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Three veteran writers
win Lifelong National
Literary Award
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State Counsellor meets Chinese FM

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, received Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Wang Yi of the People's Republic of China at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw at 11 am yesterday.

Views on Sino-Myanmar relations and cooperation, Belt and Road initiative, Myanmar's peace process and the Rakhine issue were exchanged at the meeting.

After the meeting, documents in connection with the cooperation agreements between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the People's Republic of China were signed and exchanged in the presence of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Minister Mr. Wang Yi. The agreement on renovation of the National Theatre (Yangon) was signed by Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture U Tun Ohn and Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Hong Liang; the agreement on poverty alleviation and cooperation by Director-General U Khant Zaw of Rural Development Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and the Chinese Ambassador; the agreement on renovation of National Indoor Stadium 1 by Director-General U Myo Hlaing of the Sports and Physical Education Department of the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Chinese Ambassador.

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Minister for Foreign Affairs of China Mr. Wang Yi having a cordial chat while greeting each other. **PHOTO: MNA**



BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

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Vice President U Myint Swe delivers a speech at Lifelong National Literary Award and National Literary Awards and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards ceremony in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

Three veteran writers win Lifelong National Literary Award



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint hands the National Literary Award 2016 for Best Novel to Nyi Pu Lay. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister U Naing Thet Lwin hands the National Literary Award for Thutapadaythar (Weiza) 2016 to Writer Maung Naing (Dathenikka). **PHOTO: MNA**



Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein hands National Literary Award for Short Stories Compilation to U Kyaw Lwin (Satt Mu). **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Lifelong National Literary Award and National Literary Awards and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards were presented at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Yangon yesterday morning, with an address by Vice President U Myint Swe.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice President U Myint Swe said Gupyaugyi Pagoda in Bagan has a stone inscription written in four languages – Pyu, Myanmar, Mon and Pali. It is a firm proof that Myanmar literature is a heritage that has at least

900 years of history. Myanmar literature continued to flourish throughout the ages from Pinya period to Kaungboun period. Excellent works of the respective periods also appeared all along its history. Myanmar Translation Association which later became the Sarpay Beikman came into being in 1947. Initial preparations were then made to present Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards. The Vice President then recounted the history of presenting Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards and the selection systems. He said at present the country pre-

sents 16 categories of National Literary Awards and 13 categories of Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards. He said three winners for the Lifelong National Literary Award for 2016 came out. This year's winners include new writers, writers with some experience and veteran writers. The presentation of literary awards is for the continuous progress of Myanmar literature and emergence of brilliant writers. The awards have enhanced the confidence of writers and their creativity. So it is a drive towards the appearance of excellent literary works. The vice

president expressed hope that literary world will produce more works in the interest of the community, race and country, create works that meet the international standard and provide support for the establishment of a democratic federal country. He then presented Lifelong Awards to veteran writers U Tha Noe (Maung Tha Noe), U Thein Than Tun (Thein Than Tun) and U Kyaw Win (Nyo Win).

Afterwards, Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Rakhine Ethnic Affairs Minister of the region

cabinet U Zaw Aye Maung and Region Auditor General Daw Khin Than Hla presented category-wised awards to winners.

U Tha Noe (Maung Tha Noe) on behalf of award winners spoke words of thanks. The Vice President and party posed for documentary photo together with the winners. Also present on the occasion were Hluttaw representatives, departmental heads, the chairman and EC members of Myanmar Writers Association, officials, families of the award winners and invited guests. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Third day of 13th ASEM Senior Official's Meeting held

THE third day of 13th ASEM Senior Official's Meeting being hosted by Myanmar took place yesterday at the Emerald Hall of Myanmar International Convention Center-1 (MICC-1), Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the ASEM Senior Officials attended discussed the 3rd ASEM Pathfinder Group on Connectivity (APGC) Meeting, ASEM's other meetings and forthcoming work programs, the matters of 14th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting and regional cooperation sectors.

Then, they discussed the draft of the meeting agenda in 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting, opening ceremony, closing ceremony and the meetings' programs, the statement of 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting, other matters and the next ASEM Senior Official's Meetings.

Present at the meeting were senior officials of ASEAN Secretariat and European Union, 28 member countries of EU, 2 non-EU member countries, 10 member countries of ASEAN, 11 countries of northeast and south Asia totaling 51 countries.



Participants holding talks at the 13th ASEM Senior Official's Meeting. **PHOTO: MNA**

The 13th ASEM Senior Official's Meeting continues to take place on 20 to 21 November at MICC-1, Nay Pyi Taw.

Three pillars of the ASEM are political pillar, economic pillar and social, culture & education pillar while three

basic principles of the ASEM are equal partnership, mutual respect and mutual benefit. —Myanmar News Agency ■

President U Htin Kyaw receives China's Foreign Minister

President U Htin Kyaw received China's Foreign Minister Mr. Wang Yi and party yesterday afternoon at Hall of Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed promotion of economic cooperation and friendly relations in the new era of progress in China, China's assistance to Myanmar in all sectors at the international sphere as a true friend, to promote co-

operation for peace processes and the security, stability and peace carried out in Rakhine State.

Present at the meeting were Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko, Union Minister U Kyaw Tin, U Min Thu and officials. The guest party led by China's Foreign Minister and China's Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Hong Liang also attended. —Myanmar news Agency ■



President U Htin Kyaw receives Mr. Wang Yi, China's Foreign Minister in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Representatives arrives in Nay Pyi Taw for 13th ASEM Ministerial meeting

Representatives from respective countries arrived in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning to attend the 13th ASEM Ministerial meeting that will be hosted in Myanmar.

Croatia Deputy Minister arrived at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport yesterday morning 8:15 am and welcomed by deputy director general of the protocol department.

A delegation led by Chinese Foreign Minister arrived and welcomed by Deputy Minister of the foreign affairs U Kyaw Tin,

Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Hong Liang and other officials.

Indonesian Foreign Minister arrived in afternoon and Foreign Ministers from India, New Zealand, Norway, Mongolia, Singapore, Laos, Thailand, Finland, Slovenia, Portuguese, Malta, Ireland, Russia, Cambodia, Romania, Denmark, Estonia, Hungary and Switzerland also arrived in Nay Pyi Taw and were welcomed by respective officials. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe hosts dinner for Chinese Foreign Minister

U Kyaw Tint Swe, the Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor, hosted a dinner yesterday evening for the delegation from the People's Republic of China led by Chinese Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. Wang Yi, at the Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

Present at the dinner were National Security Advisor U Taung Htun, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, and Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe holds talks with Mr. Wang Yi, Chinese Foreign Affairs Minister in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

The 8th Model ASEM 2017 concludes in Nay Pyi Taw

Yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw, the closing ceremony of the 8th Model ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) was held in the city's Myanmar International Conven-

tion Center-II (MICC-II).

Firstly the Chairperson of the 8th Model ASEM coordinated the discussions for the reports issued and then gave instruc-

tions to each of the representatives in attendance.

The closing ceremony of the meeting was held at 2 pm. In attendance were Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Deputy Minister U Win Maung Htun, Chief Directors, college students from 8th Model ASEM 2017 and other invited guests.

During the ceremony, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said that the discussion of the young people from Asia and Europe conformed with the motto of the meeting "The development of peace requires firm relations".

Some of the topics discussed at the meeting were challenges with trans-border crimes, increasing vocational training classes, deciding on policies or a framework to give security to

news information, working to connect all countries and their citizens to the internet, increasing relations between countries to raise the quality of education and increasing the student exchange programs.

Other topics discussed were providing more educational opportunities to students with disabilities and students living in rural areas, finding solutions to end poverty, gender equality, changing to green, renewable energy sources like solar or wind power.

Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said that the meeting improved the debate skills of the youth participants and also increased their mutual understanding. He said they were able to discuss their differences and work towards a common solution for their problems.

Afterwards, the Chairperson of the 8th Model ASEM 2017 handed over the mutually agreed upon report to the Union Minister.

Ambassador Mr. Karsten Warnecke, Executive Director of Asia-Europe Foundation-ASEF, gave the closing speech and a model press conference of an actual ASEM meeting was carried out.

Afterwards, the award ceremony and participation certificates for the 8th Model ASEM 2017 were carried out.

In the evening, the Union Minister attended the ASEF Direct Leadership Exchange Reception with foreign ministers and youth representatives from Asia and Europe held in Nay Pyi Taw's Thingaha Hotel. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Final day of 8th Model ASEM in progress. PHOTO: MNA

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

Chin State farmers busy in harvesting monsoon paddy in time

RICE growers in Kyikha Town and nearby villages are now very busy in harvesting transplanted monsoon paddy in time, expecting good yield this season, residents say. Efforts are being made by local rice growers this harvest season to protect their products from getting ruined with unseasoned rains.

This is why farmers are putting forth continuous efforts to reap the rice crop from the fields as fast as possible.

Residents in Kyikha Town and nearby villages traditionally cultivate rice on a commercial scale.

"Nowadays we are facing climate change problem including untimely rains, flooding and other forms of natural disasters.

In the previous year, rice plantations of mine badly destroyed by heavy



Monsoon paddy harvesting in Chin's Kyikha Town in progress. **PHOTO: ZO HAY HSA**

rains, with the result that most of the harvest was lost and it also decreased in value of the products," said Farmer U Tun

Za Htaung who are taking care the harvesting of the rice paddy without much wastage.

He added, "Our farming is

doing well as this year's climate is good. We have to enjoy the fruits of our hard work."—Zo Hay Hsa ■

External trade revenue rose by US\$3 billion against last FY

MYANMAR'S external trade revenue between 1st April and 10th November in the current fiscal year is up by US\$3 billion compared to the similar period of last year.

International trade hit \$19.4 billion, with an estimated export value of \$8.4 billion and an import value of \$10.9 billion, resulting in trade deficit of \$2.5 billion.

Agro products, animal products, fisheries, forest products, minerals, finished industrial goods and other export products are shipped to foreign countries. Export earnings as of 10th November increased \$1.24 billion compared to the same period of last FY.

