UN peacekeepers, French troops and US military trainers and drone operators have failed to stem a growing wave of jihadist violence, leading international powers to pin their hopes on a new regional force.

But the so-called G5 Sahel initiative faces immense challenges if it is to do any better at bringing security to the arid Sahel

region than its countries Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger have managed so far.

Security sources and analysts say too strong an emphasis on military might over tackling the underlying causes of jihad, logistical shortfalls and a lack of cooperation from regional powerhouse Algeria all raise doubts over whether the G5 can succeed where years of Western intervention has not.

“There is a long way to go to reach full operational capacity, even though the timeframe is relatively short,” G5 force commander General Didier Dacko told visiting UN Security Council envoys last month, citing a range



A French soldier of the regional anti-insurgent Operation Barkhane stands in front of a General Atomics MQ-9 Reaper drone version Block 1 in Niamey, Niger on 21 October 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

of needs from aerial support to communications equipment to intelligence

gathering.

The United Nations, France and the United

States have poured billions of dollars into stabilising the region over the

past 15 years but have failed to meaningfully address the many local grievances driving conflict, analysts say.

Political and social tensions, such as a stalled peace process between the government and armed groups in Mali, are pushing youths to jihad, as are growing rivalries between farmers and cattle herders and rights abuses by national armies.

In northern Burkina Faso, for example, preacher Malam Ibrahim Dicko has gained adherents to his militant Ansarul Islam movement by railing against the privileges of traditional elites in a region scarred by widespread poverty. —Reuters ■

At UN, Russia slams inquiry into toxic gas attacks in Syria

UNITED NATIONS — Russia rejected on Tuesday a report by an international inquiry blaming the Syrian government for a deadly toxic gas attack, casting doubt on whether the UN Security Council can agree to extend the investigation's mandate before it expires next week.

Russia vetoed an initial US bid to renew the joint inquiry by the UN and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) on 24 October, saying it wanted to wait for the release of the investigation's report two days later.

It has since proposed its own rival draft resolution, which deputy Russian UN Ambassador Vladimir Safronkov said on Tuesday aimed to enhance the effectiveness of the inquiry and correct “errors and systemic problems.”

“Without a comprehensive change it will become a tool to settle accounts with the Syrian authorities,” Safronkov



Russia's deputy UN envoy, Vladimir Safronkov arrives at a Security Council meeting on the situation in Syria at the United Nations Headquarters, in New York, US on 7 April 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

told the 15-member Security Council on Tuesday during a meeting on the report by the UN/OPCW Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM).

The report found the Syrian government was responsible for an April 4 attack using the banned nerve agent sarin in the opposition-held town of Khan Sheikhoun, killing dozens of people. The Syrian government has denied using chemical weapons.

The chemical weapons attack prompted a US missile strike just days

later against a Syrian air base.

“Russia is trying to shoot the messenger to cover up for the crimes of the Syrian regime,” Deputy British UN Ambassador Jonathan Allen told the Security Council.

US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley said there could be no higher priority for the Security Council than renewing the JIM mandate. Diplomats said the United States had amended its draft resolution in a bid to win Russian support.

“Anyone who pre-

vents us from achieving this goal is aiding and abetting those who have been using chemical weapons,” Haley said. “They are helping to ensure, not just that more women and children will die, but that those women and children will die in one of the cruelest, most painful ways possible.”

A resolution must get nine votes in favour and no vetoes by Russia, China, the United States, Britain and France to pass.

Allen told reporters the Russian draft resolution “has very little if any support in the council and no realistic prospects of success.”

The JIM had previously found that Syrian government forces were responsible for three chlorine gas attacks in 2014 and 2015 and that Islamic State militants used mustard gas. Syria agreed to destroy its chemical weapons in 2013 under a deal brokered by Russia and the United States. —Reuters ■

Request for expressions of interest: Conducting baseline surveys

The Myanmar Institutional Strengthening and Policy Dialogue Support (ISPDS) – My-Governance -- is a technical assistance programme funded by the European Union. The MY-Governance programme is supporting the Department of Rural Development in strengthening its capacity for monitoring and evaluation.

My-Governance programme is soliciting proposals from local research institutions to conduct four baseline surveys for the sub-sectors of rural electrification, rural water supply, revolving funds / livelihoods and vocational training.

