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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Wednesday, 22 November 2017

## AP blamed for distorted report on State Counsellor's comments

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Myanmar Press Council and Myanmar Journalists Union condemned the Associated Press yesterday for misquoting and seriously misrepresenting comments made by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in her opening speech at the ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw.

In her opening remarks, the State Counsellor said that "our world has never been free from

It is regrettable to note that established media like the AP has distorted the meaning of her actual words, accidentally or intentionally.

crises arising from multiple causes. Today we are faced with a new period of global uncertainty and instability. Conflicts around the world are

giving rise to new threats and emergencies; illegal migration, spread of terrorism and violent extremism, social disharmony and even the threat of nuclear war," according to both an official transcript of the speech made available to the media on the same day, and a live broadcast of the event on Myanmar Radio and Television's Facebook page.

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at a news conference held yesterday at the conclusion of the ASEM FMM. **PHOTO: AUNG SHINE OO**

## Cooperation and connectivity achieved at ASEM FMM

A press conference on the 13<sup>th</sup> Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM) was held at Thandar Hall of the Myanmar International Convention Centre-I, Nay Pyi Taw after the conclusion of

the meeting. State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi expressed her hopes that talks with Bangladesh this week will result in a memorandum of understanding on the "safe return"

of refugees who fled to Bangladesh in the past three months.

"We need to do 'everything possible for stability in Rakhine,'" said Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Spain will host the 14<sup>th</sup>

ASEM FMM next year. This year's ASEM FMM was attended by 54 representatives and more than 500 representative team members from 51 Asian and European countries.

**SEE PAGE-3**

## BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

Awarded by FinanceAsia 2017



## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

2<sup>nd</sup> Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 6<sup>th</sup> regular session holds its 10<sup>th</sup> day meeting

By Aung Ye Thwin,  
Aye Aye Thant

At yesterday meeting held at the meeting hall of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, Mahn Win Khaing Than, Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, announced that the Statistical Act (Bill) to be presumed to have been adopted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw was put on record by the Hluttaw.

Afterwards, U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for Transport and Communications clarified matters concerning Myanmar's participation in signing the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Facilitation of Cross-Border Transport of Passengers by Road Vehicles (CBTP).

"The objective of the Framework Agreement is to make it easier for buses and coaches from one of the ASEAN countries to enter another ASEAN country. And it is designed for conveniences in the sectors — transport, tax, immigration and control of infectious diseases. Especially, we have had ASEAN Vision 2020 — Hanoi Project, Vientiane Sustainable Urban Transport Project and Brunei Project. The ASEAN Framework Agreement will be implemented

in 2019. In the implementation of these projects, there include departments such as customs, immigration, insurance, health, agriculture and breeding. If these departments are getting ready, the process for accepting these projects will be carried out. Upon completion of these, we will have many advantages of easy transport between the ASEAN countries, the acquisition of regional knowledge as for tourists, development of the tourism industry and getting job opportunities."

The Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw announced that parliamentarians desirous of discussing the matter be enrolled, followed by clarification from U Nyi Hla Nge, Vice-Chairman of the National Education Policy Commission (NEPC) and U Win Maw Tun, Deputy Minister for Education, over the discussions of Hluttaw Representatives concerning the report of performances of NEPC in the second half of the year. Following that, the report was announced to have been put on record by the Hluttaw.

After that, the Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win and Deputy Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Soe Thein explained



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

to the Hluttaw the matter of borrowing Ks553.543 billion from Central Bank of Myanmar to fill the deficit of the Union Government's Budget Allotment.

Concerning the matter, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw had received the approval of the Hluttaw. In addition to this, the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw reported to the Hluttaw the new designation of duties and authorities of legal affairs and special cases assessment commission of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, getting the approval of Hluttaw.

Hluttaw representatives discussed the report of findings

and conclusions of the Public Accounts Combined Committee for the first 6 months of FY 2017-2018. Dr Khun Win Thaung of constituency 11 in Kachin State said, "We welcome appointments of more medical staff including doctors, but we assume that it is not appropriate to have seen decreasing amounts of teachers. And there are some restrictions in ASEAN region IUU—Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated concerning fish and fishery industry. In case IUU is neglected, EU will take action against such violations.

If so, it will be tantamount

to destruction of the Myanmar's fishery works. So, the Union should make good results from Myanmar's fishery industry." With regard to the report of findings and conclusions, Daw Khin Than Nu of Mindon constituency, U Tin Tun Naing of Seikkhi Khanaungto constituency, Dr. Khin Soe Soe Kyi of Pyay constituency, U Khin Maung Thi of Loilem constituency, Daw Shwe Shwe Sein Latt of constituency 3, Bago Region, U Kyaw Myo Min of Monyo constituency and U Ba Myo Thein of constituency 5 in Yangon Region also discussed this at length. ■



Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung meets German official Mrs. Ina Lepel in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung receives German official

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung received German Federal Foreign Office Asia and Pacific Department director Mrs. Ina Lepel and party in Amyotha Hluttaw J Hall yesterday afternoon.

terday afternoon.

During the meeting matters relating to bilateral relation and cooperation between the parliaments were discussed. —Myanmar News Agency ■

## Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor meets American Congressional delegation led by Senator Jeff Merkley

Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe met the American Congressional Delegation led by Senator Jeff Merkley at the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor yesterday at noon. During the meeting, the two sides discussed matters

relating to the issues in Rakhine State.

Present at the meeting were Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, National Security Advisor U Thaung Tun, Chief Coordinator of UEHRD Dr. Aung Htun

Thet, and officials from the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, as well as the U.S Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Scot Marciel and Congressional delegates.—MNA■



Union Minister for the office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe holds talks with a delegation led by American Congressional Delegation led by Senator Jeff Merkley. **PHOTO: MNA**



# 13<sup>th</sup> ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting concludes

STATE Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said yesterday that she hopes talks with Bangladesh this week will result in a memorandum of understanding on the voluntary return of Muslims who fled to Bangladesh over the past three months.

Her remarks came during the 13<sup>th</sup> Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM), which concluded yesterday morning at MICC-1 Padamya Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

"We can't say whether it has happened or not. As a responsibility of the government, we have to make sure that it won't happen," Daw Aung San Suu Kyi told reporters yesterday in response to a question about human rights violations at the end of a meeting of senior officials at ASEM in Myanmar's capital.

Turning to the question of repatriation of the Muslims in northern Rakhine, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said discussions would be held with the Bangladesh foreign minister tomorrow and Thursday. Officials from both countries began discussions last month on



The 13<sup>th</sup> ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting concludes at MICC-1 Padamya Hall in Nay Pyi Taw on 21 November 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

how to process applications by northern Rakhine Muslims who fled to Bangladesh and want to return to Myanmar.

"We hope that this would result in an MOU signed quickly, which would enable us to start the safe and voluntarily return of all of those who have gone across the border," Daw Aung San Suu

Kyi said.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said Myanmar would follow the framework of an agreement reached in the 1990s to cover the earlier repatriation of the Muslim community.

"It's on the basis of residency...this was agreed by the two governments long time ago with

success, so this will be formula we will continue to follow," she said.

The State Counsellor and foreign affairs minister said the country was doing everything it could to "make sure security is maintained" in Rakhine, but warned that "it takes time" to resolve the issues there.

To conclude the meeting,

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, European Union special representative Minister of Foreign Affairs of Estonia H.E. Mr. Sven Mikser and Spain's Secretary of State H.E. Mr. Ildefonso Castro delivered messages of unity and gratitude. Spain is hosting the 14<sup>th</sup> ASEM FMM meeting.—Myanmar News Agency and Reuters ■

## Cooperation and connectivity achieved at ASEM FMM

### FROM PAGE-1

During the meeting, more than 90 bilateral discussions were held. Negotiating to reach agreement among 51 partner countries is very difficult. Final discussion points were issued yesterday evening and are now confirmed. The chairman's statement will also be posted on the ASEM website for all to study.

The meeting achieved significant progress in this meeting. The meeting was able to implement the ASEM connectivity established in the 11th ASEM Summit held in Mongolia.

In line with the aim of ASEM, an agreement on defining connectivity among ASEM and agreement on scope of work, timetable and ASEM connectivity works were achieved. Defining connectivity is an essential requirement for the aim of increasing connectivity between Asia and Europe. Discussions were successfully held as per the theme of the meeting, "Strengthening partnership for peace and sustainable development."

Meeting attendees also

shared views on handling ASEM cooperation matters for peace and sustainable development in the general meetings of 20 November. The main discussions were sustainable development, regional stability, ASEM partner cooperation, connectivity, prevention and eradication of terrorism and extremism, narcotics, migration, illegal fishing, disarmament, preventing the proliferation of nuclear arms and weapons of mass destruction, cyber security, economic development, expanding high quality basic infrastructure, connecting and performing via regional and international frameworks.

In yesterday's meeting, regional and international matters were discussed practically and openly.

The discussions at the meeting would support the future work processes of ASEM and, in addition to peace and sustainable development, it will be beneficial for the people, said Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said.

Representative of EU and Estonian Foreign Minister H.E.

Mr. Sven Mikser, on behalf of EU, thanked Myanmar for hosting this meeting.

"The aim of this meeting is to increase friendship and cooperation between countries of Asia and Europe. 60 per cent of the world's GDP is from ASEM and ASEM covers 60 per cent of the world's population. This is equivalent to 60 per cent of world trade. In this meeting, we shared views on world events. In the two days, discussions were conducted on security, trade, climate change and sustainable development as well as security matters. The Korean peninsula, difficulties in Ukraine and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons were discussed. We urge the Myanmar government to handle the Rakhine State affair appropriately. This meeting can be said to be a very successful meeting," he said.