Capital goods such as auto parts, vehicles, machines, steel, and airplane parts are

imported. Private sectors show a decrease of \$190 million against last FY, whereas the state sector has seen an increase of \$258 million.

Intermediate goods import is highest in the import sector with petroleum products and plastic raw materials the main import items.

Import value is up by \$1.3 billion against last FY. Con-

sumer products such as pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and palm oil also enters the market, showing increase of \$455 million more than last FY. Trade via sea routes fetched \$14.96 billion, an increase of \$3.2 billion from last year, whereas border trade earned \$4.4 billion, which is a significant drop of \$178 million compared to last FY. —Htet Myat ■

Livelihood trainings given to farmers in Wakema Township

AS PART OF efforts to develop socio-economic status of rural community, a series of livelihood trainings have been given to farmers in central arid zone under the arrangement of the Rural Development Department in collaboration with Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, and the Agriculture Department.

Starting from November 16, the three departments

launched a training programme in Htawkanut Village, Wakema Township, Myaungmya District, Ayeyawady Region, aiming to assist crop growers and farm operators how to minimize the use of their land while improving the quality of their produce.

The two-week training will last until 30 November. The participants of the training are residents of Htawkanut,

Ugyidaw and nearby villages.

The skill development training mainly focuses on sharing knowledge on agricultural techniques, utilization of a mixture of natural and chemical fertilizer, quality seed production, pest control and eradication, inserts killing and laws relating to the use of pesticides.

The trainees will also learn infection and symptoms

of animal diseases, vaccination, systematic injection and storage of animal vaccines through this training.

The township manager for pest control, the deputy-head of the township agriculture department and the head of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department will share their knowledge and experiences.—Hlwan Thiha (Wakema) ■



Production of rubber latex sheets goes down as the temperature of the local weather increases. **PHOTO: HTUT HTUT (YE)**

Ye Tsp's latex production declines from hot climate

PRODUCTION of latex is decreasing due to hot weather in Ye Township, Mon State, said rubber farmers.

During latex tapping season, a rise in temperature and erratic weather conditions decreases latex production from 100 to 80 pounds per farm.

The decline in production rate is likely to harm the income of rubber farm owners.

The price of natural rubber latex (which is dried into rubber bales) is not as high as previous market price, said the rubber farm owners.

The prevailing price of natural rubber latex is Ks660 per pound whereas it fetched a good price of nearly Ks1,200 a pound last season, allowing the rubber farmers earning well.

According to records of Ye Township Rubber Planters and Producers, there are 150,000 acres of rubber farms which can produce latex. In order for rubber to meet international criteria and fetch good price in export market, rubber farm owners are planning with the state government to produce purified rubber. —Htut Htut (Ye) ■

Singapore company proposes purchase of 50,000 tons of quality rubber from Mon State

A Singapore company has offered to buy 50,000 tons of quality rubber produced in Mon State, according to yesterday's report of Myawady Daily.

The Mon State Rubber Planters and Producers Association and the Singapore Hinthia Agri Company have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for purchase. The agreement was signed at the Myanmar

Rubber Business-Matchmaking and Exhibition on 14th November. The purchase price was not disclosed, said U Naing Kyan Yit from the Mon State Rubber Planters and Producers Association.

Due to a lack of technical assistance, Mon State's rubber cannot meet export quality standards. With the subvention of Mon State government,

high-quality rubber plants are planned for ten townships in Mon State. Currently, rubber factories are being built in Kyaukmaw and Paung townships, with future facilities planned for Thaton, Mudon, Thanbyuzayat, and Ye townships.

Mon State has more than 500,000 acres of rubber, which produce over 100,000 tons of rubber a year. —GNLM ■

Pepper yield likely to decline in Ye Township

ERRATIC weather has affected the yield of pepper, with production likely to drop compared to last year, said pepper growers from Ye Township, Mon State.

Torrential rain occurred at a time when when pepper plants bloomed last July, causing some blossoms to fall off. The yield plunged to a third

from that of the regular production rate in the previous years.

This in turn contributed to a lack of the pepper products in the market. The majority of merchants stockpiled pepper, offering a good price last year. Now, the market is in a downward trend, said the merchants.

Peppers are normally produced in December and January in Ye Township.

The peppers are sent to Yangon market and also exported to foreign countries.

A viss (1.6 kg) of pepper fetched Ks14,000 during the previous season. —Htut Htut (Ye) ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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

“Sunday Special”

အချပ်ပို (၈) မျက်နှာ
ပေါင်သည့်

နေပြည်တော်

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ရုံးအမှတ် (၇) နေပြည်တော်၊
သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရုံးချုပ်)။

စီမံခန့်ခွဲမှုဌာန၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇ ၄၃၂၁၁၀

နေပြည်တော်

နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တပ်ကုန်း)
ဧည့်သည်ခန်း၊ ခရစ်လမ်းမ၊ နေပြည်တော်။

ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇ ၃၆၁၄၈၊ ၀၆၇ ၃၆၁၂၉

ရန်ကုန်

The Global New Light of
Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊
ငါးထပ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ဝဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။
ဖုန်း - ၀၁၀၆၀၅၉၃၂၊ ၀၉၉၇၄၄၂၄၁၄

မန္တလေး

လမ်း (၂၀ x ၂၁) ကြား၊ (၈၂ x ၈၃) လမ်းကြား၊ ပုလဲဓမ္မ
ဓမ္မာရုံ၊ မန္တလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၂၃၂၇၂၅၀၊ ၀၂၃၂၅၅၀

တောင်ကြီး

ရုံးကြီးလမ်း၊ သင်တောရပ်ကွက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့။
ဖုန်း - ၀၈၁၂၁၂၁၆၄၊ ၀၉၂၅၁၄၇၇

မကွေး

နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ တပ်မ (၈၈) တပ်နယ်ချေး အနီး၊
မကွေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၃၂၇၃၂

ဘဇ္ဇင်းတုံ

မြို့ပေါ် (၃-၈)၊ အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းသွယ်၊ မြို့ပတ်လမ်း၊
ဘဇ္ဇင်းတုံမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၀၄၂၂၄၂၂

ကလေး

အောင်ဇေယျရပ်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊
ကလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၁၃၃၃

မြင်ကြီးနား

အမှတ် (၄၁)၊ ဧရာဝတီကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊
မြင်ကြီးနားမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄၂၂၄၆၂

စစ်တွေ

ရမ္မာတီလမ်းနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊
မီးတက်ကြီးအနီး၊ မန်းကျင်မြိုင်ရပ်ကွက်၊ စစ်တွေမြို့။
ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃၂၃၀၆၈

လားရှိုး

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

ဗြိတ်

မတ္တောလမ်း၊ ရှမ်းချောင်းရပ်၊ ကလွင်ကျေးရွာအုပ်စု၊
ဗြိတ်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၉၄၂၁၁၃

မော်လမြိုင်

ကြာအင်းကျေးရွာ၊ မော်လမြိုင်မြို့။
ဖုန်း - ၀၅၇၂၇၂၅၊ ၀၅၇၂၇၂၆

မုံရွာ

နန္ဒဝန်ရပ်ကွက်၊ ဆက်သွယ်ရေးတပ်တိုင်အနီး၊
မုံရွာမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၁၂၆၃၃၅၊ ၀၇၁၂၆၃၃၃

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Japanese FM emphasizes bilateral economic cooperation



Mr. Nakane, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.

Q: Since 2011, Japan-Myanmar economic cooperation has increased, especially in Thilawa SEZ and could you please tell me future cooperation between the two countries?

A: Thilawa Special Economic Zone has developed so much in a very short space of time that it is regarded as a hallmark of Japan-Myanmar Public-Private Partnership. Public and private sectors from both countries have invested in the industrial zone development and the Jap-

anese Government provided assistance for infrastructure development in areas such as electricity, water supply and transportation.

At present, 88 companies from various countries across the world (of which 45 are Japanese) have decided to expand their business in the Thilawa SEZ and 37 of those companies are already operating.

Going forward, further robust business activities in Thilawa SEZ will be important, not only in itself but also for driving the urban development of

Yangon and ultimately the whole of the Myanmar economy.

Japan will therefore continue to support efforts to improve investment environment in Myanmar.

Q: Through the history of bilateral cooperation, Japan has been contributed to Myanmar's development in various sectors. What are key factors for the success of Myanmar's development and how has Japan helped reach these goals?

A: Japan's assistance goes to a wide range of sectors, with a view to ensuring that all Myanmar people can enjoy the fruits of the country's democratic transition, national reconciliation and economic development. In November 2016, Prime Minister Abe pledged to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi assistance worth 800 Billion Japanese Yen (approximately 7.2 billion US dollars) from both private and public sectors of Japan.

We have had continuous discussions with the Myanmar side on this pledge, and decided to accelerate efforts especially focusing on Yangon urban development,

transportation and electricity sectors. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe conveyed this to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the sidelines of the recent ASEAN Summit in the Philippines.

PM Abe also stated that such assistance would include approximately 1.2 billion US dollars in support of Yangon-Mandalay railway improvement, improvement of agricultural income, SME finance, housing finance, electric power rehabilitation, and the construction of houses and schools in regions of the ethnic minorities.

Q: What is your impression on Myanmar democratization and peace process as Japan provides nearly US\$ 4.2 million for the peace process?

A: Peace and national reconciliation are essential elements for Myanmar's successful democratic nation-building and economic development. With this in mind, the Japanese Government appointed Mr. Yohei SASAKAWA, President of Nippon Foundation, Special Envoy for the Government of Japan, and pledged an assistance of 40

billion Japanese Yen (approximately 363 million USD) over five years, in order to foster progress in the peace process and bring stability and growth to the ethnic minority communities.

We particularly place emphasis on improving people's livelihoods and supporting resettlement of repatriated population in the areas where the Nationwide Peace Agreement has been signed.

For example, 100 houses were constructed and handed over to the locals in Lay Kay Kaw Village of Karen State, and new schools, hospitals and bridges are being constructed in the conflict-afflicted areas in Karen and Mon State, allowing people to feel that peace is gradually taking hold. Japan has also contributed 4.2 million USD to the Joint Peace Fund in March this year. Japan will continue to provide assistance so that many people will be able to reap the benefits of peace.