Research institution profile:

The research institution should be:

- A Myanmar registered institution or academic organisation
- Experienced in conducting research on rural development issues
- Previous experience in conducting large scale baseline surveys
- Capable of conducting surveys on a national scale
- Able to collect and manage data electronically

Expressions of interest should include:

- Photocopy of organisation's Myanmar registration form
- Organisational profile and structure
- Summary of previous experience in conducting baseline surveys
- CVs of proposed team members

Expressions of interest should be clearly identified as **Request for expressions of interest: Conducting baseline surveys** with full company address and contact details on the submission envelope. Expressions of interest should be submitted to:

GOPA My-Governance Programme
19/B, Kanbawza Road, Golden Valley, Bahan Township, 11012, Yangon, Myanmar

The deadline for submission of proposals is Friday, November 17 at 17:00 Myanmar time. Upon review of expressions of interest suitably qualified research institutions will be invited to submit a full technical and financial proposal based on a terms of reference.

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental
Conservation

**Central Committee for Holding Myanmar Gems
Emporium**

**The Information on Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium
2017**

1. The significant **Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium** will be held on December 12 to 21, 2017 at Maniradana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

2. Rough jade, rough gems, cut and polished gemstones, jewelries, jade carvings and gemstone pictures will be sold in Euro currency at the Emporium.

3. Gems lots and jade lots will be put up for sale through open tender system and specifying reserve prices as follows;

Sr.	Kind of Gem	Reserve Price (Euro) for Open Tender
(a)	Gems	500 and above
(b)	Jade	4,000 and above
(c)	Finished product and Jade Carving	1,000 and above

4. Foreign visitors eligible for the following qualifications will be granted admission to the Mid-Year Emporium 2017, excluding those blacklisted for their default on payment in the previous emporiums;

- The person who was invited by the Emporium Central Committee with invitation card.
- The person who requested the invitation card via the Foreign Jade Associations.
- The person who requested to receive the invitation card through the respective Embassies and Consulate - General.
- Foreign visitors are permissible to make bids for the lots up to the value of the 20-fold of the minimum deposit paid by the types of gemstones. The minimum amount of deposit to be paid and the amount permitted to bid are as follows;

Sr.	Kind of Gem	Deposit to be paid	Permitted limit to bid
(1)	Gems	€ 10,000	€ 200,000
(2)	Jade	€ 20,000	€ 400,000

(e) Making bids for lots priced more than the permitted limit is required to make additional deposit (5% of its value) to the Account No. EEM 400034 opened with the Myanmar Economic Bank (Nay Pyi Taw) by the name of The Central Committee of Emporium (Deposit). Deposit must be made by the preview deadline as below;

Sr.	Kind of Gem	Kind of selling system	Deposit Payment Date
(1)	Gems	Open Tender	December 14, 2017
(2)	Jade	Open Tender	December 15, 2017

5. Starting from 29th November 2017, admission card will be issued at the Maniradana Jade Hall, Registration Office to the foreign merchants who have already paid the deposit ahead.

6. Application Forms for admission to Emporium can be downloaded from provided websites (www.mining.gov.mm or www.mge.gov.mm), starting from 18th November 2017. Application can also be submitted via On-Line Pre-Registration System from www.mge.gov.mm. The requirements to make the admission card are as follow;

- Name, Position, Passport and National Scrutiny Card No. (Passport Issuing Country)
- Clear Photocopy of Passport.
- Two Color passport photos taken within one month.
- Complete contact information, (to state Phone No., Fax No. and E-mail if applicable)
- Admission fee - Myanmar Currency (Kyat) is equivalent to US\$ 100.

7. Buyers shall settle payment for the purchases within deadline as prescribed by the Sales Agreement. The necessary arrangements will be made if the buyer desires to bring his/ her fully paid purchase along with them.

8. Shipment of fully paid purchase to the buyer is made under the EXW (EX Works) System. Purchase will be timely dispatched once the buyer has made full payment for the purchase. Emporium Central Committee will be responsible for loading the merchandise onto the Transportation Vehicles from the Emporium Hall while the buyer himself or his authorized representative company will be held liable for the remaining processes.

Emporium Central Committee



The Russian Navy currently has three Borei-class nuclear-powered submarines at its disposal. **PHOTO: TASS**

Russia starts development of Borei-B nuclear-powered submarines

MOSCOW — Russia has started building Borei-B class strategic nuclear-powered submarines, chief of the Russian Armed Forces' General Staff Valery Gerasimov said.