14<sup>th</sup> ASEM FMM is to be hosted by Spain and Spanish Secretary of State H.E. Mr. Ildefonso Castro said ASEM was held starting from 1996 with an aim to increase connections between Asia and Europe. It is believed

to have increased connectivity between the people of Asia and Europe.

"The meeting in Myanmar was held to handle common challenges and to share views. We need to work towards basic infrastructure development. People want a better future and a safer situation. Spain is happy and honored to host the forthcoming 2019 ASEM FMM. In 2016, 76 million tourists from all over the world visited Spain. This year, this is expected to increase 10 per cent. We have maintained Spain's cultural heritages and invite all to visit us," he said.

In response to questions raised by the reporters, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said issues related with Rakhine State were discussed yesterday. There are many differing views on implementing the recommendations of the commission led by Mr. Kofi Annan, and it needs to be conducted for the long term. Many Myanmar and Bangladesh bilateral meetings will be held. An MoU need to be signed to repatriate displaced

persons in accordance with the law. Efforts will be made for long-term establishment of peace and security in Rakhine State. Rule of law in Rakhine State was also discussed. Reconstruction and humanitarian assistance could not be done immediately and thus we don't know the exact time frame. But we expect to do it step by step successfully and for this we need international assistance, according to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Continuing her reply to the reporters' question, the State Counsellor said it is difficult to say how soon the bilateral discussions between Bangladesh and Myanmar will be completed.

The discussions on Rakhine issue have been made more than one or two months ago. As the Bangladeshi Foreign Minister is in Myanmar now, the issue will be discussed with officials tomorrow and hope to reach an agreement soon. Repatriation of the displaced persons will be done systematically according to the agreement reached between the two countries.—Myanmar News Agency ■



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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.

## Myanmar Youths can apply for ASEF education programmes

ACCORDING to the Asia Europe Foundation Education Department, Myanmar youths are eligible to apply for ASEF Education Programmes. A representative from each member country will be chosen for programmes, it was learnt.

"One representative from each partnership countries is being chosen. Arrangements will be made for bed and board of every representative by the foundation. A person who will represent for Myanmar will be chosen, hence the chance for youths to apply. Arrangements for application will be described in the Facebook page of ASEF—ASEFedu. In cooperation between ASEF and the Ministry of Education, Myanmar, 8th Model ASEM was held just prior to the ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting. Based on the meeting, it has been arranged for youths rep-



Youths can apply for the Education Programmes of ASEF. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

resenting ASEM countries to take part in the ASEM process", said Ms. Nathalie Sajda of the ASEF Education Department.

A related meeting of the

ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting—8th Model ASEM comprised of more than 150 youths representing 51 ASEM member countries was held last week.

Outlooks of the youths were discussed by two representative youths at the ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting, it was learnt.—Shin Min ■

## Thanlyin Bridge-3 to be constructed as suspension bridge

THE Ministry of Construction is planning to construct a suspension bridge (Thanlyin Bridge-3) to connect Yangon and Thanlyin across the Bago River to provide better transportation and reduce traffic jams, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

The suspension bridge will reportedly be built as soon as possible. The current Thanlyin bridge-1 is aging and is not strong enough for heavy

trucks.

The Thanlyin Bridge-3 project would contribute toward improving transport infrastructure and support local and foreign economic businesses in Thilawa Special Economic zone.

It would also help ensure socio-economic development for people in central and southern Yangon, officials said.

Thanlyin Bridge-3 will be constructed as a suspension

bridge in the middle, with the suspension bridge portion 448 meters long. It also includes two other main construction parts, a 1033 meters-long steel box girder bridge at one end and a 550 meters-long PC box girder bridge at the other end. The Thanlyin Bridge-3 will be constructed beside the old Thanlyin bridge-1.

Thanlyin bridge-2 will be able to accommodate heavy trucks transporting goods be-

tween the Yangon and Thanlyin regions.

Due to its location, Thanlyin bridge-3 will reduce fuel consumption as well as save time for cars/trucks plying between the Yangon and Thanlyin regions.

Thanlyin Bridge-3 will be constructed in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), which is providing finance and technology.—GNLM ■

## 16<sup>th</sup> China-Myanmar Border Trade Fair and 12<sup>th</sup> JBTCCC

MYANTRADE (Myanmar Trade Promotion Organisation) under the Ministry of Commerce is making arrangements to hold an International trade fair with a view to launch development of the export sector and upgrade

international commerce.

The 16<sup>th</sup> China-Myanmar Border Trade Fair and 12<sup>th</sup> Joint Border Trade Cooperating and Coordinating Committee (JBTCCC) Meeting will be held in Shwe Li in Yunnan Province,

People's Republic of China, from December 26 to December 28, inviting entrepreneurs to take part in the trade fair, it was learnt. For further information contact Myantrade, the Ministry of Commerce, Nay

Pyi Taw at 067-430446/ 430447 (fax)-067-430128, email: [moc-tradefair@gmail.com](mailto:moc-tradefair@gmail.com) and the Myanmar Trade Centre (Yangon) Ph 01-254024, email: [itpic.moc@gmail.com](mailto:itpic.moc@gmail.com). —Myanmar News Agency ■

## Three bodies with slit throats found in Maungtaw

The bodies of three young villagers were discovered on Sunday in Maungtaw, Rakhine State, all of which had their throats slit.

The bodies were identified as Mu Har Mat Ei Dreit, 25, Abu Hike, 18 and Har Maik Tu Saung, 22, all of whom lived in Myoma Kayin Tan Ward,

Maungtaw Township.

Acting on a tip-off that a corpse was found, the security team inspected the area near Thaung Pyin Nyar Village

and found two more bodies, all of them with slash wounds to their throats and their hands tied.—Myanmar News Agency ■





Farm worker sorts potatoes during harvest. PHOTO: MMAL

## The Netherlands seed potato saves cultivation cost in southern Shan State

SEED potato imported from the Netherlands can save certain amount of cultivation cost, said potato growers from Taunggyi Township, Shan State.

There are a total of 43,511 acres of potato plantations in southern Shan State, with 17,400 acres of Pwintphyu variety, 4,300 acres of Bawlone variety, 17,400 acres of China potato varieties, 900 acres of the Netherlands potato varieties and about 3,000 acres of other varieties.

There have many potato varieties to be cultivated. At present, seed potato from the Netherlands has become popular one due to high yield. Cultivation cost and profit vary depending on varieties. Pwintphyu varieties reap profit of Ks728,000 with estimated cultivation cost of Ks1,272,000 per acre while potato varieties produce profit of Ks920,000 with cost of Ks1,580,000 an acre. Meanwhile,

the Netherlands potato varieties fetch profit of Ks1,719,500 with estimated cost of Ks1,530,500, said a grower from Taunggyi Township.

Rate of yield differs from varieties. Pwintphyu, Bawlone and other varieties produce about 5,000 viss (1 viss equals to 1.6kg) per acre including about 1,000 viss of big sized potatoes, 3,200 viss of middle sized potatoes and 800 viss of small sized potatoes. Potato varieties from China produce a total of 8,000 viss an acre with 6,000 viss of big sized potatoes, 1,400 viss of middle sized potatoes and 600 viss of small sized potatoes. The Netherlands seed potato yields about 8,500 viss per acre including about 7,200 viss of big sized potatoes, 850 viss of middle sized potatoes and 450 viss of small sized potatoes.

U Aung Than Kyaw, chairperson of Heho potato growers

group said that potatoes are sent to Yangon and lower Myanmar markets. They are also distributed to upper Myanmar market through Mandalay and Monywa markets. Having moisture content in potato, some potatoes might end up rot when they are stockpiled. Therefore, pesticide is required to spray on crops before they are placed in the warehouse. During they are being stored in the warehouse a month, about 20 per cent of goods might lose quality or some of them end up rot. The aforementioned group is putting forth efforts in a bid to set up cold storages.

To boost potato production, technical assistance is needed. The Netherlands potato varieties can yield 10 times of seed potato volume. Potato cultivation sector will be enhanced if they have good storage method. —Zar Lin Thu (AMIA) ■

## Over 2,000 apartments from low-cost housing project to be sold

Over 2,000 apartments units will be sold from low-cost housing project which is implemented in Hlaingthayar and Dagon Seikkan townships in December, according to a report in the Myawady Daily.

Currently, the Urban and Housing Development Department is ready to sell over 1,000 apartment units. The department sold out around

1,000 low-cost apartments units from Hlaingthayar and Dagon Seikkan townships on 2 September under a lucky draw system. The department will also announce the date for the sale of over 2,000 apartments very soon.

The projects are being implemented with the budget of the Urban and Housing Development Department under

the Ministry of Construction.