Q: What is your impression on Myanmar's efforts towards peace, stability and development in Rakhine State and what kind

of further assistance Japan could lend in the process?

A: The challenges that Rakhine State faces are multi-faceted and complex. Myanmar Government had already initiated efforts to address the root cause of the issue, very soon after taking office.

With regard to the situation in Rakhine State after 25 August, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi indicated her determination to make efforts on expanding humanitarian assistance and repatriation of the refugees, the resettlement and rehabilitation, and regional development and peace.

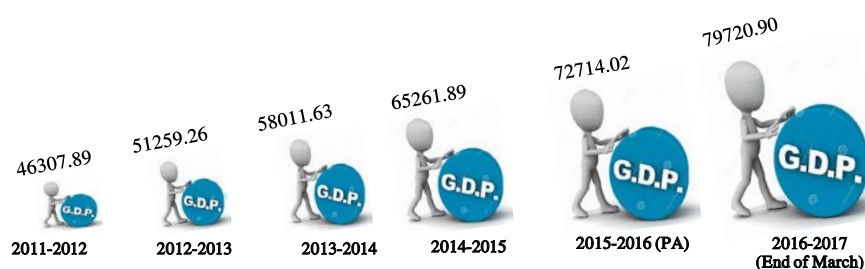
The Myanmar Government has been advancing these efforts and implementing the recommendations of the Kofi Anan report.

The Government of Japan highly praises such efforts by the Myanmar Government, and will do its utmost to support them

Japan remains committed to supporting Myanmar's democratic nation-building, through the combined efforts of the public and private sectors.—
MNA ■

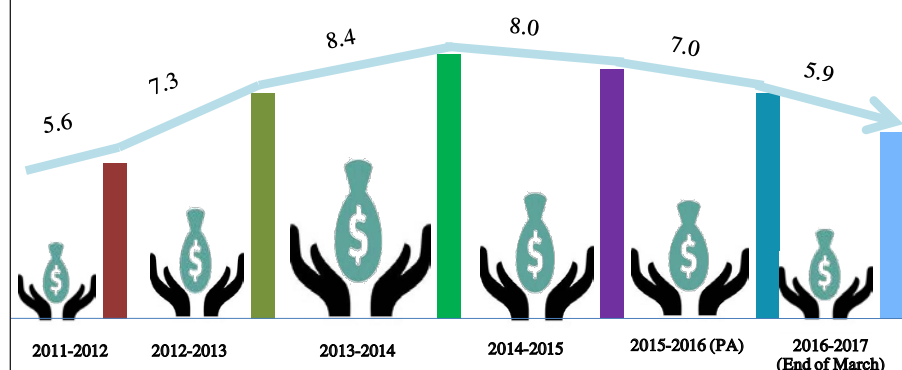
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) AT CURRENT PRICES

(Billions of Kyat)



Source: Planning Department
Information Unit: Central Statistical Organization

ANNUAL GROWTH RATES OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT



Source: Planning Department
Information Unit: Central Statistical Organization

Senior General receives Foreign Minister of China

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing received Foreign Affairs Minister of the People's Republic of China, Mr Wang Yi at the Zayyar Thiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, views on the need to inform the international community about the real situation of Rakhine issue, China's assistance in Myanmar peace and stability and development undertakings, and further strengthening of the relations between the two countries through the firm friendship between the two armed forces.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Foreign Affairs Minister of China, Mr Wang Yi. PHOTO: MNA

Opening ceremony of 13th ASEM Ministerial meeting to be broadcast live

The opening ceremony of 13th ASEM Ministerial meeting will be launched today 9am at the international conventional center (1) in Nay Pyi Taw.

The ceremony will be broadcasted live from Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV), Myanmar International TV, Myanmar Radio and Live Streaming will also be available on MRTV Face page.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Closing ceremony of 11th ASEF Journalist Seminar 2017 launched

THE closing ceremony of the 11th Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) Journalist Seminar 2017 was launched at Tungapuri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Officials from ASEF, media representatives from Myanmar and ASEF member countries attended the ceremony.

During the ceremony, Ms Nathalie Sajda from ASEF, U Myint Kyaw from Myanmar Press Council, Mr. Pawel Skawinski from Polish Press Agency, Editor-in-Chief from Mongolia Ms. Bolor Zaaankhuu and reporter from Ireland Mr. Chai Brady discussed under the title “The role of the Media for sustainable development”. They also discussed the ethic of media in connection with knowledge on peace, equality and releasing of correct and accurate news, the life of the journalists, the standard and norm of newspapers, conditions on news releasing and broadcasting about



The final day of the 11th Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) Journalist Seminar 2017 in progress. PHOTO: MNA

non-educated children with malnutrition, qualities required for media and all media related persons and balanced news writing style on important news.

Next, Senior Lecturer Dr. Alex Wake from Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology discussed the title named “Collaboration ways for Media and Education

for the aim of sustainable development”, and also focused on the role of media for keeping sustainable development of Education sector along with suggestions for journalism and journalists. Media men also raised the questions after his discussion.

After that, Ms. Valentina Riccard from ASEF, U Zayya Hlaing

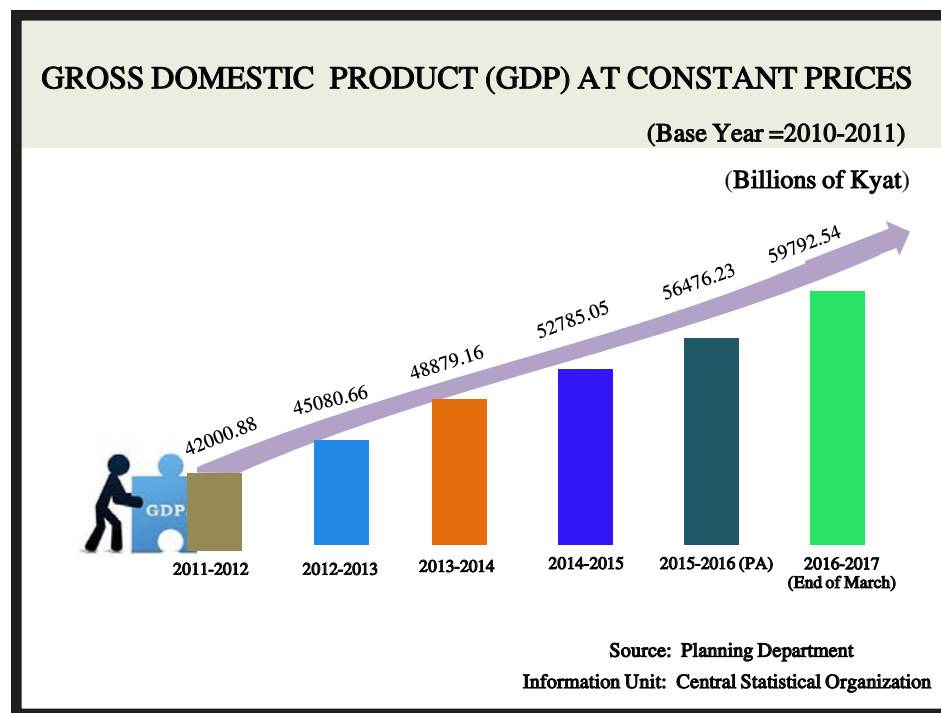
from Myanmar Press Council, freelance Journalist Ms. Claire Wilson from Australia and freelance journalist Ms. Sharmilla Ganesan from Malaysia also discussed under the title: “Ways to support sustainable development of cultural sector by Media”. They cordially discussed supporting the cultural sector by media from

different points of view righteously. Then, Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Information, U Myo Myint Maung discussed the essential role of the Media including constructive journalism, proactive reporting, informing and educating to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), upgrading role of media to become ethical, professional, impartial, constructive and proactive ones, providing the adequate, accurate and timely development information. He also expressed his desire hoping for all the journalists attending the seminar can work together in the future to implement the theme of this seminar. Similarly, Executive Director Mr. Karsten Warnecke also expressed his dignitary words for the success holding of the seminar. In the evening, the seminar attendees visited National Museum in Nay Pyi Taw.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Asia-Europe Meeting

13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting
20-21 November, 2017, Nay Pyi Taw



Focus on different points of views

DIFFERENT points of views between Myanmar and the international community concerning the Rakhine State affair are fundamentally based on different approaches. Regarding the Rakhine State affair, the international community seems to be focused only on human rights. From the Myanmar point of view, we are more concerned about the infringement on our National Sovereignty and the blatant demand of the Bengalis residing in Rakhine to be given the status of a “national ethnic race” and to adopt a name of their own choosing which is in reality “a political construct”. This means the name was chosen solely for political reasons and to satisfy political needs. Thus the gap between the opposing points of view has been growing day by day.

Provided that these processes are effectively and promptly to be implemented in just and fair ways, it must be acknowledged that practical negotiation and cooperation will be more beneficial than external pressure and blames.

There is a way for different points of views to ultimately meet at a certain point. It is none other than the recognition of the other side’s point of view and a willingness to understand the reasonable fears and worries of the other side. In this process Myanmar should acknowledge and understand the concerns of the international community regarding human rights. Likewise, the international community needs to recognize Myanmar’s worries and fears that her national sovereignty might be trampled upon. Myanmar also has legitimate fears that the Rakhine region might become a breeding ground for extremist terrorists with links to foreign countries. In such a situation, it would be extremely difficult for the two opposing points of view to reach a compromise.

First, it is generally said that sensitive and complex problems should be dealt with steady and careful steps with patience and understanding. Clear and definite recognition by both sides of the worries and fears which still exist on both sides will be very helpful in the search for a solution acceptable to both sides. Secondly, both sides are required to declare beyond a doubt that they really want to solve the problem. Myanmar has clearly laid down two principles which will help solve the Rakhine State problem. Myanmar has already made a solemn pledge that those of Bengali origin who fled into Bangladesh will be accepted after careful scrutiny, and out of them those who comply with rules and laws will be granted citizenship rights. On the other hand, the international community needs to recognize Myanmar’s willingness to solve the problem. With such an acknowledgement, the international community should put forward a proposal with sincerity and good will as to how they wish to help support the effective and prompt implementation of the two principles. Provided that these processes are effectively and promptly implemented in just and fair ways, it would soon become apparent that practical negotiations and cooperation will become more beneficial than exerting external pressure and heaping all types of accusations, allegations and blame on Myanmar.