"Work to create the advanced Borei-B nuclear-powered missile underwater cruiser has started," he said at a Defence Ministry Board meeting.

He reiterated that the country's strategic

nuclear forces already started receiving Borei-class boomers.

"It made it possible to increase the share of modern strategic submarines to 82%," the general specified.

In five years, 102 ballistic missiles were bought for these subs, Gerasimov specified.

"Battle capabilities of the group of strategic nuclear-powered submarines increased by 25%, and the stealth and sus-

tainability of the nuclear strategic forces also increased," the chief of the General Staff noted.

Gerasimov also reiterated that five Borei-A class nuclear subs are being built now. The last ship in this series — the Knyaz Pozharsky (Prince Pozharsky) — was laid down in December last year.

Borei class subs

The Russian Navy currently has three Borei-class (Project 955) nucle-

ar-powered submarines: the Yuri Dolgoruky, the Alexander Nevsky and the Vladimir Monomakh.

Such submarines are capable of carrying up to 16 Bulava intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Earlier, Director General of the Rubin Central Design Bureau for Marine Engineering Igor Vilnit told TASS that the project will continue developing after a series of advanced Borei-A submarines.—Tass ■

France to take a decade longer to reduced reliance on nuclear: minister

PARIS — French environment minister Nicolas Hulot said on Wednesday that reducing the share of nuclear energy in France's power mix to 50 percent from 75 percent will probably take until 2030-35 instead of 2025. On Tuesday, Hulot said the government had dropped a target date of 2025, saying it was not realistic and would boost CO2 emissions. He did not give a new deadline.

The target was part of the previous Socialist

government's 2015 energy transition law and was confirmed by new centrist president Emmanuel Macron's government.

"We will probably have to delay until 2030 or 2035, we will see, at the latest 2035, but don't ask me to be more precise as that would mean everything has already been decided," Hulot said on BFM Television. He added that in the coming year, the government would hold public consultations and talks with unions and the

energy sector to come up with a new deadline and a program for closing nuclear reactors.

On Tuesday, Hulot said that reaching the 50 percent target by 2025 would mean closing 17 to 25 nuclear reactors.

France's is the world's most nuclear-reliant country. State-controlled utility EDF generates about three-quarters of French power with 58 nuclear reactors in 19 nuclear plants.

EDF argues that

it makes no economic sense to close well-functioning nuclear plants and instead wants to extend the lifespan of its nuclear reactors from 40 to 50 years and longer.

Environmentalists say that the billions of euros needed to upgrade EDF's nuclear reactors would be better spent on renewable energies like wind and solar, which also do not emit carbon but do not come with the risk of nuclear accidents and nuclear waste.—Reuters ■

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Ministers gather for a group photo after the APEC Ministerial Meeting (AMM) ahead of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit leaders meetings in Danang, Vietnam, on 8 November 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Quick signoff on TPP trade deal far from sure at Asia-Pacific meeting

DANANG, (Viet Nam) — Continuing disagreements over the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade deal ditched by US President Donald Trump mean 11 remaining members may not be ready to give it a wholehearted go-ahead at a summit this week, officials said on Wednesday.

Clear agreement on proceeding without the United States would be a boost for the principle of multilateral free trade pacts over the bilateral deal-making that Trump argues will give a better re-

sult for American workers.

The TPP is also a counterweight to China's growing regional dominance. Japan has been lobbying hard for agreement on the sidelines of this week's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Vietnam.

However, officials from several member states said there was less appetite to move ahead quickly from some members — notably Canada, New Zealand and Malaysia.

The pact aims to eliminate tariffs on industrial and farm products across a bloc whose trade totalled \$356 billion (270.37 billion pounds) last year. It also has provisions for protecting everything from intellectual property to labour rights to the environment.

Chief negotiators from the TPP-11 countries met on Monday and Tuesday. Their ministers are due to meet on Wednesday and Thursday in the Vietnamese seaside resort of Danang.

A meeting of TPP

leaders, who are all also in APEC, has been tentatively scheduled.

“Our view is that we need to take the time to get the right deal,” said one Canadian official who declined to be identified.

Canada's position is complicated by the fact that it is also renegotiating the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with a Trump administration that pulled the United States out of the TPP agreement in one of its first acts.

—Reuters ■

EU at impasse before final push to clinch carbon market reform

BRUSSELS — EU negotiators are split over the uses of a new clean technology fund ahead of talks on carbon market reforms on Wednesday, with the bloc keen for a deal this week to show leadership at UN climate talks in Bonn.