The buyers who wish to buy low-cost apartments must have a saving account with Construction and Housing Development Bank (CHDB), and their saving account must have at least 30 per cent of the value of the apartments they want to buy. The remaining amount will be paid by a 10 year installment system.—GNLM ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Three dead, one hurt in IED explosion in Maungdaw Tsp

**"Sunday Special"**  
အချုပ်ပို (၈) မျက်နှာ  
ပေါင်သည့်

နေပြည်တော်  
မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့် ရွှေဘို (၇) နေပြည်တော်၊  
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နေပြည်တော်  
နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တပ်ကုန်း)  
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ရန်ကုန်  
The Global New Light of  
Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊  
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မန္တလေး  
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တောင်ကြီး  
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မကွေး  
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တရုတ်တိုင်း  
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ကျိုင်းတုံမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၄ ၂၂၄၉၂

ကလေး  
အောင်ဇေယျာရပ်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊  
ကလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃ ၂၂၁၃၃

မြင်ကြီးမား  
အမှတ် (၄၁)၊ ရေစက်ကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊  
မြင်ကြီးမားမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄ ၂၂၄၆၂

စစ်တွေ  
ရေဓာတ်လမ်းနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊  
မိမိစက်ကြီးအနီး၊ မန်ကျည်မြိုင်ရပ်ကွက်၊ စစ်တွေမြို့၊  
ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃ ၂၃၀၆၈

လားရှိုး  
ဟူးမွန်ကျေးရွာထိပ်၊ ဟူးမွန်ဆည်ဘယ်ဘက်ခြမ်း၊  
(၃၂) ရပ်ကွက်၊ မန်ဆူဘုရားရွာ၊ အဝေရာလမ်းမ၊  
လားရှိုးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၂၂၄၀၆၇

မြိတ်  
မေတ္တာလမ်း၊ ရှမ်းချောင်းရပ်၊ ကလွင်ကျေးရွာအုပ်စု၊  
မြိတ်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၉ ၄၂၁၈၃

မော်လမြိုင်  
ကြာအင်းကျေးရွာ၊ မော်လမြိုင်မြို့၊  
ဖုန်း - ၀၅၇ ၂၇၂၅၊ ၀၅၇ ၂၇၂၆

ပုဏ္ဏား  
နန္ဒဝန်ရပ်ကွက်၊ ဆက်သွယ်ရေးတဝါတိုင်အနီး၊  
ပုဏ္ဏားမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၁ ၂၆၅၃၅၊ ၀၇၁ ၂၆၅၃၃

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## Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin signs MoU with New Zealand and separately receives team leaders of ASEM partner countries

MINISTER of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin received Mr. Fletcher Tabuteau, New Zealand Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, yesterday morning in the guest hall of the Myanmar International Convention Center-1.

During the meeting, matters relating to Myanmar-New Zealand bilateral relations and cooperation in regional and international areas were discussed. After the meeting, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and New Zealand Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Steve Marshall signed mem-

orandums of understanding (MoU) on ministries of foreign affairs of Myanmar and New Zealand holding regular meetings.

Afterwards, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin separately received in MICC-I heads of partner countries of Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) who were attending the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin received Denmark State Secretary for Foreign Policy H.E. Mr. Jonas Bering Liisberg and party at

10:30 a.m., Latvia State Secretary for Foreign Affairs H. E. Mr. Andrejs Pildegovics and party at noon, Republic of Korea Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr. Lim Sung-nam and party at 1:30 p.m., Russian Federation Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr. Igor V. Morgulov and party at 2 p.m. and Hungary Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade H.E. Mr. Peter Szijjarto at 3:50 p.m. and discussed increasing bilateral relations, increasing cooperation and exchanged views on the status of events in Rakhine State. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and New Zealand Parliamentary Under-Secretary sign MoU for Foreign Ministries of the two countries. **PHOTO: MNA**



Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin holds talks with Denmark State Secretary for Foreign Policy. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief in China

TATMADAW Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing led a Tatmadaw delegation and left Nay Pyi Taw airport for the People's Republic of China yesterday morning at the invitation of the chief of the Joint Staff Department of the Central Military Commission of People's Republic of China General Li Zuocheng. Upon arrival at Sanxia Airport, Yichang, China in the afternoon, the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief and party was welcomed by Hubei Province Military Region commander Maj-Gen. Ma Tao, high ranking officers of Chinese People's Liberation Army, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thit Lin Ohn, Myanmar military attaché (army, navy, air) Brig-



Hubei Province Military Region commander Maj-Gen. Ma Tao welcomes Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in China. **PHOTO: MNA**

Gen Tint San and officials. Later in the afternoon, the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief and party visited Three Gorges Dam in the town of Sandouping, Hubei Province to view the generation of electricity at the Three

Gorges Left Bank Power Station. In the evening, the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief and party attended a dinner hosted by Hubei Province Military Region commander Maj-Gen. Ma Tao. —Myanmar News Agency ■

## Finnish Embassy celebrates 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence

THE Embassy of Finland marked its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence with a ceremony and celebration yesterday evening at the Lotte Hotel in Yangon. Finland's Ambassador to Myanmar H.E Ms. Riikka Laatu delivered an opening speech at the celebration, followed by remarks from Finland's Foreign Minister H.E Mr. Timo Juhani



Sonni and Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung.

Present at the meeting were ambassadors and diplomats of

embassies in Yangon and invited guests. Diplomacy between Finland and Myanmar was established in 1954. —Myanmar News Agency ■

## Road upgrades in Rakhine State

ROADS which are the main entrances to Rakhine State will be upgraded within four years, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

Currently, authorities are planning to upgrade three main roads: Minbu-An-Sittway Road, Pyay-Taungup-Thandwe Road and Ngathaing Chaung-Gwa Road, said an official from the Ministry of Construction.

The main road upgrades will begin this year.

Upon completion of the upgrade, the travel time between Yangon and Sittway using Minbu-An-Sittway Road

will be reduced from 15 hours to 10 hours.

All the bridges on the road will be upgraded to concrete bridges.

Moreover, Pyay-Taungup-Thandwe Road will be upgraded with the assistance of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), while the Ngathaing Chaung-Gwa Road will be upgraded with US\$20 million from the World Bank.

The Ministry of Construction upgraded over 1,200 miles of motor roads and constructed 50 bridges over 180 feet long in Rakhine State.—GNLM ■

### Correction

Please read "... Finland to support Myanmar with Euro 34 million" instead of "Euro 4 million" in the interview with Finland Foreign Minister Timo Soini entitled "Education is one of the big issues we can cooperate with Myanmar" on Page 7 of the November 21 issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar. —Ed

### Correction

Please read "Defence Minister of Laos" instead of "Deputy Defence Minister of Laos" in the story "President receives Deputy Defence Minister of Laos" covered on page 3 of the November 21 issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar. We are regret for doing the same mistake in the body of the story and in the caption. . —Ed



# Distance University students studying peacefully in Rakhine

Muslim students from northern Rakhine have gained university education opportunities overcoming their challenges for their education following a helping hand from authorities. The interview has previously appeared in 13 November issue of the GNLM.

**D**UE to increasing number of higher level education students in Rakhine State, new classrooms, student's dormitories and departmental housings will be implemented in upcoming budget year according to the Department of Higher Education.

Intensive course and final examination are being held at Sittway sub department of Yangon University of Distance Education and First batch exam will be held in October 2017 while second and third batches exam in October and November, 2017 respectively.

"The third batch of the distance studies are being studied in Sittway University and Taungup University. The Major courses are prescribed as Myanmar, History, Economics and Business Management studies in there. The students there are from first year to fourth year. In the third batch, there are 9,525 students in Sittway University and 5,488 students in Taungup University. The University students of people of Islamic faith from Northern Rakhine State in Taungup University are studying peacefully at a Distance Education

There are 9,525 students in Sittway University and 5,488 students in Taungup University. The University students of people of Islamic faith from Northern Rakhine State in Taungup University are studying peacefully...

Sub Department in Thandwe and University students from Southern Rakhine State are also being lectured at Thetkel Pyin Basic Education High School (BEHS). The two Major courses; History and Myanmar have been lectured in Thetkel Pyin BEHS. There are seven University students in History Major. There is a large number of students with sufficient courses in Sittway University. Some lecturers from Sittway University have been sent to sub department in Thandwe while some lecturers

from Yangon University also came and aided in Thetkel Pyin.

"I'm now here to observe the current condition of studying students in the Universities. All the conditions are convenient as State Government is also aiding to the Universities known by

the rector of Sittway University. We have also arranged 4 buses for the transportation of the students and lecturers. For more convenient of people of Islamic faith Students, we have launched such sub-departments. As numbers of matriculation passing students increase, demands of the Universities is bigger too. We will implement further new



Chief Administrator Dr. Thein Win and students pose for a documentary photo. **PHOTO: TIN TUN**



Maung Maung Hla.



Ma Htay Htay Myint.

classrooms, student's dormitories and departmental housings in coming budget year", said Director General of Higher Education Department, Dr. Thein Win.

"I want to say many thanks for providing education for us like that. At first I thought I cannot learn such a University Studies but I'm very happy now as many lecturers are coming to teach us here. I would like to welcome freshly passed matriculation students to apply for the University and I want to say let's learn together", said Maung Zaw Htet Aung from Sittway Thel Chaung rescue camp who is studying Myanmar Major in first year of Thetkel Pyin Distance Education sub department.

"Firstly I want to express my gratitude for having opportunities to learn the higher education in our own places. We

have not learned our studies for a period of time. I was even not expected to having such kind of opportunity. After graduation, I will serve as a lecturer in a University. I would like to urge other postponed students to join our University for our graduations as we can learn our higher studies independently", said Ma Htay Htay Myint from Ohn Taw Gyi rescue camp who is studying Myanmar Major in first year of Thetkel Pyin Distance Education sub department.

"As I am the only one who taking History Major and I can learn directly with my teachers. As all my teachers consider me as their son, I believe I can pass my final examination. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all the officials for arranging such opportunity for us", said Maung Maung Hla from Thetkel

Pyin Village who is studying History Major in first year of Thetkel Pyin Distance Education sub department.

