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A child in a rural area of Rakhine State is vaccinated by a nurse who is part of a mobile team administering vaccinations nationwide. **PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG**

Japanese Encephalitis vaccinations continue in rural areas of N Rakhine

CHILDREN in far-flung, difficult-to-access areas in northern Rakhine State have been given Japanese Encephalitis vaccinations since 20 November as the government continues its nationwide vaccination campaign.

Children from four village-tracts, including Saidin Pyaing Chaung Village located about 13 miles from Buthidaung and not easily accessible, were given vaccinations.

"We have to take our se-

curity following the safety first guidelines to reach this village because this village is not easily accessible," said Deputy Director Dr Than Tun Kyaw of Buthidaung Township Public Health Department. Dr. Than

Tun Kyaw is the leader of the mobile team which vaccinated the children from Sai Din Pyaing Chaung Village included in the four village-tracts in Buthidaung Township.

SEE PAGE-3

Threats against NVC applicants won't be tolerated

AS the government steps up efforts at issuing the National Verification Card, the first step in the process towards citizenship, villagers in conflict areas in northern Rakhine said they have been threatened by terrorists who do not want them to apply for the card.

"In the NVC issuing programme, 18 townselders have been killed, and three are still missing,"

Townselders who advise and represent villagers have reportedly been harassed, kidnapped and killed, villagers said. Yesterday, Rakhine State authorities said those who make threats against the National Verification Card issuing programme will be brought to court. A statement released by the Rakhine State Government yesterday said some organisations have threatened villagers not to apply for the NVC card, and ARSA terrorists have made death threats to villagers who participate in the NVC card issuing process. **SEE PAGE-3**



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Pyithu Hluttaw

2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 6th regular session holds its 15th day meeting

Aye Aye Thant

THE advantages of terrace farming was one of the issues discussed at yesterday's meeting of the Pyithu Hluttaw.

At yesterday's meeting, U Hla Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation replied to the question raised by U Thet Naung of Lahe constituency, "To prevent deforestation, loss of soil erosion due to rotation farming year after year and to conserve the natural environment, terrace farming in which various kinds of crops can be grown should be introduced in substitution. To do so, arrangements of model plantation fields by the use of technology were made. In the year—2018-19 farming season, 5 acres in Tikeyan village and 5 acres in Sanpya 49 miles village—10 acres in all will be implement-

ed. In the villages—Gahone, Antpaw, Lankhin, Laungngauk, Tarlan and Htanparkhwe in Lahe Township, technology-used model terrace plantation fields will be implemented by laying down 5 year-project. Arrangements for educating techniques had been made to acquire the better growing habits of paddy, varieties of pulses and oil seeds including crops to be implemented in hillside agriculture system. Systematical uses of pedigree seeds, natural fertilizers and systems of protecting against insects were conducted 4 times a year by region-level experts."

U Tun Tun Naing of Kani constituency put forward a motion to urge the Union Government for scrutiny committee on confiscated farming lands to settle disputes between original farmers and those who monopolized empty, virgin and va-



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint. PHOTO: MNA

cant lands in dubious ways and means, which was respectively discussed by parliamentarians.

U Maung Maung of Htig-yaing constituency discussed the motion submitted by U Tun Tun Naing in support. U Maung Maung said, "Farmers came to use lands for their survival,

after cleansing wild land in forest reserve area, to solve the problems caused by shortage of farming land and land erosion due to floods. It is necessary for the forestry department to give away the ownership of those lands which are worth abandoning. There are many conflicts

among villagers and staff of the forestry department. In villagers' opinions, smuggling of wood and forest products by vehicles went unarrested by authorities concerned. They had a feeling each that there was unfair deeds of authorities over grass-root people. On solving the problems under the concept of Parliamentary Over-Sight, parliamentarians found it difficult to deal with issues. So, I hereby discuss the motion in support, with a view to be well convinced and fill in the blanks where necessary, as for the respective Ministries."

Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw and presenter of the motion agreed to put it on record for monitoring. Speaker of the Hluttaw announced to monitor it.

16th day meeting of 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 6th regular session will continue to be held on 23 November, it was learnt.

Amyotha Hluttaw

2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 6th regular session holds 15th day meeting

Aung Ye Thwin

An increase in the amount of money paid to a lawyer representing an indigent client facing life imprisonment or the death penalty from its current Ks 2500 per day was one of the issues discussed in yesterday's meeting of the Amyotha Hluttaw.