The last round of talks between EU nations, the European Parliament and the EU executive to finalize reforms to the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) post-2020 broke down over the issue in Oc-

tober, and the negotiators remain divided.

The cap-and-trade system is the EU's flagship tool for reducing greenhouse gases and meeting its climate goals by regulating emissions at some 12,000 industrial and power installations.

But it has suffered from a glut of permits, giving added political urgency to the push for reform.

The 28-nation bloc hopes to show climate leadership during the U.N. talks this month aimed at

finding ways to implement the 2015 Paris accord it helped broker on shifting the world economy away from fossil fuels this century.

“It would be a pity if the EU couldn't go to Bonn with this trophy onboard,” said Ivo Belet, a deputy from the center-right European People's Party who is part of talks.

The talks have hit what one senior negotiator called an “intractable impasse” over a new modernization fund.

Some lawmakers and member states want installations with emissions of over 450 grams of carbon dioxide per kilowatt hour to be banned from receiving funds. That rules out coal-fired power plants.

But coal-dependent Poland and other central and eastern European states say they cannot match the bloc's ambition without funds to help them modernize their industry. “This is still a hot potato,” Belet said. —Reuters ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV WEST SCENT VOY. NO (159N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY. NO (159N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.11.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MV KOTA RESTU VOY. NO ()

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES**

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- (၆) ညပိုင်း လုပ်ကိုင်နိုင်သူ။
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Harvard honours Elton John for work fighting HIV/AIDS

NEW YORK — British musician Elton John will receive an award on Monday from the prestigious Harvard Foundation for his contribution to the fight against HIV/AIDS, the group said.

John will join the likes of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and Nobel peace laureate Malala Yousafzai as a recipient of the Harvard University-based organization's Peter J Gomes Humanitarian Award.

With more than 30 studio albums to his name, the Grammy Award-winning musician is mostly known for his career-spanning collection of hit songs such as "Tiny Dancer" and "Rocket Man".

But the singer-songwriter is also a vocal advocate for people living with HIV/AIDS, founding the Elton John AIDS Foundation 25 years ago which has raised more than \$385 million to fight the deadly epidemic, according to its website.

John will deliver a lecture about his work at an award ceremony to be held on Harvard's



British musician Elton John. PHOTO: REUTERS

campus Monday afternoon.

Other tributes John has received for his civic work include a lifetime achievement award from the Rockefeller Foundation in 2013 and being knighted by Queen Elizabeth in 1998.

Worldwide, since the beginning of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the 1980s, more than

70 million people have been infected with the HIV virus and 35 million have died, according to the World Health Organization.

The Cambridge, Massachusetts-based Harvard Foundation recognizes prominent public-spirited leaders each year, according to its website. — Reuters ■

Evan Rachel Wood confirms 'Westworld' S2 return



Evan Rachel Wood. PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Evan Rachel Wood has confirmed that the second session of "Westworld" will premiere next year in spring.

In a Twitter conversation with a fan, the lead actor of the sci-fi western thriller revealed what is being touted to be a much-awaited announcement by the show's devout fans.

A fan tagged Wood on the microblogging site, saying, "Can you please tell us when 'Westworld' will be returning!? I'm going crazy."

To this the 30-year-old actor replied, "Spring 2018."

This appears to be a good news for the fans, after the shooting of the series was put on hold this week in wake of new cast member Zahn McClarnon's head injury when he suffered a fall at his home. The HBO show also features Thandie Newton, Jeffrey Wright, James Marsden and Ed Harris.—PTI ■

Ben Affleck says he wants to be 'part of the solution'

LONDON — Ben Affleck says the storm of sexual harassment allegations engulfing Hollywood has led him to examine his own behaviour.

In an interview yesterday with The Associated Press for the superhero film "Justice League," Affleck said he's "looking at my own behaviour and addressing that and making sure I'm part of the solution."

After condemning Harvey Weinstein's actions last month, Affleck was forced to defend his own conduct.

He apologised for groping the actress Hilary Burton on camera in 2003 when she was a host on MTV's "Total Request Live."