Correction

Please read “the US still did not have sufficient information” instead of “the US did not yet have insufficient information” in the line 2 para 2 of the “Opinion” page “Friendship and open-mindedness.—Editors

The 11th ASEM Summit

Introduction

The ASEM11-Summit was held 15-16 July 15, 2016, in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Present at the summit were 51 Heads of State and Government from ASEM partner countries, as well as the ASEAN Secretariat and the European Union. The delegation led by U Htin Kyaw, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, a partner country attended the summit.

Extraordinarily enough, the (ASEM11) Summit coincided with the 20th anniversary of ASEM Summits held. Accordingly, “20 Years of ASEM: Partnership for the Future through Connectivity” was designated as the overarching theme of Ulaanbaatar Summit. Prior to the presentation of what topics were discussed at the Summit and which kinds of results were achieved from the Summit, the background history of ASEM needs to be explained on the assumption that it will sure help all to be well convinced.

ASEM’s Background History

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) commenced to be held in 1996, with a view to cooperating bilateral benefits between countries in Asia and European Union. Looking back into causes of convening ASEM, Asia’s economic development must be traced.

In 1965, Europe occupied 25 percent of the global GDP, with that of the then Asia being only 9 percent. But, when GDP was calculated in comparison with Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) in 1994 the then EU with 15 member countries had US\$ 6.728 trillion, with Asia possessing 7.656 trillion. Concerning commerce, in 1970s Europe’s commerce was 44 percent of the global volume, with that of Asia being 10 percent only. In 1994, Asia region rose up to 19 percent whereas Europe did plunge into 38 percent.

With such economic developments in Asia entrepreneurs in European countries put pressure on their governments to constantly monitor profitable opportunities emerging in Asia and to study every sector likely to be beneficial for both sides. For this, in 1994 European Commission issued a preliminary report named, “Strategy on Relation with Asian Region.” The two leaders who led for emergence of discussions between Asia and Europe were French President Jacques Chirac and Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong. In January 1996, the first-ever EU-Asia Cultural Forum took place in Venice, Italy; 3 Months later, in March 1996 the first ASEM Summit comprising of 10 nations from Asia and 15 from EU was held in Bangkok, Thailand. At the advent of the establishment, there were 25 nations from the two regions plus EU Com-



Present U Htin Kyaw at the 11th ASEM Summit in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. PHOTO: MNA

mission. Now that member countries are increasing more—21 from Asia, EU 30 nations plus ASEAN Secretariat and EU Commission, its members reached all together 53, namely Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brunei, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, the Lao PDR, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Portugal, Poland, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom, Vietnam while the European Union and the ASEAN Secretariat are the regional organizations involved.

ASEM’s Destinations

4 major destinations of ASEM are as follows:

- * To support global peace and security by making Asia- Europe Continents cooperate,
- * To find solution through negotiation for the development of global economy, commerce and investment
- * To upgrade importance of the two continents in global affairs
- * To increase mutual understanding and trust between different societies with different cultures, customs and traditions and to build up society based on peaceful co-existence for global peace, security, development and prosperity.

ASEM’s Procedures and Meetings

ASEM is a meeting which does not seem to be the organization set up offi-

cially, based on documents, agreements and contracts, instead different views and opinions are exchanged by valuing mutual understanding and trust so as to bring about inter-respect between countries, equality and enjoyment of same benefits between Asia-Europe regions, without tensions and confrontations to each other. ASEM Process is always carried out in accord with Asia-Europe Co-operation Framework [AECF 2000] laid down in 2000.

ASEMs are generally categorized into four—ASEM Summit, ASEM Ministerial Meeting, ASEM Respective Ministers’ Meeting and ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting. ASEM Summits held every two years, alternately in Asia and Europe are attended by Heads of the Governments. ASEM Summit is the highest authoritative body as it can decide concerning important matters. It is also politically important. ASEM 1 was held in Bangkok, Thailand in 1996, ASEM 2 in London, United Kingdom in 1998, ASEM 3 in Seoul, Korea in 2000, ASEM 4 in Copenhagen, Denmark in 2002, ASEM 5 in Hanoi, Viet Nam in 2004, ASEM 6 in Helsinki, Finland in 2006, ASEM 7 in Beijing, China in 2008, ASEM 8 in Brussels, Belgium in 2010, ASEM 9 in Vientiane, Lao PDR in 2012, ASEM 10 in Milan, Italy in 2014 and ASEM 11 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in 2016.

ASEM Ministerial Meeting is held every two years from 2006 on, in the years when ASEM Summit is not held. Provided that all member countries presume that a ministerial meeting is essentially needed to be held in the year when ASEM Summit is held, it can be convened. Other minister-level meetings on culture, education, labor and employment, finance, science and

technology, environment conservation, immigration and transport had already been held.

The most fundamental meeting in ASEM is none other than Senior Officials’ Meeting [SOM]. Though it is generally designated that it be held at least two times per year, it used to be convened depending upon the requirements. Sectors which would like to be discussed or to be cooperated among ASEM member countries commence to be negotiated at senior officials’ meeting, and the acquired agreements are to be submitted to ASEM Foreign Ministers’ meeting, thence to ASEM Summit. Besides, initiatives on cooperation in the sectors respective countries take interest are submitted to senior officials’ meeting for approval.

For lack of Secretariat which will coordinate for convening ASEM meetings, there are coordinators assigned alternatively to perform the tasks of Secretariat. The countries taking responsibility of coordinators till the time when the 11th ASEM Summit was held in 2016 were Myanmar and New Zealand from Asia Side and Europe Commission and Slovakia from Europe Side. Present coordinators are the Philippines and Pakistan from Asia Side and European Union and Estonia from Europe Side.

Asia-Europe Foundation [ASEF]

If and when ASEM Meetings are to be chosen as the topic for presentation, Asia-Europe Foundation cannot be excluded. ASEF is the only foundation officially founded by ASEM. ASEM Summit 1 decided to set up Asia-Europe Foundation [ASEF] with a view to increasing mutual understanding among ASEM member countries. The Office

of Asia-Europe Foundation founded in 1997 is situated in Singapore.

The major tasks of ASEF are to promote relation of culture, education and the public between Asia and Europe. ASEF is implementing projects in six sectors—culture, economy, education, administration, public health and sustainable development. In the year 2015, ASEF successfully implemented a total of 31 projects, simultaneously holding discussions and cooperation between social societies from Asia and Europe. As a result, it managed to increase unity and consolidation among people.

ASEF gets its budget fund by contributing designated amount of their own accords, as for the governments of ASEM member countries. And, most of the ASEF’s projects were funded by partner organizations and private entrepreneurs. Since joining ASEM, Myanmar is contributing its annual fees to ASEF.

The board of the central authority for ASEF is the Board of Governors [BOG]. Governors are appointed on the basis of one governor from a country by ASEM member countries. Generally, diplomats from respective countries, entrepreneurs, ex-government officials or well-known persons are appointed. The governor appointed by Myanmar is the Myanmar ambassador to Singapore, U Htay Aung. BOG always lays down principles of ASEF.

Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director represent for the Secretariat of ASEF. Those from Asia and Europe take these post with 4-year-tenure alternately. Currently, the Executive Director is Mr. Karsten Warnecke of Germany, with Mr. Sun Xiangyang of China being Deputy Executive Director.

ASEM and Myanmar

After becoming a member country starting from ASEM Summit held in Hanoi, Vietnam in 2004, Myanmar took part in every ASEM meeting. Under the agreement from ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, designation of the status of the representative who will attend the ASEM Summit is under the authority of the respective country and its decision must be accepted by the remaining member countries. Though head of the government was invited to attend the ASEM Summit, 2004, the Minister for the Office of the Prime Minister was present, on his behalf. Starting from ASEM Summit 9 held in Vientiane, Lao PDR in 2012, Head of State, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar started to attend the ASEM Summit.

(To be continued)

Translated by Khin Maung Oo

The past, the present and the future of ASEM

(Continued from 19-11-2017)

ASEM was founded on 1 March 1996. The body was formed at the ASEAN-EU Summit which was also participated by the People’s Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea. The venue of the Summit was Bangkok, Thailand.

As I have mentioned earlier, the ASEM has three pillars. They are the political pillar, economic pillar and the cultural, social and educational pillar. Their aim is to establish firm relations between Asia and Europe to harmoniously shape the global economic and political sectors. The summit of the heads of state/government and the meeting of the foreign affairs ministers are held once every two years. But the meeting of the foreign affairs ministers is held in the years in which no summit is held. If the summit is held this year, a foreign affairs ministers meeting is held next year. Apart from said meetings, the meetings at different levels of officials in connection with the ASEM pillars are also held. ASEM has 51 member states including Myanmar. ASEAN Secretariat and EU are also the ASEM’s institutional members. So we can say that ASEM has 53 members. As I have mentioned earlier the first ASEM Summit was held in Bangkok, Thailand on 1 and 2 March 1996. London of Britain hosted the second ASEM Summit on 3-4 April 1998: Seoul of the Republic of Korea held the third ASEM Summit on 20-22 October 2000; Copenhagen of Denmark the fourth summit on 22-24 September 2002; Hanoi of Vietnam the fifth summit on 8-9 October 2004; Helsinki of Norway the sixth summit on 10-11 September 2006; Beijing of China the seventh summit on 24-25 October 2008; Brussels of Belgium the eighth summit on 4-5 October 2010; Vientiane of Laos the ninth summit on 5-6 November 2012; Milan of Italy the tenth summit on 16-17 October 2014, and Ulaanbaatar of Mongolia the 11th Summit on 15-16 July 2016 respectively. The first ASEM Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting was held in Singapore in 1997. Myanmar hosted the 13th meeting this year.