The issue of lawyer's fees was raised in response to a question by U Htein Win of constituency 4 in Ayeyawady Region.

"In an offence punishable by death or a life sentence, the State pays lawyer's fees for pauper litigants. In doing so, lawyer fees are much less than evidence fees, which are given out for coming before courts. So the parliamentarian asked as to whether there are any arrangements for increasing lawyer's fees. In 1993, when daily wages for a labourer were designated as Ks20, the lawyer's fee was designated as Ks50 to Ks100. In 2013, a labourer's daily wage was designated as Ks1700, with the lawyer fees designated as Ks1500 to K 2500, hence the need to increase lawyer's fees compared to present daily minimum wage — Ks3600. Accordingly, the Office of

the Union Attorney General will carry out the task of implementation with the approval of the Union Government after getting the conclusion of the Ministry of Planning and Finance", said U Win Myint, Deputy Attorney General.

Afterward, U Ohn Win, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and U Thein Swe, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population, replied to the questions raised by Saw Shar Phaung Ewa of constituency 12 in Kayin State and Dr. Zaw Lin Htut of constituency 9 in Mon State.

Following that, Mahn Win Khaing Than, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw, took the approval from Hluttaw concerning the bill sent back with the Amendment attached by Pyithu Hluttaw, over the Myanmar Companies Law (Bill) sent with the approval from Amyotha Hluttaw.

Then the Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population put forward a motion to adopt the bill on withdrawal of "the Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment Act) 1948."

Concerning the motion, U



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

Mya Min Swe of constituency 9 in Magway Region supported, followed by the approval of the bill from the Amyotha Hluttaw.

U Myint Naing of constituency 5 in Rakhine State discussed the report of the Amyotha Hluttaw's the Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee submitted in the 5th regular session of the 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw. In the discussion, U Myint Naing said, "In the 5th regular session, four motions were put forward, with 147 asterisk-marked questions and 119 questions without asterisks—266 questions raised. From 1st to 5th regular session there were 643 questions in all,

it was described. It was not described in the report how many pledges were implemented and how many were still left. Now, it has reached the 2nd Hluttaw 6th regular session, but there were pledges to be implemented in the 1st regular session period still left. It needs to reduce this amount if they had been implemented. Another one is part of the conclusion and suggestion. There are 12 suggestions. Committee's efforts were found. I would like to suggest that it would be better for the country if other regions and states could make scrutiny on the ground."

As regards the report, U Win Aung, the member of govern-

ment's guarantees, pledges and undertakings vetting committee put forward a motion to adopt the report, followed by the approval of the Hluttaw.

Concerning the motion, "MICA (Myanmar International Cooperation Agency) submitted by Naw Christ Tun (a) Dr Arr Kar Moe of constituency 7 in Kayin State parliamentarians discussed the interim report of Yangon and Ayeyawady regions' surveys.

U Myo Win of constituency 8 in Mon State said, "On study of 11 enterprises included in the report, 30-40-50-year-contracts were found to have been made hurriedly just at the time of transferring State Power to the new government was definitely sure. According to the report, many enterprises were not implemented yet until now. Now it is time up for the incumbent to strictly follow suggestions included in the report so that bribery and corruption cannot happen in future". With the interim report, representatives discussed at length. 16th meeting of 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 6th regular session will be held on 23 November, it was learnt.

Myanmar, Bangladesh hold meetings on Rakhine issue

At the invitation of U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor, the Bangladesh delegation led by H.E. Mr. Abdul Hassan Mahmood Ali, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has begun an official visit to Myanmar yesterday, after attending the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

During the visit, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor and the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh co-chaired the Ministerial Meeting at the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor on 22 No-

vember 2017 at 1330 hrs.

Prior to this, the Senior Officials Meeting co-chaired by U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar and Mr. Md. Shahidul Haque, Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh was convened at the same Ministry at 0930 hrs.

U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor, hosted a dinner at 1900 hrs in honour of visiting Foreign Minister of Bangladesh at Shwe San Eain Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw. —Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor ■



Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe holds talks with Bangladesh delegation led by Bangladesh Foreign Minister Mr. Abdul Hassan Mahmood Ali in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Japanese Encephalitis vaccinations continue in rural areas of N Rakhine

FROM PAGE-1

The nationwide seven-day campaign is targeted to end on 21 November.

The Ministry of Health and Sports launched the vaccination programme for children under the age of 15 yesterday in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State.