Daw Moe Moe Aung, a lecturer from English Department from Dagon University who is teaching at Thetkel Pyin Distance Education sub department said, "there are a total of eight students including seven Myanmar major students and one History Major student. We are teaching them by normal school schedule, 50 minutes for a period, ranging from 8 am to 1pm a day. We have no difficulty and we are teaching them as our former ordinary students".

Head Professor of Sittway University Dr. Win Naing said, "There is an Arts and Science university and degree college in Rakhine State. There are courses and exams held in Sittway Thakel Pyin Village for people of Islamic faith students who are unable to attend the university this year due to some difficulties.

There is another exam in Thandwe city as well. The Union Government has sent seven teachers from universities in Yangon to teach at these classes in Thakel Pyin. I think if there are more educated people in the region then regional stability will follow." —Tin Tun( IPRD) ■



A class in session in Basic Education High School in Thetkel Pyin village. **PHOTO: MNA**



## Meeting the challenge of the international terrorism front

At the press conference held after the closing ceremony of the 31<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summit and related meetings, the President of the Philippines, Mr. Rodrigo Roa Duterte said that nearly half of negotiations during the 31<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summit and related meetings were concerned with matters on terrorism. At this press conference, he recounted the experiences encountered by the Philippines.

The Philippines terrorist group which had links with Islamist State-IS occupied the town of “Marawi” in the Philippines to set up a terrorist zone under the banner of religion in May, 2017. The Philippines army took 5 months to drive terrorists out of Marawi. Due to the siege of Marawi by the terrorists, most of the population of nearly 200,000 of city-dwellers abandoned their homes, causing Marawi to

turn into a ghost town. The event of Marawi vividly highlights the dangers of terrorists.

The countries present at the 31<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summit and related meetings are required to unavoidably acknowledge that terrorists operating in Rakhine State are linked to global terrorism.

border police outposts in Rakhine State on 25<sup>th</sup> August. And, the said military leader of the ARSA terrorist group is a Pakistan-based terrorist and the patron of the ARSA terrorist group is said to have operated terrorist attacks linking with international terrorist groups.

These events clearly show that the Rakhine State is facing the dangers of international terrorism. The countries present at the 31<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summit and related meetings are required to unavoidably acknowledge that terrorists operating in Rakhine State are linked to global terrorism. The Union Government has taken the responsibility of providing humanitarian assistance in Rakhine State to the best of its ability with enthusiasm and good will. Therefore, in the same way, the international community should deal with “International Terrorism” in cooperation with Myanmar. ■

### 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](mailto: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

By Maha Saddhamma  
Jotikadhaja, Sithu  
Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

THE 9<sup>th</sup> month of Myanmar Calendar of twelve months is Nattaw which roughly corresponds to December. This year 2017 Nattaw falls partly on the first two weeks of November and the first week of December.

There are different festivals annually held by Myanmar people as their traditional events throughout their history. Firstly the word Nat-taw itself implies the nat spirits which Myanmar people worshipped long before Buddhism arrived in their country. The word “nat” is a derivation of a Pali word Na tha meaning a resplendent being worthy of adoration. Nats are therefore worshipped for their blessings and favours, protection from all dangers, good rain, good harvest, prosperity, progress and peace. Myanmar kings and people had held nat festivals in the month of Nattaw mainly on the summit of Mount Popa of nearly 5000 feet high dormant volcano Mt rangee tin Central Myanmar near ancient Bagan.

Later in the Inwa Period of Myanmar history [15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> century A.D] Hindu god Ganesh [Elephant headed god] Maha Peinne Nat was worshipped and its festival was held annually in the month of Nattaw. Detailed account of the state held festival of Ganesh god was fully recorded in the Treatise on ceremonies and Festival of Royal Court called Lokabyuha [or Inyone Sandan] by Thiri Uzana, the Minister of Inyone. The King and the entire court participated in this festival. Royal gurus, led by Brahmin priests conducted the ritual, procession and pujas. Public entertainments followed nearly a week.

Besides these religious events, there were other events of socio-cultural importance. One prominent event was known as Hpyin Htat Pwe. Hpyin is typical Myanmar cotton cloth of either

The most outstanding event of the Writers’ Day of Nattaw is Literary Awards and prizes for the winners of literary competitions annually held.

white or dark red brown colour. The dark red brown coloured cotton is called pin-ni meaning original red colour cotton. Those who had given good services to the King military, civil, administrative and those who proved good writers, composers or performing artists were invited to the court to be honoured by their Majesties annually in the month of Nattaw. The awards were long pieces of white or red cotton cloths plus other kinds or cash silver coins and also the title of Poet Laureate “Nawade”.

During the Second World War while Myanmar was under the Japanese Occupation, a group of Myanmar eminent writers decided to choose and celebrate Myanmar Writers’ Day. At first they chose the birth day of U Ponnya a prominent play wright of King Mindon’s time. But later they unanimously agreed to revive Myanmar traditional Hpyin Htat

Mingala in the month of Nattaw. Since then the first waxing moon day of Nattaw is being celebrated annually Myanmar writers’ Day. Talks on Myanmar literature and prominent writers of the past are given, seminars are held, discussions are made as to the promotion of Myanmar Language and Literature writers and ariters and journalists associations are formed township-wise across the country. Exchanges of visits and literary seminars are conducted with neighbouring countries as well as countries far and near.

The most outstanding event of the Writers’ Day of Nattaw is Literary Awards and prizes for the winners of literary competitions annually held by the State as well as Sarpay Beikman originally a Translation Society. Books published in the preceding year were viewed, examined and selected for literary Award by special committees, each committee under

takes to view separate books under each category. There are (1) Prose (2) Verse and Drama. Then two types fictions and non-fiction yatha and thuta. Then Science, Arts, Applied Science, Pure Science and Technology, Medical Science, Engineering Science, Visual and Performing Arts etc. A separate category “Children’s literating is also added as well as Translation is another category and Myanmar literature, Arts and Science in English language in the additional category.

Live long literary Achievement တသက်တာစာပေဆု is awarded to those writers who constantly contribute to Myanmar literature. Sarpay Beikman [Translation society] also held manuscripts competitions for literary prizes. Not published yet literary works are viewed and examined for prize.

Besides the doyen writers of age 80 years and above are invited to state tribute paying event an-

nually held at the Y.C.D.C Town Hall down town Yangon, facing Sule Pagoda. On behalf of the Government, the Union Minister for Information and his associates plus other well-wishers pay homage with cash and kind to the invited doyen writers present on the occasion and they either visit themselves or send their representation to those doyen writers who cannot make their presence on the occasion to give homage and pujas on their behaves.

Celebration of Myanmar Writers’ Day continues from the first waxing day of Nattaw to the end of cold season or beginning of summer season March. Not merely literacy talk by invited writers, discussions questions and answers between speakers, audience and even publishers and distributors participate freely and openly. Currently the most heated topics are “Talking and Writing Myanmar Language and litera-

ture correctly, grammatically and phonetically. Due to internet media there were the decline in the printed media and in public readers. There are new movements such as campaigns for readers in addition to literacy campaigns.

Myanmar used to be a country where literacy was quite high. The British Colonial Government was surprised to find it so. They found out that the main cause was the monastic education. In Myanmar language school and monastery are called Kyaung ကျောင်း. Then you distinguish school as စာသင်ကျောင်း as Pariyatti Kyaung and Phongyi Kyaung or monastery. Traditionally, school teachers were monks or nuns who gave 3 Rs Reading, Writing and Arithmetic free of charge to all pupils regardless of race, religious and social status. Pupils also enjoyed free messing and lodgings. The King [government] and the public provided all needs of schools. These monastic schools produced learned men and women of high academic and moral caliber. They became ministers military commanders, distinguished envoys, prolific writers of great repute.

Right now the Government is promoting monastic education not only for academic and professional training but also for training good citizens.

This year Writers’ Day which falls on the 19<sup>th</sup> November was most fittingly celebrated at UM-FCCI head quarter office Hall, Min Ye Kyaw Swa Street Yangon at 9 a.m.

The occasion was graced by the presence of and delivery of inaugural address by Vice-President H.E U Myint Swe Union Minister for Information H.E. Dr. Pe Myint also honoured the event by presenting certificates to the awardees. Yangon Region chief minister and other dignities also participated.

3 Live long literacy Achievements Awards

10 Literacy Awards

26 Sarpay Beikman manuscripts prizes. ■

## The Relation between Mobile Phones And Auditory of Our Ears

By Thin Hlaing Hmwe (Junior)

MOBILE phones have become indispensable as communication tools in the present world. During recent years, worldwide mobile subscriptions has grown more and more for every operators.

There are electromagnetic frequencies of mobile phones emitting radiations between the 800 MHz and 2000 MHz. These causes excitation and rotation of water molecules and some other organic molecules. Therefore, they cause thermal and non-thermal effects on human beings. The effects of electromagnetic fields (EMF) transmitted by mobile phones over human health is a matter of public and scientific concern.

Our hearing system is in the close proximity to the mobile phone. So, hearing system is potentially the most affected target for thermal and non-thermal effects. The external ear provides the route by which electromagnetic frequencies from mobile phones reach the peripheral and central auditory system. The system leads to relatively high energy deposition in the ear. The auditory system and particularly the cochlea outer hair cells are known to be highly sensitive to a variety of exogenous and endogenous factors. Externally applied electrical and magnetic fields are known to produce some hearing sensation in the ear. The proximity of ear to electromagnetic source may lead to even larger damage and side effects such as hearing loss. A report released from a research in India revealed that people who talk on a cell phone for more than an hour a day were found to have suffer losses of high frequency hearing.

There are two common technologies used by mobile phone networks for transmitting information. They are TDMA i.e. Time Division Multiple Access and CDMA i.e. Code Division Multiple Access.