Apart from the ASEM Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting, there are also the ASEM Financial Ministers Meeting, the ASEM Culture Ministers Meeting, the ASEM Economic Ministers Meeting, the ASEM Education Ministers Meeting, the ASEM Labour and Employment Ministers Meeting, the ASEM Transport Ministers Meeting and the ASEM Environment Ministers Meeting. In the year 2017, the ASEM Education Ministers

Meeting was held in Seoul of the Republic of Korea on 9-10 May, the ASEM Economic Ministers Meeting was also held in Seoul of the Republic of Korea on 21-22 September; the ASEM Transport Ministers Meeting in Bali of Indonesia on 26-28 September.

Now we are going to see how ASEM works. The ASEM Summit and the ASEM Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting are the main venues where political dialogue between Asia and Europe is held. Senior Officials Meeting-SOM of the ministries of foreign affairs of ASEM member states can be said the bureaucracy machinery where all the functions of ASEM are coordinated. There are also the Asia Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting-ASEP, the Asia Europe Business Forum-AEBF, and the Asia Europe People’s Forum-AEPF which are the joint participants of the political dialogue between the two continents. Other remaining tasks of the ASEM are the meeting in connection with the ASEM pillars. The significance of the ASEM is that the Asia Europe Foundation-ASEF is a body that enhances mutual understanding and cooperation between Asia and Europe. The Singapore-based the Asia Europe Foundation-ASEF is a non-profit organization. The ASEF has connections with 125 organizations that are implementing about 30 projects annually in Asia and Europe through partnership. ASEM has no Secretariat. In fact, the ASEM foreign affairs ministers and their senior officials do the coordinating work of the continental body. Their functions are assisted by four coordinators. The coordinators are rendering assistance especially in the informal meetings. Of the four coordinators, two represent Asia and the other two represent Europe.

Engagement is the core of ASEM functions. And the engagements are based on flexibility, transparency, and freedom. Most of them are through informal meetings. In concluding my article, I would like to present an excerpt of the book “The Future of ASEM and its Vision for the 21st Century” written by Foreign Affairs Minister of Greece Kikotsias on 11 July 2016, which said, I would like to stress that in order for ASEM to be able to provide added value, it has to maintain its informal character; strengthen its coordination mechanisms, increase civil society input, improve the quality of its profile and finally, prepare an Action Plan which would outline the key issues for dialogue and joint initiatives in the years ahead.”

Translation Tin Maung Than

Foundation laied to build new Station Hospital in MraukU held

FOUNDATION laying ceremony for building new station hospital in Myaung Bway Village, MraukU Hospital, Rakhine State was held yesterday morning at the site of construction.

Attended at the ceremony were Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar H.E Dr Ito Sumardi, Ministry of Health and Sports' Director-General Dr Moe Win, Rakhine State cabinet's officials, Rakhine State head of the hospital Dr Shwe Thein, MraukU District General Administration Department's deputy head U Soe Win and officials and villagers from Myaung Bwe, Paung

Toke, Nan Kyar, Bu Talone.

The Indonesian Ambassador delivered the speech, in which he said that the station hospital is being reconstructed for the development of Rakhine region, with the aim to assist the health care of the people in the villages.

Then, the Indonesian Ambassador and party visited Archaeology and National Museum in MraukU and viewed the archaeological artworks and Rakhine ethnic people's utensils displayed. They also visited Koethoung Pagoda.— District (IPRD) ■



Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar H.E Dr Ito Sumardi hears a report presented by an official. **PHOTO: IPRD**



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye holds talks with Foreign Minister of Indonesia H.E Ms. Retno L.P Marsudi. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye receives H.E Ms. Retno L.P Marsudi

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye received the Foreign Minister of Republic of Indonesia H.E Ms. Retno L.P Marsudi yesterday evening at the Makhalar Hall of the ministry.

During the meeting, the Indonesian foreign minister discussed asking that what sectors

his country can cooperate in the works of UEHRD and Rakhine State Advisory Commission. The union minister discussed back regarding UEHRD's works being implemented with three goals, cooperation works for repatriation being carried out by Myanmar-Bangladesh bilateral agreement, the situation of receiving centers, the

socioeconomic programs for resettlements and developments to be carried out according to disasters management law, the performances of nine tasks forces of UEHRD, regional transport communication and electricity projects being carried out and the situation to be involved at UEHRD's performances. — Myanmar News Agency ■

State Counsellor meets Chinese FM

FROM PAGE-1

Later, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko and Chinese Foreign Minister Mr. Wang Yi formally unveiled the signboard of the Chinese Cultural Bureau in Yangon.

Afterwards, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Chinese Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. Wang Yi met the press.

At the press meeting Mr. Wang Yi said that since his first meeting with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi he has had the desire to promote Sino-Myanmar cooperation. He met with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi during his Myanmar visit to attend the 13th ASEM meeting. The discussions were centered on further promotion of bilateral cooperation. China supports the current government's endeavours to realize the public aspiration. China encourages Myanmar to develop its economy and improve the people's social lives. China renders cooperation and support for Myanmar's peace and national reconciliation process. The country also

gave assistance for the success of the 13 ASEM foreign affairs ministers meeting. As regards mutual cooperation, the Chinese Foreign Affairs Minister recounted his meeting with the Myanmar counterpart during which serious discussions were made on economic cooperation and a corridor for facilitating bilateral cooperation. The corridor will pass through Mandalay Region before reaching Yangon in the east and Kyaukphyu in the west. It is a part of the One Belt and One Road. The corridor is the vital part for further enhancing bilateral cooperation. Mr. Wang Yi said he accepted Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's view on Rakhine issue. Myanmar and Bangladesh should solve the issue through dialogue.

The UN General Assembly needs to render assistance for the realization of the dialogue. Myanmar has already agreed on the holding of bilateral talks. The issue should be divided into three sectors in solving it. The first one is to restore peace and stability and a ceasefire, the second is to find a better way

for the dialogue and the third is the launching of a poverty alleviation campaign after a quick agreement. The basic factor of the lack of peace and stability is poverty. More international aid is needed for poverty alleviation. As Sino-Myanmar cooperation has reached a new chapter assistance will be provided for the social and economic progress of Myanmar.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said Myanmar and China are friends enjoying mutual respect and understanding on the same level despite the huge difference in strength and power. The equal fraternal spirit is a requisite as well as an appropriate measure for bilateral cooperation that ensures proper progress. Myanmar's main requirement is peace and stability as well as progress. The cooperation and participation of China, a friendly neighbor of Myanmar is of vital importance in the endeavours for fulfilling the requirement. Cooperation through the detailed coordination based on various factors will provide rapid thrust for Myanmar's peace,

stability and progress.

She said Myanmar values China's understanding of the Rakhine issue which is much complicated and delicate. The three sectors or points proposed by the Chinese Foreign Affairs Minister agree with the view of Myanmar. Myanmar's insistence on the rule of law is for stability and ceasing conflicts. Myanmar is desirous of solving the issue through bilateral talks with Bangladesh. Development and poverty alleviation is the hope and goal of the government not only for Rakhine State but also for the entire country. China's assistance as a friend in need amidst the many problems is so much encouraging for Myanmar. May there be eternal friendship between the eternal neighbors China and Myanmar, she prayed.

In answering the question raised by MITV on behalf of the local media, Chinese Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. Wang Yi said China's hope for Myanmar is its peace and stability which is divided into three sectors. China has listened to the voices of Myanmar and Bangladesh. China

hopes further talks between the two countries.

As regards the question raised by Xinhua on behalf of foreign media, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said the principle progress in the relations between the two countries is the bilateral understanding. It is the most important progress as such degree of bilateral understanding can solve any kind of problem. Myanmar favours not only the Belt and Road initiative, but also any beneficial matter or project that serves mutual interest. Myanmar's main goal is the further strengthening of people-to-people friendship. She expressed hope to deal with the development projects in connection with Belt and Road initiative in Beijing soon.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi hosted a luncheon for Minister Mr. Wang Yi at Sofitel Hotel. Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko, and U Kyaw Tin and officials were also present. The Chinese Minister was accompanied by the Chinese Ambassador and officials. — Kyaw The Ein, Kyaw Htaik Soe, Myo Myint ■

Our village is peaceful, we want no more violence



U Lin Lin
(Chief of Nyaung Chaung Village Tract)



Kasein
(Tayetpyin Village resident)



Eislam
(U Maung Sein) (66 year old resident of Tayetpyin Village)



Mahmet Ismai
(Resident of Payarpyin village, Buthidaung Township)



Mohammed Zubai
(Resident of Aungba Village, Buthidaung Township)

By-News Team
Photo-Phoe Taung, Nay Lin

AFTER the terrorist attacks by ARSA in Yathedaung, Maung-taw and Buthidaung townships in Rakhine State, many Islamic people from local villages have fled to Bangladesh. However there are some Islamic people who have remained in their villages and continue to live and work there peacefully.

The media group interviewed some of the Islamic people who remained and the village leaders on the challenges that they face and the possible reasons some Islamic people have fled abroad.

Kasein
(Tayetpyin Village resident)

I sell betel nut in Nyaung Chaung Market and I have 5 family members. One of my daughters made her own decision to go to Bangladesh with her husband on 19 October. The husband calls me and says it's difficult living over there. Our village is peaceful for now and we want no violence. Because of the restriction to remain at home before 6am and 6pm, there isn't much work to do and so some moved to Bangladesh to find work but it isn't going well for them over there.

Eislam
(U Maung Sein) (66 year old resident of Tayetpyin Village)

Our village is peaceful although there are some people who've gone to Bangladesh. I think it's because there's no food or work here; it's a poor village. We cut timber and fish for food so the imposed curfew is a real hindrance. The people who fled abroad are neither well off or well educated; they are mostly poor. I think the terrorists are doing these attacks to gain money. They've built



Fawbi Mamoud
(Resident of Du-O-The Village, Buthidaung Township)

buildings abroad and I think they are using us because we are not so educated.

Mahmet Ismai

(Resident of Payarpyin village, Buthidaung Township)

I have 15 family members. I heard that a neighboring village was burnt down and the people fled abroad. They can't retreat into the hills, they can't go to the cities, they have no work or money so they travel to other countries.