The medical officer of Maungtaw Township, Dr. Kyaw Maung Maung Thein, said this was the first step in a nationwide effort to control encephalitis, an incurable viral disease that affects children more severely.

"The intention of the

vaccination is to control the spread of Japanese encephalitis, especially for children under 15. We vaccinate mainly children from 9 months to 15 years of age.

This campaign is not only for Maungtaw Township, but for the whole country also."

The disease is spread through mosquito bites, and the potentially fatal virus can harm the brain and cause irreversible neurological damage.

The vaccination can protect 85 to 100 per cent of children from Japanese encephalitis, it is learnt from the staff of the health department.

—News Team ■

Threats against NVC applicants won't be tolerated

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Action will be taken against him in accordance with the law, said the statement.

The mobile teams of the Rakhine State Immigration and Population Department have made numerous field trips to villages in Maungtaw, explaining to villagers the merits of having an NV card.

Meanwhile, authorities announced they will take action against anyone who threatens villagers under the Counter-Terrorism Law.

The work of verifying identification and issuing NV Cards is a priority for the government because it was one of the main suggestions made by an independent committee to spur on the development of Rakhine State.

This work was already being conducted in recent months but was delayed due to the ARSA extremist terrorists attack of 25 August. The work was restarted in Maungtaw Township, Shwezar village tract on 12 October. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Broadcasters blast AP's 'distorted' report on State Counsellor's comments

Following is the the statement released by MRTV- Myanmar Broadcaster's Association on 22 November 2017.

Date: 22 November 2017

The MRTV - Myanmar Broadcaster's Association has found that the Associated Press article that they say misrepresented State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's remarks made at the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on 20th November.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said in her speech that "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 ...". But, the AP report misrepresented her comments and wrote that, "Illegal migration spreads terrorism and violent extremism, social disharmony ...".

The distorted AP news was described and perpetuated on international broadcasts, print and online media. This harmed Myanmar's image and the performances of the country's leaders who are constructively and systematically performing internal

affairs, including events which took place in Rakhine State.

We strongly denounce the distorted report of the established Associated Press News Agency which deviated from the international media ethics and fanned the country's challenge because the report comes at a time when Myanmar is attacked with fake news .

MRTV and Myanmar
Broadcaster's Association
(Unofficial Translation)

MJA denounces AP's misleading report

The following is a statement released by the Myanmar Journalists Association

Date: 22 November 2017

1. The Myanmar Journalists Association has learnt that the Associated Press, an established news agency, on Monday misquoted comments made by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in her speech to the ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw.
2. The comment made by the State Counsellor In her opening remarks is "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." But the AP misrepresented the comment in the lead paragraph of the story saying that "illegal migration spreads terrorism...".

3. It is found that the AP's report violated Section-9 of the existing News Media Law and journalistic ethics of international media.
4. At a time when the State is

- making efforts for building good relations with international communities, the government is handling sensitive issues cautiously.
5. Though the AP corrected the mistake, the story damaged the image of Myanmar.
6. Hence, the Myanmar Journalists Association strongly condemned the AP's misleading report.

Myanmar Journalists
Association
(Unofficial Translation)

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you submit a text longer than 500 words
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edited.

Import suspension on cars with right-hand drive approaching, Japanese car auction prices skyrocketing

THERE only a few weeks left until the import of vehicles with right-hand drive is halted, resulting in astronomically high auction prices for Japanese cars, according to yesterday's edition of Myawady Daily.

"Japanese car auctions hit an exorbitantly high price.

Local automobile market is in high demand for Japanese cars, as their auto parts can be easily found in the market and it can carry heavy loads and withstand rough treatment, to a certain extent.

This is the reason why sellers and buyers like those cars. Also, this hikes up the auction price. Cars which specifications cannot be found in left-hand drive are primarily bid, U Kyaw Min said Myawady Daily.

Starting from 2018,



Vehicles are seen in a traffic jam on a road in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

only cars with left-hand drive are allowed to import into the market.

This being so, demand on

cars with right-hand drive are high and the auction price is soaring.

At present, the price of

cars with high-powered engines which will soon be suspended to import is up by Ks3 million. —GNLM ■

Japanese embassy offers free consultations to Myanmar students for further studies in Japan

THE Japanese Embassy in Yangon has invited every Myanmar student who is interested in pursuing further studies in Japan to consult with them.

Myanmar students wishing to study in Japan will be given free consultations individually in the Myanmar lan-

guage by responsible officials from the Japanese Embassy who are involved with the Japanese Scholarship Programme which is held on a monthly basis.