TDMA also known as GSM i.e. Global System for Mobile communications does it by chopping the signals into sequential time frames. Each user of the channel takes turns to transmit the receive signals. In reality, only one person is using the channel at a given point of time. One of the important features of GSM system is the Subscriber Identity Module (SIM card).

The SIM is a small, detachable smart card, which contains the user’s subscription information and phone book. This allows the user to retain his or her information while switching mobile phone handsets. Alternatively, the user can also change service provider while retaining the handset, by changing the SIM card. GSM is currently the market leader in mobile phone industry.

CDMA is based on spread spectrum technology which uses the whole bandwidth available. This allows each user to transmit frequency to the entire spectrum at all the time. CDMA uses a type of digital modulation called spread spectrum. CDMA spreads the voice data over the channel in a random fashion. The receiver undoes this randomization and collects the bits together to produce the sound. CDMA is an example of multiple accessed, in which several transmitters can send information over a single communication channel at the same time. This allows several users to share a band of frequencies.

The subtle deleterious effects to hearing can be assessed by modalities such as brainstem evoked audiometry response (BEAR), otoacoustic emission (OAE) and pure tone audiometry etc. They measure the cochlea and out hair cochlea cells and middle ear function respectively.

But these terminologies are very complex for an ordinary user to understand easily. Therefore, one had better to be aware of that every mobile phone can give the users both advantages and disadvantages. It is essential for every user to use the mobile phones wisely and beneficially with little hazard. It is also necessary to know almost thoroughly about the devices with which you are going to use. ■



## Vice President U Myint Swe receives Hungary Minister of Foreign Affairs

Vice President U Myint Swe received H.E. Mr. Peter Szijarto, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade from Hungary, at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, matters relating to Myanmar-Hungary

bilateral relations, increasing trade, investment and cooperation in education were discussed.

Present at the meeting were Union Minister Dr. Than Myint, Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun, and officials. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Vice President U Myint Swe meets Hungary Minister of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Second day of 13<sup>th</sup> JMC-U meeting held in Yangon



The second day of 13<sup>th</sup> Union Joint Monitoring Committee meeting in progress in Yangon. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

THE second day of the 13<sup>th</sup> Union Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC-U) meeting was held yesterday morning at the Yangon office of the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre on Shweli Road in Kamayut Township, Yangon.

Present at the meeting were JMC-U chairman Lt-Gen. Yar Pyae, Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Tatmadaw representatives, JMC-U vice chairpersons and secretary members, leaders of ethnic armed groups, local resident representatives, JMC-S and JMC-L committee members, and technology assistant organisations.

During the meeting, they

discussed the confirmation of the Standard Operations Procedures (SOPs), and the JMC-L groups' plans to increase by a group member each. Donor originations negotiated for the 2018-2019 budgets, reporting of each group's strengths and weakness, drawing work disciplines for TSC staff, reporting JMC-TSC departmental duties and job descriptions of each staff, public meetings to be held at the townships of JMC offices based and mine clearances issue were also discussed. As the meeting will be held for three days from 20 to 22 November, the rest of the issues will continue to be discussed on the third day of the meeting. — Zaw Gyi ■

## Man suspected of terrorism arrested in Maungtaw

A man suspected of involvement in terrorist activity was arrested in Maungtaw Township on 18 November by a team of law enforcement officers and local officials.

The combined team that includes members of the security force and village leaders ar-

rested Yaw Fee, 30, who lives in Ywar Thit ward, Maungtaw, near Thatkalpyin (west) Village of Zin Paing Village tract and Hla Phoe Khaung Village.

The arrested suspect is being investigated at Pyin Phyu Police Station. —Myanmar News Agency ■

## Nine teams from private sector, UEHRD hold coordination meeting

Nine teams from the private sector and the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine State held a coordination meeting on 20 November to discuss socio-economic development in Rakhine State, drawn up by the Rakhine State Government in implementing development projects in Rakhine State.

The teams discussed how to implement the tasks by dividing the tasks into two parts — emergencies and importance — after studying the infrastructure and socio-economic requirements described in the project in detail.

Dr. Aung Tun Thet, Chief Coordinator of UEHRD, urged the attendees to implement the tasks in cooperation between the

Rakhine State Government, local entrepreneurs and local people, and not as investors coming to Rakhine State as entrepreneurs from the mainland.

The teams reported situations on the development of their performances.

Camps for accepting those who will return to Taung Pyo Letwe being built by the Construction Team will be completed at the end of December 2017, with another camp to be built in Nga Khu Ra.

The Health Care Team discussed their preparations for giving medical care just after the construction of the camp for accepting returnees at Taung Pyo Letwe.

Daw Khaing Khaing Nwe, joint-general-secretary of UM-

FCCI said, "Arrangements are underway to open vocational training courses being arranged by the Ministry of Border Affairs with the resources from Yangon-based trainings combined, in extension. Simultaneously, it has been prepared to open the trainings so as to comply with requirements of industries to be built by industrial zone work team."

The agricultural and livestock breeding team discussed construction of a rice mill and transporting harvesters, machines for winnowing and drying paddy.

The crowd-funding team set up platforms such as Online Payment and Mobile Payment, reaching the stage under operation. —MNA ■

## Ground-breaking for installation of weather measuring instruments

A ground-breaking ceremony for installing an automatic weather measuring instrument was held yesterday afternoon in the compound of the Nay Pyi Taw Council offices. The automatic weather measuring instrument was provided under the assistance programme for development and modernisation of natural disaster prediction and early warning system conducted between the Korea Meteorological Administration and the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology of the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

At the ceremony, Department of Meteorology and Hydrology Director General (joint) Dr. Kyaw Moe Oo delivered a speech and officials from the Department of Meteorology and



Director General (joint) Dr. Kyaw Moe Oo attends the ground-breaking ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Hydrology and Korea Meteorological Administration cut a ceremonial ribbon.

Afterwards, stakes were driven at the location where the instrument will be installed.

An official from NOAA SNC Company in Korea then introduced the automatic weather measurement instrument.

The assistance programme for development and modernisation of natural disaster prediction and early warning system is providing 50 automatic weather measurement instruments. These instruments will be installed in 50 cities in Myanmar within two years starting in 2017. —Myanmar News Agency ■



## AP blamed for distorted report on State Counsellor's comments

FROM PAGE-1

But in the lead paragraph of the AP's story on Monday, the AP reported that "Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi said Monday that the world is facing instability and conflict in part because illegal immigration spreads terrorism, as her country faces accusations of violently pushing out hundreds of thousands ...".

In a direct quote in the fourth paragraph, the wire story with the title "Suu Kyi blames conflicts on illegal immigration" misquoted the State Counsellor as citing "Illegal immigration's spread of terrorism and violent extremism, social disharmony and even the threat of nuclear war."

The report deviated widely from the original meaning and incorrectly highlighted that the State Counsellor was blaming illegal immigrants for the spread of terrorism. U Kyaw Zeya, Ambassador of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs says in an exclusive interview with the Myanmar News Agency that "We were saddened by the mistake of the AP, although her comments were available at the state-run media immediately. We are also very upset by the publishing of the mistake from the AP by other

**Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,**

- It is a pleasure to welcome all of you to Nay Pyi Taw.
- Myanmar is honoured to host the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting. This is a dialogue mechanism unique in the multilateral arenas that allows Asia and Europe to engage informally.
- As we are all aware our world has never been free from crises arising from multiple causes. Today we are faced with a new period of global uncertainty and instability. Conflicts around the world are giving rise to new threats and emergencies; illegal migration, spread of terrorism and violent extremism, social disharmony and even the threat of nuclear war. Conflicts take away peace from societies, leaving behind underdevelopment and poverty, pushing peoples and even countries away from one another.
- These challenges have been compounded by the devastating effects of natural disasters which have become more frequent and intense as a result of climate change and lack of adequate concern and care for the environment.
- The history of numerous countries, including that of Myanmar, illustrates that conflict and instability cast a long and lasting shadow on a country's development. Without peace, there can be no durable progress and prosperity. Peace is essential for the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

and strong international challenge the threat of their various Partnership promotion which can efforts. It is as the Partnership opment'.

In our vital part

The full text of the speech of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was covered in the Global New Light of Myanmar. **PHOTO: MNA**

international media."

"It is regrettable to note that established media like the AP has distorted the meaning of her actual words, accidentally or intentionally. So we hope they will correct their mistake as soon as they can, so as to save face," he added.

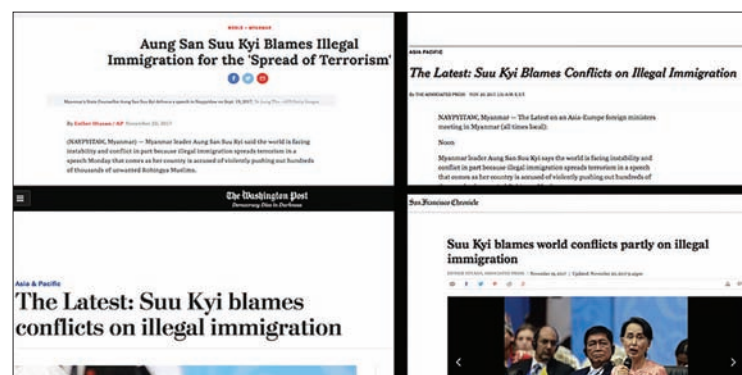
U Aung Hla Tun, vice chairman of the Myanmar Press Council, said in an exclusive interview

with the Myanmar News Agency that "It can make serious impacts on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as well as on the entire nation and the people."