The government supplies rice, lentils and onions but some have such a big family that the ration is usually not enough. Those who are little well-off remain here but some have fled because they heard they have to register for an NVC (National Verification Card). There has been no problem in this village in 2012 or 2016.

Mohammed Zubai
(Resident of Aungba Village, Buthidaung Township)

My family and I have always lived here. I graduated from the Defense College. After Article 144 was enforced the people here can't gather timber or fish anymore so I think that's why they went abroad. The government gives out rations but there are just too many people for it to be



Abdumalik (Elder of Kadi Village)

enough. The terrorist attacks have also slowed down or halted businesses.

Fawbi Mamoud

(Resident of Du-O-The Village, Buthidaung Township)

My family owns 20 acres of farmland. We don't need to go away since we have farm work to do. Some people left because they're afraid for their lives but I don't know what the reason for their fear is. Still others leave because there is no work for them here. Up till 15 September there have been over a thousand people who left this place.

Abdumalik
(Elder of Kadi Village)

After the attacks on 25 August about 900 hundred villagers left the village for abroad. As an elder I tried to persuade them not to go but because of restricted travel and other people from other villages are also leaving, I couldn't do anything. We've receive rations and support three or five times already. I don't want anyone else to leave because here we can fish and reap our crops.

Abdu Ramah
(Chief of Du-O-The Village, Buthidaung Township)

About 1,500 people from our village have fled from here.



Abdu Ramah (Chief of Du-O-The Village, Buthidaung Township)

The reason is that most of our villagers go work in Rakhine villages but after they were restricted from entering work has been slow for them. Administrative bodies and the Red Cross provide us with support from time to time. We haven't had contact with the people who've left.

Kyaw Zin Win
(Chief of Payarpyin village tract, Buthidaung Township)

There are three villages in our village tract including an ethnic village and a Bengali village.

The residents of Payarpyin and Aungpa Bengali village make up over 6,000 villagers. Our Rakhine Gantgaw Myaing village has over 400 villagers. Most of the villagers left for abroad a week after the attacks on 25 August.

I heard that the majority left because of difficulty with getting work and food. Some of the villagers and the administrative bodies are providing food and the Tatmadaw donated some clothing. Even though Article 144 was enforced, it is still possible to work between 6am and 6 pm.

They can work in the fields, fish or tend to the cattle. The area around here didn't have any problems on 25 August and we've had Bengali



Kyaw Zin Win (Chief of Payarpyin village tract, Buthidaung Township)

people pass through here on their way to work. There are no religious restrictions or restrictions of any kind here.

U Lin Lin
(Chief of Nyaung Chaung Village Tract)

No one has left our villages recently although some time ago about 800 Bengali villagers have left.

I asked the village leaders why they left and they said most of the villagers' responses were that they had no reason to stay here anymore.

There isn't any threats or coercion here and I tried to persuade them from leaving. We have always lived and worked side by side peacefully. There are 840 households with 5,632 villagers living here.

The total number of people who've left our village so far is around 1,493 people and I think they left because they were worried about their future.

I've asked some of them what their reason for leaving is and they say it's because they can't go out to work anymore. Administrative bodies and humanitarian organizations have provided us with supplies and food but people still leave the villages.

Our village has had no problems in October 2016 and August 2017. ■

Schools in Maungtaw, Rakhine State reopens



School children doing their exercise. **PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG**



Children on their way to school. **PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG**

SCHOOLS that were temporarily closed due to ARSA terrorist attacks in Rakhine State on 25 August were reopened in early October.

Kanyin Tann Post Primary Schools in Maungtaw which was reopened from the first week of the month and attended by Islamic and other students and they can now study in the school peacefully.

The headmistress of the school Daw Khin Thet said, "Our school was reopened on 3 November and most are Islamic students, a few are Hindu. At the beginning, there were about two students who came and studied in the school but now even over 100 are studying peacefully.

Students who are attending from the Kindergarten to sixth grade, a total of 1,854 students, are being taken care of by 15 local education staffs. The school reopening plan was being supervised by Ministry of Education.

Students are Islamic and Hindus from Kanyin Tan ward in Maungtaw Township.

"A storm named Mora which hit Western Rakhine State



Children of Islamic faith pursuing education peacefully. **PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG**

on 30 May 2017 destroyed some class rooms and building of the schools including roofs and now we need a new school building for our students," said headmistress Daw Khin Thet.

Headmistress Daw Khin Thet said that since the cyclone destroyed the building, all the students have to be combined in one room and the noise prevents effective teaching from taking

place. "That's why we need a new school building quickly and many parents are requesting it as well," she said.

When asked if there were students who fled with their families abroad after the terrorist attacks, the headmistress said there were some instances like that. "Yesterday during roll call, there were ten students missing," she said.

U Aye Kwaye, a primary teacher, said school officials and community elders have notified religious buildings and mosques to sent children back to school. U Aye Kwaye said, "After notifying them there has been an increase in the number of students attending."

The Office of the Education Consultant in Maungtaw District announced that there are

128 schools left to be reopened out of the total 184 schools in the district. "There isn't any particular difficulty here. Children will be children and they play while the teacher is teaching," said U Aye Kwaye. "There is a slight language barrier and the Muslim students only attend half the day on Friday because they have to go to the mosque," he said.—News Team (MNA) ■



A teacher giving lectures in a classroom. **PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG**

Residents of Myitkyina Town to receive free eye surgery next month

Win Naing (Kachinmye)

THE free eye care programme of a Buddhist monk is due to take place in the first week of next month in Myitkyina, the capital city of Kachin State, with the organisers inviting residents from all wards/villages across the state who are suffering from eye disease.

This will be the eight time

Sitagu Sayadaw, a well-known Buddhist monk working for people in need of help for decades, has organised this kind of eye care charitable contributions in the region.

Under this programme, the treatment will be offered with compassion to patients of all ages and without religious discrimination at Myitkyina's Sitagu Cakkhudana Hospital

between 4 and 7 December.

U Maung Thein, chair of the hospital's organising committee, said that the Sitagu Cakkhudana Hospital in Myitkyina Township in Kachin State was officially launched in December 2011.

He added that the hospital has offered comprehensive surgical care to 290 patients for the first time. Since its estab-

lishment to date, the hospital provided free eye surgery to about 9,000 people.

Between 1993 and 2016, a total of 388,170 people with eye disorders received eye care while more than 71,000 others underwent surgical treatments provided by eye specialists at Sitagu Cakkhudana hospitals across the country.

The most common eye

diseases in the country are cataracts, glaucoma, corneal diseases, injuries and retinal diseases.

Cataracts are the most common cause of vision loss in people over age 40 in Myanmar. According to the World Health Organisation's assessment, cataracts are responsible for 51 per cent of the world's blindness. ■

Governments keep global climate deal on track despite US pullout

BONN, (Germany) — Almost 200 nations kept a 2015 global agreement to tackle climate change on track on Saturday after marathon talks overshadowed by US President Donald Trump's decision to pull out.

Fijian Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama, presiding at the two-week talks in Bonn, said the outcome "underscores the importance of keeping the momentum and of holding the spirit and vision of our Paris Agreement."

Delegates agreed to launch a process in 2018 to start reviewing existing plans to limit greenhouse gas emissions as part of a long-term effort to ratchet up ambition. It would be called the "Talanoa Dialogue, after a Fijian word for story-telling and sharing experiences.

And they made progress to draft a detailed rule book for the 2015 Paris agreement, which seeks to end the fossil fuel era this century, at the meeting in Bonn that ran overnight



Steam rises from a coal power plant of RWE, one of Europe's biggest electricity companies in Neurath, north-west of Cologne, Germany, on 10 November 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

beyond a planned ending on Friday.

The rule book, covering aspects such as how to report and monitor each nation's greenhouse gas emissions, is due to be ready by December next year.

Many delegates said the work needed to go faster.

"Right now we're

moving at a brisk walk, so all countries will need to really pick up the pace from here," said Jose Sarney Filho, Brazil's minister for the environment.

Gebbru Jember Endalew of Ethiopia, who leads the group of least developed countries, also said "many areas of work are still lagging behind", despite steps forward in

Bonn.

The Paris pact aims to limit a rise in average world temperatures to "well below" two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial times, ideally 1.5 (5.4F) to limit more droughts, floods, heatwaves and rising sea levels.

But existing policies are on track to cause a

rise of about three degrees (5.4F) by 2100. The Talanoa Dialogue would be a step towards tighter policies.

The Bonn meeting was under the shadow of Trump's decision in June to withdraw from the Paris accord and instead promote the coal and oil industry. Trump doubts that man-made emissions are the prime cause of rising temperatures.

No other nations have followed suit and even nations whose economies depend on fossil fuels have rallied around.

"Everyone got together and said 'we have to protect the world. We have to protect the Paris Agreement'. Countries are moving forward," United Arab Emirates Climate Minister Thani Ahmed Al Zeyoudi told Reuters.

One senior European diplomat said Trump's decision had "sedated" the talks into a numbed sense of unity, avoiding major confrontations to underscore that the main

faultline on policy was between Trump and the rest of the world.

Washington retains its place in the talks for now because the Paris pact stipulates that no country can formally pull out before November 2020.

The fossil fuel industry was very much under the spotlight during the talks. The US administration's only event in Bonn was to promote coal, which jarred with many other nations who wanted talks to focus on renewable energies.

In seeming defiance, 20 countries and two US states joined an international alliance to phase out coal from power generation before 2030. Environmental groups said the outcome in Bonn was a step in the right direction, but many issues needed to be resolved over the next year, including financial support for developing nations who want to cut emissions and for adaptation.—Reuters ■

Kids' floors at remodeled department store drive sales growth

TOKYO — Remodeled children's floors at major Japanese department stores are seen as a growth pillar that could help revive sales, attracting working parents who are willing to spend more on their kids.

Customer traffic has increased following changes in the way baby items are displayed, grouping them by category or children's age, rather than categorizing them by brand. New services, such as Lego block courses, have also yielded positive results amid the trend of Japanese fathers becoming more involved in childrearing.