Those wishing to apply for the scholarship can call 01-549644 ext-48, said the Japanese Embassy.—MDN ■



Tourist guide association calls for action against foreign tour guides

May Thet Hnin

The Myanmar Tourist Guides Association (MTGA) called for restrictions and action against some tour companies providing services for inbound tours with foreign guides instead of local guides, said U Aung Tun Lin, the chairperson of the MTGA.

Among the unauthorised guides, Koreans are especially found to be numerous. The number of foreign guides has increased from four to ten since 2012, he added.

"This is illegal that foreigners are explaining about Myan-

mar's destinations. It is a waste of the country's human resources. In addition, those foreign guides might mislead the wrong history. Those so-called foreign tour leaders are stepping on Korean-speaking local guides, making them move to other jobs. Therefore, we requested earlier a response to that problem", said U Aung Tun Lin.

These Korean tour guides are seen throughout the year, not only during the high season, U Aung Tun Lin said.

Currently, some Vietnamese and Italians are also found to be leading inbound tours, said local tour guides.

The tourism community submitted a report concerning foreign guides to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism in 2012, but there is no strict ban.

"We are upset with no response. However, we will attempt to report it to the government again so that more foreigners cannot join this", said U Aung Tun Lin.

U Kyaw Min Htin, Joint Secretary General of Myanmar Tourism Federation, said that the duties and responsibilities of tour-guides and tour leaders should be separately incorporated into the laws and by-laws of Tourism. "We strongly dis-

agree with foreigner guides leading inbound tours. To avoid such matters, the fact that there must be a tour guide in each inbound tour besides the tour leader should be incorporated into our tourism regulations", said U Kyaw Min Htin.

Myanmar's tourism has not markedly improved in recent months on account of the current political and economic climate, making life difficult for some licensed local guides to get jobs.

The foreign guides leading inbound tours have exacerbated the job hunting difficulties for local guides, he said ■

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Voices from Diversity Management Forum

Forum on Diversity Management in the Age of Globalization was held yesterday at the Mingalar Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

Diversity management experts from local and foreign countries discussed several topics including Policy and Conceptual Frameworks, Experiences from Southeast Asia and Experiences from Europe and Africa.

Following is the excerpts of the discussion at the forum which attracted prominent persons from different faiths, ethnic people, youths and experts.

Dr. Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

Though diverse in faiths, ethnicity and languages, we, people of national races are staying together in the Union. No matter diverse are we in terms of religions, languages and ethnicities, we need to have the Spirit of the Union. With the Spirit of Union, we can reach out goal of a deferral union.

Conflicts occur due to lack of unity and misunderstanding among the peoples and communities. Only understanding can bring smooth relations among the communities. This is the theme of this event.

Prof. Dr Walter Kaelin (University of Bern) importance of diversity management

"Countries like Myanmar are composed of many different groups, different cultures, different ethnicities, different religions. Unless you manage this diversity, you will end up in tensions, in conflicts, even in violence. So the state has a responsibility to manage that diversity in a way that all different communities can feel respected and included.



Dr Win Myat Aye addresses the Forum on Diversity Management in the Age of Globalization in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



Prof. Dr Walter Kaelin (University of Bern). **PHOTO: SHWE KO LAY, THURA ZAW (INSEIN)**

Myanmar has made big steps forward, has accepted that it is a diverse country, has opted for federalism as a solution, a lot remains to be done, if we look at the recent wave of violence in Rakhine, this is an indication that more needs to be done.

This is up to Myanmar. There are no models that simply can be copied, First to accept that there is diversity, second accept that maybe past approach has not led to peace and stability, that there is a need for a change of mindset, and what we need is leadership from political leaders, making sure all communities, all



Dr Su Su Thar Tun, Senior Adviser, Office of the UN Resident Coordinator. **PHOTO: SHWE KO LAY, THURA ZAW (INSEIN)**

religions, all languages, all the people have the same right to be included in the society and to be included in the country."

Dr. Myint Thein, Writer Nyein Chan Lulin, Patron of the Peace Building Network

People with diversity in races, culture and religions is the pride of Myanmar. The country's people struggled in the past and today we passed the democracy arch and our federal goal is in our sight. To reach the federal goal, acknowledging and valuing the diversity is sine qua non. Our



Dr. Myint Thein, Writer Nyein Chan Lulin, Patron of the Peace Building Network. **PHOTO: SHWE KO LAY, THURA ZAW (INSEIN)**

country's people are weak for learning about the diversity management and they are worried about the value and situation of communities when diverse things are becoming together because we can not see changes in the world.