"The international community, including the nations of the world and the U.N., usually tends to heavily rely on the reports by the international media when laying down their policies. As a result of their pursuing wrongful



The original story of AP is seen on the screen. **PHOTO: IRRAWADDY**



The original story was appeared on internal media including The New York Times, The Washington Post, The San Fransisco Cronicle and Time. **PHOTO: IRRAWADDY**

policies based on the untrue reports by the international media for a long time, the image of our country has been badly ruined, causing mounting pressure and various intimidations," said the vice chairman of the Myanmar Press Council.

Myanmar Journalists Union released a statement yesterday demanding the AP to take responsibility for the damage done

and to apologise to the people of Myanmar for its erroneous and irresponsible mistake.

A corrected version of the wire story was sent on Tuesday, one day after the original story was picked by more than 20 international media outlets, including The New York Times, The Washington Post and Time. It was also widely shared on social media as well.—GNLM ■

## Interview with U Aung Hla Tun, Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Press Council concerning AP news agency's misinterpretation of an important fact from the speech by State Counsellor

INTERNATIONAL news agency AP (Associated Press) misinterpreted an important point from the speech given by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday. Concerning this, a reporter from the Myanmar News Agency (MNA) under the Ministry of Information had an exclusive interview with U Aung Hla Tun, Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Press Council, by telephone yesterday evening.

**MNA:** Sir, it's learnt that AP news agency misquoted State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's speech at the ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Could you please explain how they misinterpreted such an important fact?

**U Aung Hla Tun:** Well. To get straight to the point, the English daily Global New Light of Myanmar today published the complete text of Daw Suu's speech on page 11. In the fourth line of the third para, it was written: "Conflicts around the world are giving rise to new threats and emergencies; illegal migration, spread of terrorism and violent extremism, social disharmony and even the threat of nuclear war."

AP misquoted it as if Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said: "illegal migration spreads terrorism...". That's utterly wrong.

To make matter worse, AP story made some serious remarks and comments repeatedly basing on this wrongfully interpreted point, especially concerning the Bengali issue,



U Aung Hla Tun, Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Press Council.

which has badly tarnished our image among the international community. For example, it interpreted as if Daw Suu had said the illegal migration of Bengali was the cause of all problems.

**MNA:** What could be the impacts of this wrong interpretation?

**U Aung Hla Tun:** It can make serious impacts on Daw Suu as well as on the entire nation and the people. Actually, the impacts are already there. Based in the U.S., AP is one of the most influential international news agencies in the world. The international community, including the nations of the world and the U.N., usually tends to heavily rely on the reports by the international media when laying down their policies. As a result of their pursuing wrongful policies based on the untrue reports by the international media for a long time, the image of our country has been badly ruined, causing mounting pressure and various

intimidations.

The wrong report by AP yesterday has been reproduced by several dozens of news agencies and media all across the world. There have been serious criticisms and condemnations basing on it.

**MNA:** What do you think should be done to remedy this wrongful reporting?

**U Aung Hla Tun:** First of all, it must be corrected as soon as possible. And then, they have to make a formal apology publicly to those who they had caused grievances; here the state counsellor and the entire Myanmar people. The correction and the apology must be distributed to all the media which subscribed to their wrongful report.

**MNA:** Thank you, Sir.  
—Myanmar News Agency ■



# State Counsellor Receives Leaders From ASEM Partners

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, received leaders from ASEM Partners who had been attending the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting at the Myanmar International Convention Center I—MICC-1 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received H.E Mrs. Margot Elisabeth Wallström, Minister for Foreign Affairs in Sweden and party at 8:30 am H.E Mr. Vijay Kumar Singh of Affairs Ministry of External Affairs in India and party at 2 pm and H.E Mr. Jean Asselborn, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs, Luxembourg at 2:30 pm. In addition, the State Counsellor received H.E Mrs. Ine Marie Eriksen Søreide and party, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Norway at 3:30, H.E Mrs. Pascale Christine Baeriswy, State Secretary of Federal Department of Foreign Affairs Switzerland and party at 4:30 pm and H.E Mr. Marek Magierowski, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Poland at 5 pm respectively, exchanging views on prospects of cooperation concerning Rakhine State Affair and matters for upgrading bilateral cooperation.— MNA ■



State Counsellor holds talks with Mr. Vijay Kumar Singh of Affairs Ministry of External Affairs in India. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden Mrs. Margot Elisabeth Wallström. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor shakes hands with Mr. Marek Magierowski, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Poland. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Mr. Jean Asselborn, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs, Luxembourg. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Myanmar signs MoUs with Lithuania, Hungary and Cambodia

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received H.E. Mr. Peter Szijjarto Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary who come to attend 13<sup>th</sup> ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FMM 13) yesterday afternoon at MICC-1, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they exchanged views to promote the Myanmar-Hungary bilateral relationships in cooperation and potential cooperation for Rakhine State. After the meeting, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and H.E. Mr. Peter Szijjarto Hungary's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade signed the MoU which includes Between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Hungary on Political Consultations. Then, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received H.E Mr. Darius Skusevicius Deputy Foreign Minister of Lithuania and exchanged views for Myanmar-Lithuania bilateral relationships in cooperation and potential cooperation for Rakhine State. After the meeting, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and Hungary's Foreign Minister pose for documentary photo after signing MoU. **PHOTO: MNA**

U Kyaw Tin and H.E Mr. Darius Skusevicius Deputy Foreign Minister of Lithuania signed MoU for Between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania on Political Consultations.

Moreover, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received H.E Mr Prak Sokhonn Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia and exchanged views for two countries

bilateral cooperation. After that, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and H.E. Mr Prak Sokhonn Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia signed MoU of Between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia on Political Consultations.— Myanmar News Agency ■



U Kyaw Tin and Cambodian Foreign Minister signing MoU for between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the two countries. **PHOTO: MNA**



U Kyaw Tin and Lithuania Deputy Foreign Minister signed MoU for between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the two countries. **PHOTO: MNA**



## MJU condemns AP's misleading report

### Myanmar Journalists Union strongly condemns Nov 20<sup>th</sup> dated AP Myanmar story

*Following is the full text of the statement released by Myanmar Journalists Union on 21 November 2017.*

Myanmar Journalists Union strongly condemns the gross mistake made by the Associated Press in its story dated Nov. 20th regarding Myanmar foreign minister and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's opening speech at the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEM meeting.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said in her

speech that "Conflicts around the world are giving rise to new threats and emergencies; illegal immigration, spread of terrorism and violent extremism, social disharmony and even the threat of nuclear of war.....".

However, AP has misquoted her speech and wrote that: "Myanmar lead-

er Aung San Suu Kyi said the world is facing instability and conflict in part because illegal immigration spreads terrorism."

Such distorted reporting has an immense negative impact on the image of the country and could lead to further misunderstanding and discord between

Myanmar and the international community at such a delicate period.

Even though AP made the correction one day later, we demand that the AP, one of the world's largest news agencies, take responsibility for the damage done and apologize to the people of Myanmar for its erroneous and irresponsible mistake.

## China ready to further boost cooperation with ASEAN: FM

NAY PYI TAW — Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Monday expressed China's willingness to further boost cooperation with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

China has appreciated ASEAN's positive response to the proposal by China to formulate of a vision for strategic partnership between China and ASEAN toward the year 2030, said Wang.

The Chinese foreign minister made the remarks during the meeting with his Singaporean counterpart Vivian Balakrishnan on the sidelines of the 13<sup>th</sup> foreign ministers' meeting of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in the Myanmar capital.

Wang also expressed appreciation for the important role of Singapore, as a coordinator of China-ASEAN ties, in deepening China-ASEAN cooperation and properly handling the South

China Sea issue as well as its efforts for a successful ASEAN summit and related meetings in the Philippines last week.

The 10-member ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.

China will support Singapore, which holds ASEAN's rotating chair in 2018, in fulfilling its duties as the host country, Wang said.

China is willing to work with ASEAN countries for substantive consultations on the text of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea based on mutual respect and equal footing, so as to continue promoting mutual trust and safeguarding peace and stability in the South China Sea, said the Chinese foreign minister.

For his part, Balakrishnan



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (R) meets with his Singaporean counterpart Vivian Balakrishnan on the sidelines of the 13<sup>th</sup> foreign ministers' meeting of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 20 November, 2017. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

said Singapore is ready to work with China to bring the all-around pragmatic cooperation between the two countries to a new high and consolidate the

positive momentum in the South China Sea.

Also on Monday, Wang met with EU's foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini, German

Vice Chancellor and Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel, and his counterparts from Cambodia, Thailand, Malta, Norway and Luxembourg.—Xinhua ■

### CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

**MV SIMA PERFECT VOY. NO ( )**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SIMA PERFECT VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.11.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA**

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

**MV OCEAN ARROW VOY. NO ( )**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV OCEAN ARROW VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.11.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/ M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

**MV FURNESS ST KILDA VOY. NO (-)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FURNESS ST KILDA VOY. NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.11.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-5 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S CHUN AN SHIPPING  
PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301928



## Male artists win big but female singers dominate American Music Awards stage

LOS ANGELES — Pink, Lady Gaga and Christina Aguilera led female artists of pop music dominating the American Music Awards stage on Sunday with powerful performances, despite being edged out by male artists in most award categories this year.

Bruno Mars won Artist of the Year, former One Direction member Niall Horan won New Artist of the Year and Puerto Rican singer Luis Fonsi, Justin Bieber and Daddy Yankee won Collaboration of the Year for the catchy “Despacito.”