Takashimaya department store has renovated its baby item sections at six outlets in areas including Tokyo and Osa-

ka since September last year. Sales at five of the six stores in the year through August have soared roughly 24 per cent from a year earlier.

A variety of buggies now feature adjustable handles able to accommodate use by taller men, as well as women. The children's floor "has become the entrance (of department stores) for women in their 30s who have given birth," a Takashimaya official said.

In March, Takashimaya's Shinjuku outlet in Tokyo remodeled its baby item section so its customers can pick products by use or child's age rather than brands. Part of the floor for early elementary school children was also renovated in September.

"As you can buy an-

thing online nowadays, we hope to provide a place where you can experience all kind of things at our store," an official at the Shinjuku outlet said. The store is also planning to set up a space where children can practice bouldering and jump rope.

At an annex building of Sogo department store's Chiba outlet, which was partially renovated in September, children can now take Lego block courses. The outlet plans to open a space where families can play table tennis in late November.

"We hope our children's floor will become a magnet for moms, dads and grandparents," a Sogo official said.—Kyodo News ■

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS MYANMA RAILWAYS INVITATION TO SUBMIT EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FROM DEVELOPERS

1. In line with the National Development Plan, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has been identifying the economic potential to contribute to the country's economic development. As our endeavours for national development, Myanmar Railways (MR) is committed to develop Bauktaw Station Area as Rail Concerned Business, High-rise Building, Comprehensive Development in the planned area of 1.68 ha (4.16 acres) and Thitsar Road Over Bridge Construction and Transport System also the essential part of the Greater Yangon City development.
2. During previous Tendering process Myanmar Railways was enable to select successful developer.
3. Myanmar Railways now invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from reputable local, international or joint venture developers to undertake design and build works for Bauktaw Station Area as Rail Concerned Business, High-rise Building, Comprehensive Development, Thit Sar Road Over Bridge Construction.
4. Interested Developers shall submit EOI documents to prove themselves capable enough for the development. MR shall be in charge of the selection of potential developer as prequalification.
5. Developers passing the prequalification shall be invited to prepare and submit technical and Financial proposal documents.
6. The successful Tender (hereinafter referred to as the 'Concessionaire'), shall be responsible for designing, financing, procurement, construction and maintenance of the project and in accordance with the provisions of a concession agreement to be entered into between the successful Tender and the Myanmar Railways.
7. The EOI in original hard copy, one duplicate copy and an electronic copy of the EOI in CD ROM shall be submitted to the Deputy General Manager, Supply Department, Myanmar Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar, Phone;+95-1-291985, 291994 or 393424 not later than 14:00 hours on (19th) December 2017. Submission by email shall not be entertained.
8. Myanmar Railways reserves the right to accept or reject any EOI, and to annual the selection process and reject all expression at any time, without there by incurring any liability to the affected Developers or Myanmar Railways.

Managing Director
Myanmar Railways
Ministry of Transport and Communications



The third round of Level (3) stage of peace music festival in progress. **PHOTO: HLA MOE**

Peace Music Festival starts 3rd round of level 3 in Yangon

Zaw Gyi

THE third round of Level (3) stage of peace music festival was held yesterday night at Hexagon Complex, Shwe Htut Tin, East Horse Race Course Road, Tamway in Yangon.

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and cabinet member ministers, Yangon region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun, Yangon region Deputy Hluttaw Speaker U Lin

Naing Myint, Attorney General of Yagon Region U Han Htoo and delegation led by Director General of Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) U Myint Htwe and officials and invited guests attended.

At the ceremony, Say Paing Construction Co. Ltd donated Ks 10 million, U Thiha Aung and wife Daw Nan Saw Htwe family from MY Multi Media Co., Ltd donated 2 million kyat and Director General of MRTV, U Myint Htwe accepted the donations and gave back the certificates of honors.

The festival is being held

across the nation with the aim of arousing public awareness and support of, and cooperation in the national reconciliation, the national unity, the internal peace and the democratic federal state.

Level 1 was held at Taunggyi, Myitkyina, Mawlamyine, Lashio, Patheingyi, Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Sittway, Pha Ahn and Kalay. At the end of level 2, judges selected 11 contestants for the Level 3 stage.

The code numbers for SMS voting are (7676) for MPT network, (6600) for Telenor network and (6031) for Ooredoo network.

The SMS votes shall be sent within 48 hours of the contest.

The number of votes for each contestant will be announced on Myanmar Television Programmes and Music Festival official Facebook Page.

Event 1 of Level 3 of the peace music festival was held on 5 November in Nay Pyi Taw, event 2 and event 3 of Level 3 were held in Yangon on 12 November and 19 November. Seven contestants out of nine were selected in event 3 of Level 3 of the peace music festival. Event 4 of Level 3 of the peace music festival will be held on 26 No-

vember.

The Level 3 event will be held in Yangon and the 11 contestants will have to take part in the Grand Final for first, second and third and seven consolation prizes.

The first prize winner will get K 30 million, the second prize winner K 20 million, the third prize winner K 10 million and each consolation prize winner K 3 million.

MRTV is broadcasting live program of the Music Festival at 8 pm on TV and Facebook page www.facebook.com/peacemusicfestival. ■

Pa-O people celebrate New Year Festival in Thaton Township

Thet Oo (Thaton)

THE New Year Festival of Pa-O ethnic people was held in the precinct of Shwesayan Pagoda in Thaton Township of Mon State on Sunday morning.

The annual festival falls on the 1st Waxing of Nadaw, the ninth month of the traditional Myanmar lunar calendar.

Pa-O people yearly celebrate this kind of event for the purpose of promoting its culture, history, literature and preserving its own language.

This is the second time the festival has been organised by Pa-O Literature and Cultural Association of Mon State, said its chairman U Khun Shwe Thin.

On that day, Pa-O people made several donations including offering day meal and rice to Buddhist monks from over 100 Pa-O monasteries.

The association presented awards to 70 outstanding students who passed the matriculation examination with distinctions in 2016-2017 academic year.

Pa-O is the seventh largest ethnic nationality in Myanmar. They mostly reside in Kayin, Kayah and Mon states as well as Sagaing Region.

Currently, the Pa-O New Year Festival Efforts is held only in Thaton Township. Efforts will be made to yearly celebrate the festival in other regions and states next years. ■



Pa-O people celebrate New Year Festival in Thaton Township in Mon State. **PHOTO: THET OO (THATON)**

Myanmar artist wins 1st place in Category 36 of 2017 American Arts Awards

U HLA TUN, a Myanmar fine artist, ranked first in Category 36 of 2017 American Arts Awards among international artists from more than 50 countries, including some ASEAN member countries, Asian countries and western states.

Under the title of "Landscape with life", his artwork "Going to the field" was selected as the world's best landscape with life, followed by Australia, China, Canada and the US. Under the same title in Category 36, his work "Custom of the Village" was ranked fourth place while "Summer dry zone" was ranked fifth place.

The first prize winner U Hla Tun was born in Mandalay in 1952.

His first masters were his grand uncle and brother. He started drawing commercial works in 1972, creating posters, designs and illustrations of religious events, he then began to paint oil paintings depicting mostly rural scenes and traditional culture of Myanmar. He took part in 60 group events and



Winning works of Artist U Hla Tun. PHOTO: SUPPLY

solo art exhibitions so far.

Thom Bierdz, self-taught artist and actor, co-founded this opportunity to bring new artists from around the globe into contact with American galleries. The programme welcomes painters, photographers, sculptors and digital artists from all countries. —GNLM ■



First Ever Yangon 100PLUS Active Run Event takes place with 5,000 Runners

The first ever Yangon 100PLUS Active Run Marathon event supported by the Yangon City Development Committee ("YCDC") and Ministry of Health and Sports, took place yesterday morning in Myanmar's commercial capital, drawing a strongre-

sponse from the public with approximately 5,000 runners who took part across two different categories — 10km Challenge and 3.5km Fun Run/Walk.

The event saw runners filled with enthusiasm and excitement take to the Yangon streets for their run.



Image of runners at hydration station — Image credit to 100PLUS. PHOTO: SUPPLY

Organized to help grow the local running community and to promote the importance of healthy lifestyle to people in the country, 100PLUS aims to make the marathon one of the country's most recognized and anticipated annual sporting events, bringing together runners, supporters, volunteers, corporates and the wider community.

Yangon 100PLUS Active Run 2017 Winners

The first of the two race categories, the 10km Challenge, was flagged off at Thuwunna Football Stadium at 5.30am by U Zaw Aye Maung, Ministry of Rakhine Ethnic Affairs, Daw Hlaing Maw Oo, Secretary of YCDC, Daw Thwe Thwe Oo, Member (4) of YCDC, U Soe Aung, Prin-

icipal, Ministry of Health and Sports, and Mr Freddy Oh, Country Manager, F&N Myanmar.

In the men's category, Ko San Naing from Myanmar came in first place with a strong time of 33 minutes 11 seconds. Coming in second was Ko Wint Naing Htun with a time of 34 minutes 10 seconds while Ko Htway Swe finished third with a time of 34 minutes 14 seconds.

In the women's category, Ma Thida Cho from Myanmar won first place after clocking 41 minutes 42 seconds. Finishing behind her were Ma Nilar San in second place (42 minutes 19 seconds) and Ma Myint Myint Aye in third place (42 minutes 30 seconds). —GNLM ■

U Thayne Soe (70) years

Son of U Sein Lin and the late Daw Hla Sein, beloved husband of Daw Swanti, residing at University Avenue, 77(E), Shwe Taung Kyar (1) Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon, eldest brother of U Soe Aung and Daw Li Li Han, U Kyaw Thein, Dr Ohmar Moe Myint and U Moe Myint, father of Daw Sandy Soe, Daw Saw Marlar Soe and U Nyan Phyto Min, Daw Suu Myat Soe and U Ponnya Kyaw, Daw Su Pyae Sone Soe, grandfather of Ma Shin Mya Kha Kyaw, Maung Agga Min, Ma Piti Min, Maung Min Myat Ponnya, peacefully passed away at his residence at 10:00 a.m. on 19 November 2017 (Sunday). The funeral ceremony will be held at Yeway Cemetery at 4:00 p.m. on 21 November 2017 (Tuesday). (Buses will leave from the residence at 2:30 p.m.)