Another video from 2004 showed Affleck pulling Montreal TV host Anne-Marie Losique onto his lap. Speaking yesterday, Affleck said two things need to happen, that "more women need to be pushed to power" and that sexual harassment has to also be "a men's issue" where guys call out inappropriate behaviour. — PTI ■



Ben Affleck. PHOTO: PTI

David Castaneda to star in Billy Crystal's 'We Are Unsatisfied'

LOS ANGELES — David Castaneda is all set to feature in the comedy "We Are Unsatisfied", a co-production by Billy Crystal and Ben Schwartz.

The actor will be joined by Schwartz in the movie, which is Matt Ratner's directorial debut, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

The film chronicles the story about an unlikely friendship between a struggling stand-up comedian from LA, played

by Schwartz, who is forced to return home to Eastern Long Island, and a charismatic, alcoholic dermatologist portrayed by Crystal.

While Castaneda will play the role of Ruis, the amiable security guard who aspires to be a police officer boyfriend of Schwartz's onscreen sister.

"Kevin Can Wait" fame Peter Hoare has penned the script.

The shooting begins in New York this month.—PTI ■

East meets West as Louvre Abu Dhabi opens in the Gulf

ABU DHABI — Abu Dhabi opens its Louvre museum on Saturday, positioning itself as a city of cultural tourism with a display of hundreds of works that it hopes will draw visitors from around the world.

Surrounded by water from three sides, the museum houses 600 artworks it has acquired, alongside 300 works on loan from 13 leading French institutions, in its 23 permanent galleries. The artists range from Paul Gauguin and Vincent Van Gogh to Pablo Picasso and Cy Twombly.

French President Emmanuel Macron will be the guest of honour at the opening, along with other heads of state.

"It is a lot more than just a museum. It is a centre of peace, acceptance, tolerance and education," Mohamed al-Mubarak, chairman of the department of culture and tourism in Abu Dhabi, told Reuters.

Permanent installations include a sculpture by Auguste Rodin, an enormous bronze tree with mirrored branches called "leaves of light" by Italian artist



People are seen at the Louvre Abu Dhabi in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates on 6 November, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Giuseppe Penone and three engravings on stone walls bearing historic texts from the region by Jenny Holzer, an American neo-conceptual artist.

And there are priceless pieces. They include a statue of the Sphinx dating back to the 6th century BC, 13 fragments of

a frieze that reveals Surah al Hashr from the Holy Quran and a marble bust of Alexander the Great. Among the paintings is one by Leonardo DaVinci, done between 1495 and 1499 and called La Belle Ferronniere, or Portrait of an Unknown Woman, which was recently restored and is on

loan from the original Musee du Louvre in Paris. The Abu Dhabi museum was set up under a 2007 inter-governmental agreement between Paris and Abu Dhabi. Originally slated to open in 2012, it was delayed by the global financial crisis and then by low oil prices, which led the United Arab

Emirates to rein in spending.

Louvre Abu Dhabi has partnered with museums and cultural institutions in the Arab world, who will lend 28 significant works. Among them are an 8,000-year-old, two-headed figure called the Ain Ghazal statue from Jordan, some 400 silver dirham coins from Oman and a pre-historic stone tool from Saudi Arabia.

Having invested over \$1 billion in the museum, Abu Dhabi is hoping culture will attract tourists. Two more museums, Guggenheim Abu Dhabi and Zayed National Museum, are planned around the Louvre Abu Dhabi in the Saadiyat Cultural District that already hosts art fairs, exhibitions and performances.

"Culture is the element that will distinguish us from others," said Saif Saeed Ghobash, director-general of the emirate's Department of Culture & Tourism. "We will attract a different kind of traveler." The entrance ticket to the museum is 60 dirhams (\$16.30) with all 5,000 tickets sold out for the opening day. —Reuters ■

US families trace their history to Chinese village

FUZHOU — Burying his nose deep into a tea bag, Dean Billing took a deep breath. A moment later, he cried out. "This smells like grandma's tea!"

Billing's grandmother began a tradition of drinking Chinese tea with her family. He remembered his grandma saying Guling, a mountain 13 kilometres from Fuzhou, capital of east China's Fujian Province, was her second home.

In September, Billing, 73, and his family visited Guling along with six other families from the United States and New Zealand. Tasting local teas was part of the experience of tracing their family's history.

"This is the jasmine tea grandma made for us," Billing said. Billing's grandmother returned to the United States in 1944, bringing Chinese tea with her. At an altitude of more than 800 meters, the mountain village was a popular summer resort for foreign residents to escape the extreme heat in Fuzhou in the early 1900s. They built a community in Yixia village, with schools, clinics, swimming pools

and clubs. More than 30 houses previously owned by foreign residents have been preserved.