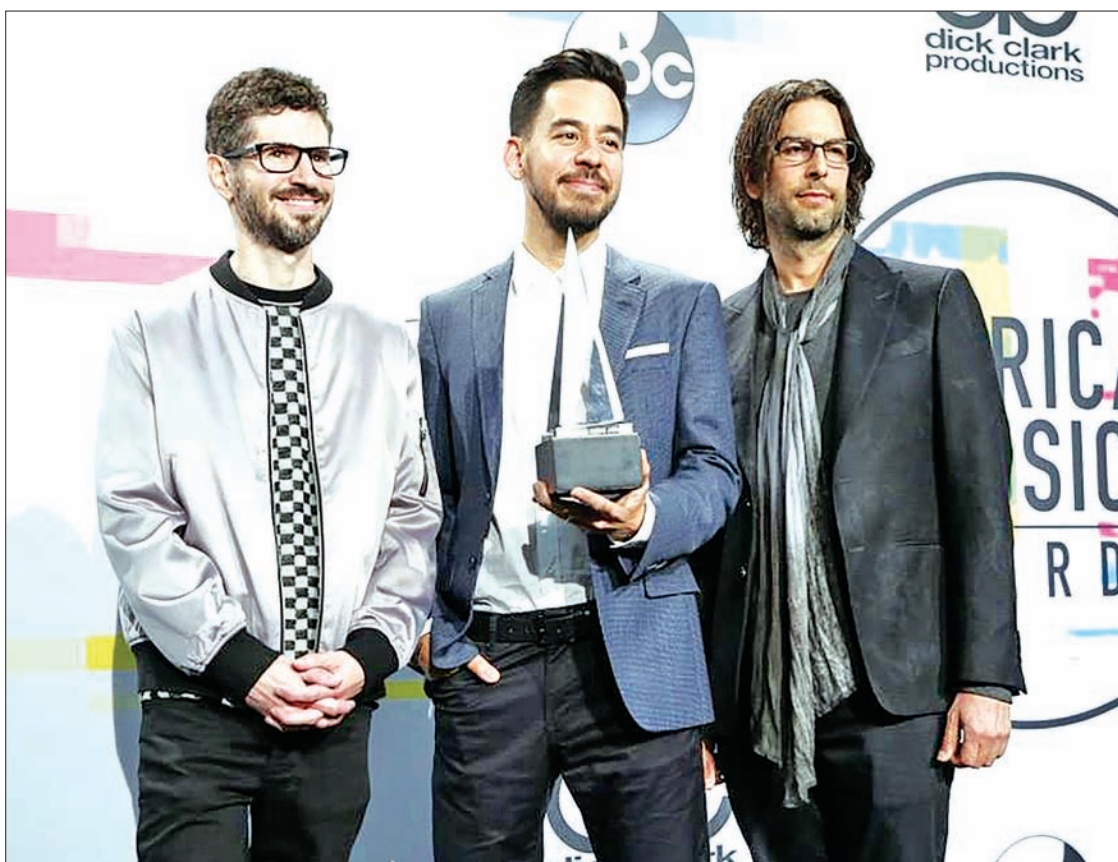
The women of pop delivered the night’s biggest moments.

Pink and Kelly Clarkson sang REM’s “Everybody Hurts,” dedicated to first responders and victims of the recent hurricanes and wildfires that have ravaged parts of the United States.

Pink later performed aerial acrobatics from a high-rise building while singing “Beautiful Trauma.”

Lady Gaga performed “The Cure” from the Washington D C stop of her tour, playing on a Perspex piano and then dancing as sparks rained down on stage. She won favourite female pop/rock artist.

“Just remember that if you



(L-R) Brad Delson, Mike Shinoda, and Rob Bourbon of music group Linkin Park pose with their award for Favorite Artist - Alternative Rock at 2017 American Music Awards in Photo Room in Los Angeles, California, US on 19 November, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

feel different or not understood, don’t you dare give up on who you are, fight like hell for what you believe in,” Lady Gaga said.

Motown superstar Diana Ross received this year’s lifetime achievement award with

video tributes from Barack and Michelle Obama and Taylor Swift. Ross performed a medley of her hits including “I’m Coming Out,” “Take Me Higher” and “Ain’t No Mountain High Enough.”

“I feel so humbled by this,” Ross said, surrounded by her family on stage.

The fan-voted American Music Awards show, televised on ABC, features performances from pop music’s biggest names.

Actress Viola Davis paid tribute to the late Whitney Houston and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Houston’s film “The Bodyguard,” as Christina Aguilera belted a medley of hits from the film. Houston died in 2012 aged 48 after drowning in a hotel bathtub.

Demi Lovato, who was accompanied by newly-elected Virginia legislator Danica Roem, the first openly transgender person to win a state legislative seat, performed her latest hit “Sorry/Not Sorry.”

Selena Gomez sang “Wolves” with DJ Marshmello, Alessia Cara and DJ Zedd performed a stripped down version of their dance track “Stay” and Hailee Steinfeld joined DJ Alesso, country duo Florida Georgia Line and musician Watt for “Let Me Go.” Korean boy band BTS garnered some of the loudest screams from the audience as they performed “DNA” on a neon-lit stage. Linkin Park was named best alternative rock artist, a bittersweet win for the band after the July suicide of frontman Chester Bennington. The band dedicated the win to Bennington and “his memory, his talent, his sense of humour, to his joy.” —Reuters ■

## ‘Transparent’ star Jeffrey Tambor says he may leave show after harassment allegations

NEW YORK — Jeffrey Tambor, the Emmy-winning star of the Amazon web series “Transparent,” said on Sunday he did not see how he could return to the show next season after a second person levelled

allegations of sexual harassment against him.

Actress Trace Lysette accused Tambor last week of making sexually charged remarks to her during their work together on the groundbreaking comedy series about a transgender character, as well as acting inappropriately during one alleged incident that “got physical.”

Lysette has appeared as a guest star in multiple episodes of the show’s four seasons, in which Tambor, 73, plays a retired professor in transition who tells his family about his longtime identification as a woman.

In a statement forwarded on Sunday by his publicist, Tambor said he would never have intentionally harassed anyone and regretted if any of his actions were misinterpreted as such.

“I’ve already made clear my deep regret if any action of mine was ever misinterpreted by anyone as being aggressive, but the idea that I would deliberately harass anyone is simply and utterly untrue,”

he wrote. “Given the politicized atmosphere that seems to have afflicted our set, I don’t see how I can return to “Transparent.” Tambor did not explicitly say in the statement he would not return for a fifth season. In August while receiving a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, Tambor, who has a long list of television and movie credits including “Arrested Development” and “The Larry Sanders Show,” called his “Transparent” role “an opportunity of a lifetime, and the responsibility of a lifetime.” Amazon declined comment. A representative for Lysette did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The issue of sexual harassment is particularly sensitive at Amazon given that Amazon Studios President Roy Price resigned last month following allegations of sexual harassment and inappropriate behaviour from multiple women. —Reuters ■

## Release of Indian film about Rajput queen delayed after protests

NEW DELHI — The producers of “Padmavati” — a Bollywood movie based on an epic poem about a Rajput queen, said on Sunday they had indefinitely delayed the release of the film, which has been accused of distorting history and has sparked protests. The movie, which was due to go on release in India on 1 December, has led to protests in Rajasthan, Maharashtra and other states. It has also faced a delays in approval from the Indian censor board.

The studio behind the movie, Viacom 18 — a joint venture between Viacom Inc and Network 18 owned by Reliance Industries, said on Sunday it had “voluntarily deferred the release date of the film.” “We have faith that we will soon obtain the requisite clearances to release the film. We will announce the revised release date of the film in

due course,” the company said in a statement. The film ran into trouble earlier this year when a Rajput caste organisation, the Rajput Karni Sena, attacked director Sanjay Leela Bhansali on the set in Rajasthan in January.

The Sena, based in Rajasthan, has been critical of the film, saying it would offend the Rajput community, and that Bhansali was deliberately distorting history. Based on an epic poem by Malik Muhammad Jayasi, the film tells the story of Padmavati, the queen of the Rajput warrior clan and Mughal conqueror Alaudin Khilji. India’s most populous state, Uttar Pradesh, ruled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Bharatiya Janata Party had also warned the federal government that there would be law and order problems in Uttar Pradesh if the film was released. —Reuters ■



**PHOTO: REUTERS**



# Pakistan unveils 1,700-year-old sleeping Buddha, evoking diverse heritage

HARIPUR (Pakistan) — Pakistan unveiled the remains of a 1,700-year-old sleeping Buddha image on Wednesday, part of an initiative to encourage tourism and project religious harmony in a region roiled by Islamist militancy.

A reflection of the diverse history and culture of the South Asian country, the ancient Buddhist site in Bhamala province was first discovered in 1929. Eighty-eight years on, excavations resumed and the 14-metre- (48-foot)-high Kanjur stone Buddha image was unearthed, and opposition leader Imran Khan presided over Wednesday's presentation.

"This is from the 3rd century AD, making it the world's oldest sleeping Buddha remains," Abdul Samad, director of Bhamla's archaeology and museums department, told Reuters.

"We have discovered over 500

Buddha objects and this 48-foot-long sleeping Buddha remains," he added. Khan said: "It's a question of preserving these heritage sites which are an asset for our country."

The region was once the center of Buddhist civilization that took root under the Mauryan king Ashoka 2,300 years ago.