Bereaved Family

Arts Exhibition, in commemoration of Artist U Kan Nyunt's centenary celebration held

Arts Exhibition, as a mark of 100th anniversary of Artist U Kan Nyunt is taking place at the school of painting and sculpture in Aung Myay Tha Zan Township, Mandalay from 18 to 20 November.

The gallery displays 130 artworks of U Kan Nyunt including 50 paintings owned by his family and other paintings owned by painting collectors. Painting students alumni also exhibited 30 paintings of U Kan Nyunt in other gallery, selling souvenirs, T-shirts and books as a remembrance of U Kan Nyunt.

The exhibition displays painting materials used by U Kan Nyunt, U Kan Nyunt's rare graphite paintings and wood paintings, oil paintings and watercolor paintings.

The highlight program of the exhibition, being pleased by international tourists and guests is the portrait of lecturer Daw La Lin Lin Aye in sitting parition drawn by painting students alumni.

The painting enthusiasts who come to the exhibition visit other galleries and buy the artwork albums of U Kan Nyunt. — Ngway Nadi (Myit Nge)



PHOTO: NGWAY NADI (MYIT NGE)

Myanmar to compete in International U-21 Vietnam's ThanhNiên Cup

THE Myanmar Under 21 National Football team will compete in the International U-21 ThanhNiên Newspaper Cup that will be hosted in Viet Nam.

A total of five teams; Vietnam U-21, Vietnam U-19, Myanmar, Thailand and Japanese Yokohama U-21 club will compete in the tournament.

The Myanmar team will be headed by its head coach U Kyi Lwin.

The competition will be held from 12 to 22 December and all the matches will be played in a round robin system.

Myanmar will play against Vietnam U-19 on 12 December, Thailand U-21 on 14 December,

Vietnam U-21 on 16 December and Japanese Yokohama U-21 on 18 December.

The top two teams, which will get the highest marks, will advance to the finals and the other two teams, the third and fourth most mark scorers, will fight for third place.

The International U-21

ThanhNiên Newspaper Cup is an annual football tournament held in Vietnam.

The tournament was officially launched in 2007 by ThanhNiên News in cooperation with the Vietnam Football Federation, with the aim of improving youth football in Vietnam.

— KyawZin Lin ■



Barcelona's Luis Suarez.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Suarez inspires Barca, Real and Atletico in derby stalemate

BARCELONA — Real Madrid and Atletico each slipped 10 points behind La Liga leaders Barcelona after an intense Madrid derby finished goalless and the Catalans picked up an 11th victory in 12 games by winning 3-0 at Leganes.

Atletico forward Angel Correa wasted a glorious chance to open the scoring in the first derby at the Wanda Metropolitano stadium when he was through on goal in the third minute, while Toni Kroos missed Real's clearest opportunity. Raphael Varane rescued Real by heading away Kevin Gameiro's chipped shot in the second half. At the other end, Atletico goalkeeper Jan Oblak made two late saves to thwart Cristiano Ronaldo and Kroos as Real finished stronger in the first league derby to finish 0-0 in more than 12 years.

Barca striker Luis Suarez snapped a goal drought spanning five games by scoring twice in his side's 3-0 win at Leganes, while substitute Paulinho poked in the third goal in stoppage time.

Barca lead the standings on 34 points from 12 games, seven clear of Valencia who visit Espanyol on Sunday, while Real are third on 24, level on points with Atletico in fourth. Sevilla are fifth after coming from behind to beat Celta Vigo 2-1 at home. The intense rivalry between Real and Atletico could be felt throughout the game, with Correa booting a ball at Karim Benzema's face when the French striker was on the floor or when Stefan Savic cynically hauled down Kroos. —Reuters ■

Manchester clubs win again as United stars return

LONDON — Premier League leaders Manchester City brushed aside Leicester City 2-0 for their 16th successive win in all competitions as Manchester United welcomed back long-term absentees Paul Pogba and Zlatan Ibrahimovic in a 4-1 rout of Newcastle United.

With Tottenham Hotspur losing ground after a 2-0 derby defeat at neighbours Arsenal, the league continues to look an

argument between Manchester's big two who are separated by eight points.

A tap-in by Gabriel Jesus and a stunning strike from Kevin De Bruyne provided the City goals against a Leicester team who have often troubled them in the past.

The home side went close to equalising when Harry McGuire hit the post after the break, but City went straight up

the other end and put the result beyond doubt with a stunning counter-attack that De Bruyne rounded off with an unstoppable 20-yard shot in the 49th minute.

The only concern for City manager Pep Guardiola was an injury to John Stones, who hobbled off before the break and may not play again this year.

"We are going to miss (John Stones) for a long time, maybe six weeks off," said Guardiola

after the game.

"It is tough because the calendar is so demanding. We don't have many central defenders and they will suffer but we will find a solution."

The successful return of Vincent Kompany from injury will provide compensation although the Belgian was fortunate to escape with a booking for a foul on Jamie Vardy in the third minute.—Reuters ■

Dimitrov snaps Sock jinx, rises to world number three

LONDON — Grigor Dimitrov stood one win away from the biggest title of his career on Saturday after ending his Jack Sock jinx to reach the final of the season-ending ATP Finals at the O2 Arena.

The Bulgarian, finally beginning to look the real deal after year's weighed down by comparisons to Swiss great Roger Federer, produced more dazzling tennis to win 4-6, 6-0, 6-3 and set up a Sunday showdown with fellow debutant David Goffin.

With Federer stunned earlier by Goffin, who Dimitrov thrashed in group play earlier in the week, the door had opened tantalisingly for the 26-year-old to go on and collect the biggest title of his career to date.

But Sock had won their last two meetings having saved match points, most recently at Indian Wells this year, and those demons were lurking for Dimitrov as victory loomed.

Poised for victory at 5-3 40-15 in the decider he made two nervy errors then ballooned a fore-

hand out on a third match point. As proof of his greater mental fortitude these days, however, Dimitrov got the job done at the fourth attempt.

Victory means he will move above Alexander Zverev and end the year as world number three, with only all-time greats Federer and Rafael Nadal ahead of him. —Reuters ■

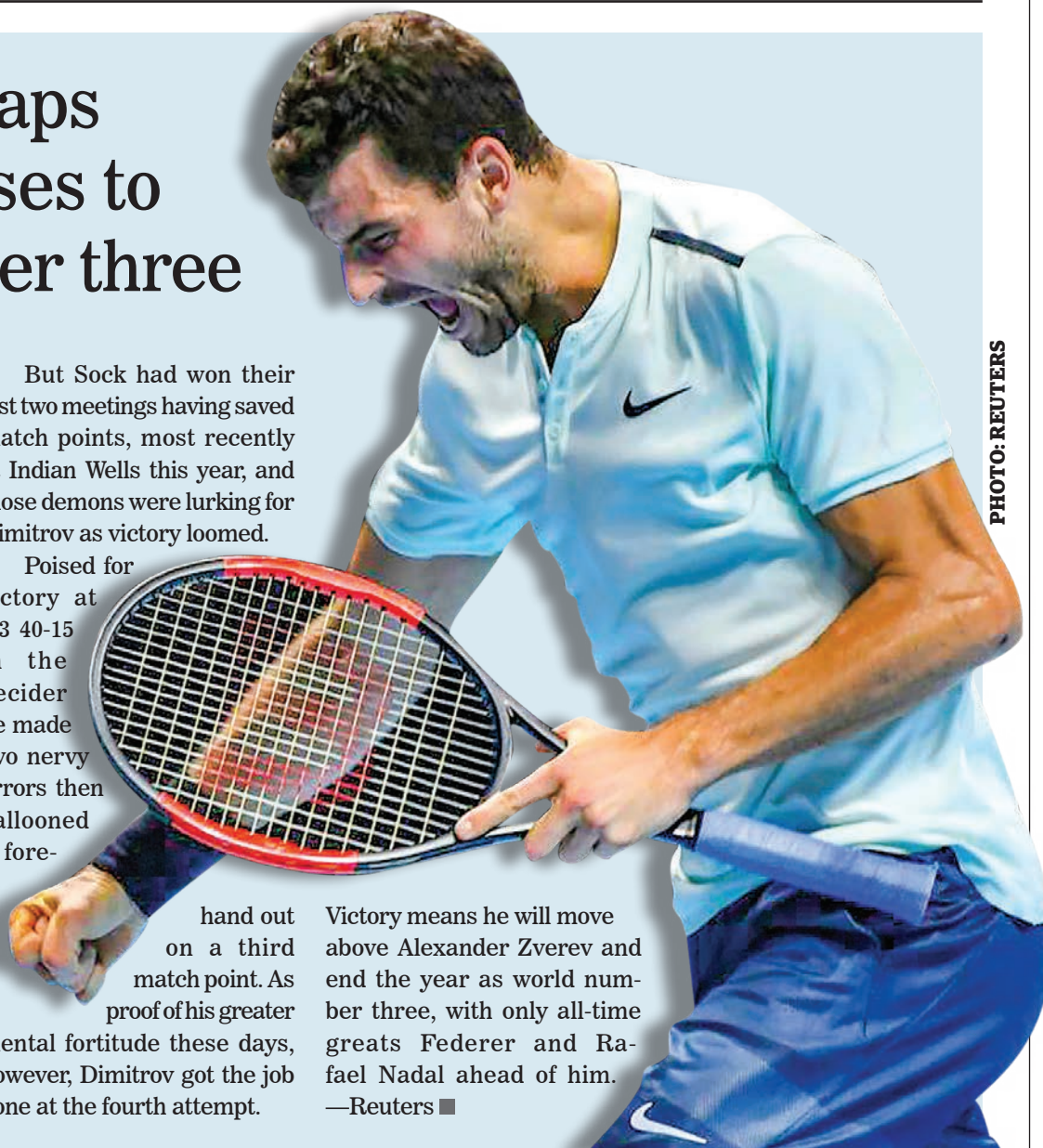


PHOTO: REUTERS