Among the group was Marybelle Brewster who was born in Fuzhou and moved to the United States at age 15. Now 83, she can still speak Fuzhou dialect with locals. Brewster's children Josiah and Julie Olson accompanied her to China for the first time.

"We've always wanted to come to Guling. We've heard so much about it," said Josiah.

Together they visited the Brewster's former house, now called Yixia Villa. Built in 1886, it is the oldest foreign residence in the village. In 1992, the local government consulted senior villagers to refurbish the room layout and rearrange the furniture to restore the villa to its former appearance. Old photos of Guling and its foreign residents are now displayed in the main room and a side room has been converted into a cafe for tourists. Guling receives tens of thousands of tourists every year, and Yixia Villa is a popular stop. —Xinhua ■

While the poor collector gently weeps, Hendrix, McCartney guitars go up for auction

NEW YORK — Collectors who want to own a piece of music history — Fender, Gibson and Guild guitars used by the likes of Tom Petty, Paul McCartney and Jimi Hendrix — will have to be ready to put up some serious cash next month in New York City.

That is when Guernsey's auction house, on 2 December at Bohemian Hall, will put up for sale guitars, saxophones, session tapes and other music memorabilia associated with some of the most famous musicians of the 20th century. The auction follows

Guernsey's sale of Jerry Garcia's "Wolf" guitar in May for \$1.9 million. Included in the sale is a red, sticker-covered Guild guitar used by Hendrix in 1968 at a Miami, Florida, hotel after a music festival got rained out.

"He and other musicians and as many fans could pack into the neighboring hotel jammed into there for what amounted to a jam session, and this is the guitar he played," said Guernsey president Arlan Ettinger. Also up for auction is a 1953 "Goldtop" Gibson Les Paul used by Paul McCartney

as recently as 2012, according to Ettinger.

Bruce Springsteen's bass guitar that he used on his first album will also be on sale, as well as a black Gibson Les Paul Madonna used on tours in 2001 and 2008, when "she was going to come out and show the world that she could play."

Master recordings of James Brown and Elvis Presley, and recorded live performances of the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and others will be included in the sale. —Reuters ■



Guitars used by Jimi Hendrix to sell at auction. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Myanmar, Cambodia prepare for AFC qualification

Kyaw Zin Lin

IN preparation for the 2019 AFC Asian Cup qualification, the Myanmar national football team will play a friendly with Cambodia today in Cambodia, the MFF announced yesterday.

The announcement was made at the Match Coordination Meeting held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia yesterday, with coaches, players and media representatives in attendance.

“We play the match as a preparation for the 2019 AFC qualification match against India on 14 November. I like the playing style of Cambodia, because the players are improving. Both teams participated in the 2019 AFC Asian Cup qualification, and the match will give prominent benefits to both teams”, said Myanmar Head Coach Gerd Zeise.

“We have no pressure in the match, as the match is just a friendly and a preparation for the match against India next week. However, the match will be



Head Coaches and players from Cambodia and Myanmar seen at the Match Coordination Meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia yesterday. **PHOTO: MFF**

worth to see as Cambodians are in great shape”, said Myanmar team Captain Yan Aung Kyaw.

“The match is not being played for the result but for the

analysis on the strength and weaknesses of our team, as we will play against Jordan in 2019 AFC Asian Cup qualification. We prepared our best and all the

players are ready for the match. Although we cannot predict a loss or a win, we will do the best”, said Cambodia Head Coach Prak Sovannara. ■

Myanmar, Vietnam in same group in Thailand's M-150 Cup

A total of six teams including Myanmar will take part in the M-150 Cup 2017, which will be held in Thailand from 9 to 15 December.

The six teams will feature all Under-23 sides from host Thailand, Myanmar, Uzbekistan, North Korea, Japan and Vietnam.

Myanmar, Vietnam and Uzbekistan will comprise Group B, while host Thailand, Japan and the Democratic Republic of Korea are in Group A according to the rescheduling of the match by the officials.

The teams will compete in a round-robin format. The top teams from each group will advance to the final, and the two second-placed teams will fight for third place. The final and third-place matches will be played on 15 December.