The presentation of the Buddha image coincided with a lockdown of major highways around the nation's capital to contain a rightist protest against a perceived slight to Islam by members of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

Minority communities in Pakistan are often targeted by right-wing groups and successive governments have in the past been reluctant to embrace the country's non-Muslim heritage.

But recent attempts to improve Pakistan's image have included overtures to minority



A general view of main stupa, is seen after it was discovered and unveiled to the public, during a ceremony at the Buddhist-period archeological site near Haripur, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) province, Pakistan on 15 November, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

communities by the PML-N.

In January, then-Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif inaugurated the restoration of Hindu temples at Katas Raj in Punjab province.

Considered a conservative figure, Khan has stressed dialogue with Islamist hardliners including the Taliban but on Wednesday said the preservation of sites like Bhamala could promote religious tourism.

"It's a world heritage site (and) because of it people can come for religious tourism and see these places," he said.

Khan dismissed the protesters in Islamabad, seeking to project a more tolerant image of Pakistan. "It's a very small part of what is happening in Pakistan. The majority of the population wants to see such (Buddhist) sites restored."

Khan's opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party is hoping to make big gains at the 2018 elections as the PML-N has been increasingly embroiled in corruption investigations.

Sharif resigned as prime minister in July after the Supreme Court disqualified him for not declaring a source of income and faces trial before an anti-corruption court. —Reuters ■

## Reptiles who ruled the Earth before dinosaurs expected to bring more tourists to Russia

MOSCOW — The Kirov Region, central Russia, is planning to create a new tourist route to tell its visitors about the history of Pareiasaurs, fossil reptiles who roamed the Earth some 260 million years ago, long before dinosaurs emerged.

Archaeologists have been founding Pareiasaur fossils near the town of Kotelnich, on the clay bank of the Vyatka River, for several decades.

"They flourished in the Permian period in just two regions, Kotelnich and Karoo plateau in South Africa," said Natalia Spitsyna, the head of the local museum of paleontology.

According to Spitsyna, most paleontologists travel to the Kirov Region as the fossils here are better preserved than in South Africa. Tourists will be offered to visit excavation sites as part of a two-day trip to Kirov and Kotelnich.

"On the first day they will visit Kotelnich, the sites where fossils were found, its museum with a unique collection of fossils and the local Dino Park," said Irina Bazhina of the regional tourism development center. "On the second day they will travel to Kirov and visit the modern paleontological museum and a park featuring life-size sculptures of dinosaurs."

The Kotelnich museum has no replicas. Theropods, cynodonts, gorgonopsians, anodonts, dicynodonts, a Mastodonsaurus, Tarbosaurus and Ankylosaurus — all of these fossils were discovered near Kotelnich.

The Kotelnich museum also boasts a unique item, a skeleton of a baby Pareiasaur.

The first two skeletons of the ancient reptiles were unearthed near Kotelnich in 1933 by a local hydrogeologist who was drilling for water wells. An expedition led by prominent paleontologist Alexandra Gartman-Veinberg arrived in the Kirov Region next year.—Tass ■



The first two skeletons of the ancient reptiles were unearthed near Kotelnich in 1933. **PHOTO: TASS**

## Over 200 worldwide artists make street painting in Houston

HOUSTON — More than 200 artists worldwide took part in this year's Houston Via Colori, one of the largest and most well-known art festivals in the city in the US state of Texas.

In its 12<sup>th</sup> year, Via Colori boasts an attendance of 30,000 people, three stages of live music, a delightful array of local food and beverage vendors, and award-winning street painters from all over the world.

Chinese artist Wu Yingde participated in the festival for the first time. Inspired by the touching moments when people helping each other during the disaster caused by Hurricane Harvey, Wu made a piece on the topic. "During Hurricane Harvey, I could feel the power of people helping each other. I was deeply moved," Wu told Xinhua.

Used to work in a private studio, Wu said the atmosphere of street painting is really nice. "Here you can see the whole process of making a piece of art and you can better communi-

cate and exchanges views with other artists," he said.

Art teacher Kevin Richert, who has been attending the event for eight years, said "It's a wonderful get-together for the community. Because if you notice the crowd, it just get bigger and bigger."

"Some are expected to be entertained, but also be amazed. We as artists get to expose to all the different things, simple film stars to philosophy," he said.

Young artist Brenda Melgar said she went through a contest to participate in the event for the first time as a high school student several years ago.

"It's great for the youth. But not only is that great because it's benefiting the Center for Hearing and Speech, which is one of the biggest, and probably the only center in Houston that helps out kids with hearing impairment to live a life without using sign language. So it's really for a great cause," she told Xinhua.—Xinhua ■



## Myanmar National League Committee Meeting 2017 held

Kyaw Zin Tun

THE Myanmar National League Committee Meeting 2017 was held on Monday at Bagan Hall of Novotel Yangon Max.

Present at the meeting were MFF's chairman U Zaw Zaw, vice chairman of Myanmar National League Dr Sai Sam Tun, MFF's CEO U Phone Nang Zaw, MFF's general secretary U Ko Ko Thein, MNL's CEO U Soe Moe Kyaw, MNL's COO U Suu Aung, MNL clubs' owners and managers and officials.

MFF's chairman U Zaw Zaw delivered the opening speech at the meeting, followed by the MNL vice chairman's presentation on the 2017 MNL Brief Financial Statement, Partnership Contract of MPT and MNL and Co-sponsor affairs.

The CEO of MNL then explained the status of 2017 MNL,



The MNL Committee Meeting 2017 attendees have the photo taken at Novotel Yangon Max on 20 November. **PHOTO: MFF**

the teams of MNL, 2018 MNL's drafted calendar, the teams who entered the competition, Title Sponsor named after Leagues to be confirmed and the affairs of Chin United FC.

Finally, the MFF's general secretary explained the FIFA instructions for Myanmar National League to carry out.

The Partnership Signing Ceremony of MNL and MPT

and MFF-MNL Awards Night 2017 will be held at 6:30pm on 25 November at Novotel Yangon Max.

The Partnership Signing Ceremony will be held at Grand Ballroom and the press conference will continue at Patheon Hall. Then, the ceremony of MFF-MNL Awards Night 2017 will be held in the Grand Ballroom.

## Myanmar National League 2018 coming soon

Kyaw Zin Tun

THE 2018 season for the MNL-1 teams of the Myanmar National League will be held from 13 January to 23 September, it was announced yesterday.

A total 12 national football clubs will be involved as in previous years, and the games will be held in Yangon, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Patheon, Taunggyi, Mawlamyine, Bago, Sittway and Monywa cities.

The home turfs for the clubs are YUSC Stadium in Yangon for Yangon United FC, Taunggyi Stadium for Shan United FC, Mandalathiri Stadium in Mandalay for Yadanarbon FC, RUFC Stadium in Sittway for Rakhine United FC, Kyauk Taing Stadium in Patheon for Ayeyawady FC, Grand Royal Stadium in Bago for Hanthawaddy United FC, SMFC Stadium in Mawlamyine for Southern FC, Monywa

Stadium in Sagaing Region and Zayathiri Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw for Maha United FC and Myawaddy FC.

Magway FC, Zwegapin FC and GFA FC, which do not have home stadiums yet, will play at Thuwunna Stadium and Aung San Stadium as their home grounds by the arrangement of the Myanmar National League.

Maha United FC and Myawaddy FC are the two teams that advanced to MNL-1, the top-tier league, from the lesser MNL-2. The first and second winningest teams of MNL-2 were City Yangon FC and Maha FC, but City Yangon could not advance to the top league due to financial difficulties and visa problems of the club owner.

Therefore the team to finish in third place in MNL-2, Myawady FC, advanced to MNL-1, in accord with competition rules.

## WBO flyweight champ Kimura to make 1<sup>st</sup> title defence

TOKYO—WBO flyweight champion Sho Kimura will make his first title defence on New Year's Eve, taking on Japanese countryman and top-ranked fighter Toshiyuki Igarashi, the challenger's Teiken Gym said on Tuesday.

In the bout scheduled for Tokyo's Ota Gymnasium, the 28-year-old Kimura will take on the 33-year-old Igarashi who has a 23 win, two loss, three draw record and has never been knocked out.

Igarashi is a former WBC flyweight champion and is getting his first title shot since losing the belt to Akira Yaegashi in April 2013. Kimura, who holds a 15 win, one loss, two draw record with eight knockouts, upset two-time Olympic gold medalist Zou Shiming of China in Shanghai in July, scoring an 11<sup>th</sup>-round knockout to snatch the WBO flyweight title.—Kyodo News ■



WBO flyweight champion Sho Kimura poses with his title belt in Tokyo on 4 August, 2017, after beating Chinese champion Zou Shiming. Kimura will make his first title defence on New Year's Eve. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**



Chelsea manager Antonio Conte. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

## Conte urges Chelsea to ease pressure with Qarabag triumph

LONDON—Chelsea must seal progression to the Champions League knockout stages with a crucial win over Qarabag on Wednesday to help ease the pressure during a congested fixture schedule, manager Antonio Conte has said.

Premier League champions Chelsea are second in their Champions League group and need one win to seal their spot in the knockout stages with two group fixtures remaining.

Conte has urged his side to get the job done in Azerbaijan and avoid the tension of battling for progression during a busy schedule that sees the London outfit play 11 matches, after

Wednesday's fixture, before the end of the year.

"We have to play the most important game of the season from the start until now," Conte told reporters.

"If we are able to win against Qarabag, we can go through to the next round of the Champions League and this is very important because this period from now until January is very busy, so it is very important to win the game.

"It won't be easy because in the last two games they drew twice against Atletico Madrid... it is very important to be focused, to work and to try to win the game."—Reuters