The winner will be awarded US\$20,000 (Ks27.3 million).—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

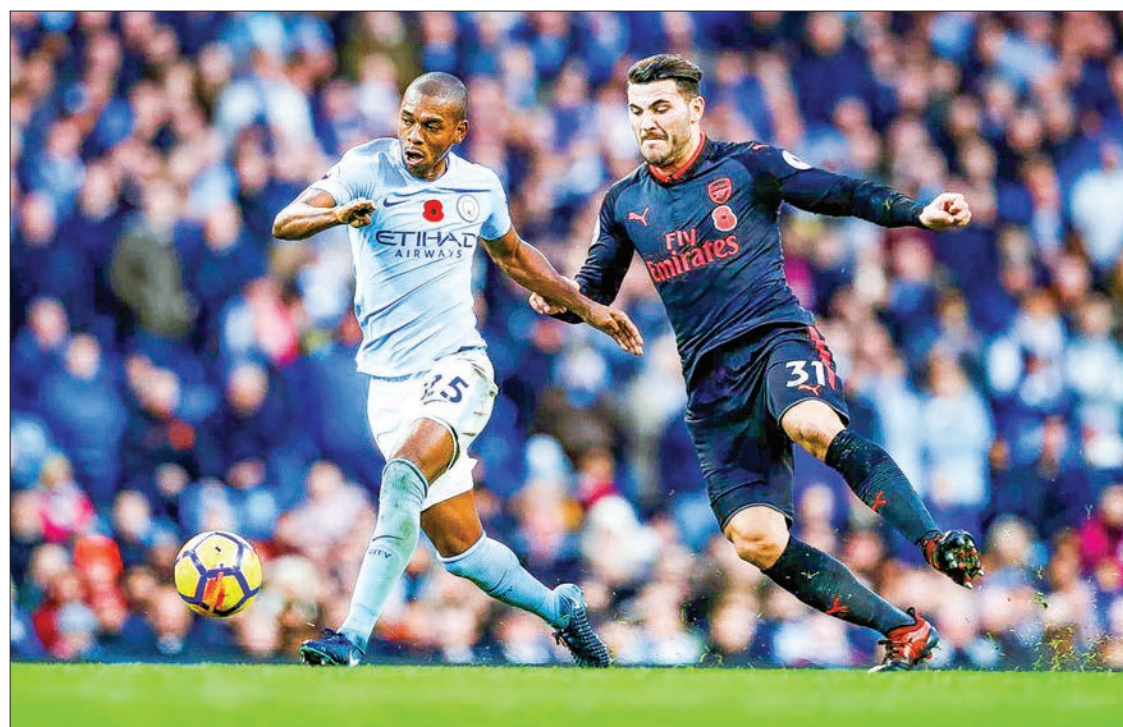
Defensive trio proving crucial to Manchester City's success

LONDON — With Manchester City scoring at will and playing some bewitching attacking football, it has been easy to overlook the contribution made by their three most defensive outfield players.

Fernandinho, John Stones and Nicolas Otamendi are never likely to hog the headlines in a team that has plundered 52 goals in all competitions and features flamboyant playmakers Kevin De Bruyne and David Silva behind deadly finishers such as Sergio Aguero and Gabriel Jesus.

Yet statistics suggest they hold a valid claim to being the three most important players in Pep Guardiola's squad, following an unbeaten start to the season that has left City eight points clear at the top of the Premier League.

Their record of conceding just 11 goals in 17 matches in all competitions this season is impressive enough on its own, yet



Manchester City's Fernandinho in action with Arsenal's Sead Kolasinac. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

the argument gathers pace when you consider their contributions to City's domination of possession and attacks.

Argentine centre back Otamendi, for example, has had more touches in the Premier League and Champions League

combined than any other City player this season, with England centre back Stones second and Brazil midfielder Fernandinho

fourth behind De Bruyne.

It is a similar story with passing. Otamendi is once again at the top of the charts for passes attempted, ahead of Fernandinho in second place with Stones in third.

While for pass completion, Stones leads the way for City ahead of Otamendi in second place and Fernandinho in fourth — all three of them currently registering above 90 per cent.

In fact, Stones's rate of 96.6 per cent is bettered in European leagues only by the 96.7 per cent completed so far by Paris St Germain's Thiago Silva.

It is not out of the ordinary for a holding midfielder such as Fernandinho to sit near the top of a team's touch and passing charts — Nemanja Matic has dominated both for Manchester United this season.

Yet the figures for Otamendi and Stones are more unique. —Reuters ■