It is found that countries became developed one as they could combine their diverse strengths. So, I'd like to urge the people of our country to ease their worries.

With changing our mindset, we should make the best use of the strengths and benefits of diversity to build a peace and developed federal union.

Daw Cathleen Thein (Hindu Women's Network)

It is important for us to see the common interest among the diversity. Besides local people with diverse culture today in Myanmar, we can see many foreigners who do investment in our country.

Though we have different colour, races, nationalities, faiths and countries, the common desire we have is to live in a country which has peace and security.

Ashin Thizzana (Katkyaw Panna Parami Philanthropic Society in Magway Township)

Conflicts come from discrimination and from not accepting diversity. Conflicts can not bring peace to our country. This kind of event is not enough to disseminate knowledge on diversity. We should teach the value of diversity in classrooms. To gain peace, understanding the value of diversity should begin at home.

Dr Su Su Thar Tun, Senior Adviser, Office of the UN Resident Coordinator

Myanmar has diverse cultures. How can we make use of our diversity to develop Myanmar. Diversity can give strength, but sometimes can bring challenges.

To gain strength from the diversity and to reduce challenges, Myanmar should learn experiences of foreign countries which also handled the diversity.

This event is aimed at turning diversity of the participants with diverse cultures, and faiths to strength of the country.

Diversity Management forum becomes as we assume that we need capability to manage the diversity of the country. —Ko Zaw, Insein ■

18th Secretariat committee meeting of UPDJC held in Nay Pyi Taw

The 18th Secretariat committee meeting of the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) was held at National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NPRC) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

U Khin Zaw Oo, U Aung Soe, U Zaw Htay, U Hla Maung Shwe, Maj General San Myint, Brigadier General Sein Htun Hla, U Myo Win, Dr. Hlyan Mhone Ser Khaung, Saw Kyaw Nyunt, Saw Sein Win, Sai Kyaw Nyunt, Min

Kyaw Zeyya Oo, U Tar Hla Phay, U Naing Ngan Lin and other responsible persons attended the meeting. Discussions during the meeting were, Frame Work, Standard operating procedure (SoP) in national level holding of political discussion and Structure, Decision Making Concept, Composition and National Dialogue of the Frame Work of political discussions.—Myanmar News Agency ■



The 18th Secretariat committee meeting of UPDJC is held in Nay Pyi Taw, on 22 November 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Nanyuan

A delegation led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing who is arriving in Yichang in People's Republic of China departed for Nanyuan Airport from Sanxia Airport yesterday morning and welcomed by Sir. Col. Liu Zhongbin from the department of Asian Affairs and officials from national defence of China.

In the afternoon, Senior General and his party arrived at the Myanmar Embassy in China and met officials' families of the Embassy and Military Attache' and trainees.

Then, Senior General rendered presents to officials' families of the Embassy and Military Attaché and trainees. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects the Honour Guard as he arrives Nanyuan, China. PHOTO: MNA

Meeting of assessment board for upgrading capacity of Hluttaw and its result (1/2017) held

A meeting of assessment board for upgrading the capacity of Hluttaw and its result (1/2017) due to the assistances of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to Myanmar's Hluttaw was held at Zabhu Thiri Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Chairman of cooperation committee for the development of the Hluttaw, a delegation led by Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat, international organisations including UNDP and IPU and the representatives from donor countries: Australia,



Participants discuss upgrading the capacity of Hluttaw and its result in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Britain attended the meeting.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed the collab-

oration and ongoing plans of UNDP in 2017 and assessment and analysis cases.—Myanmar News Agency ■

MIC invites local and foreign investors to invest in Kayin State

Both local and foreign investors are warm-heartedly invited to do business in Kayin State, according to a recent announcement of the Myanmar Investment Commission.

This invitation announcement points out that Kayin State has possibilities of economic development. Investments in Kayin State will reap profits and help improve economic development of the state. Priority businesses for investment in Kayin State are electric power generation, transmission and distribution, bonded warehouses, establishment of industrial estates, infrastructure for the transportation sector, industry, agriculture and hotel and tourism. The MIC will scrutinise business proposals promptly for investing in these investment ar-

reas. The MIC is holding yearly rotating investment fairs in regions and states across the country to invite investment for balanced economic development. This year, the Kayin State Investment Fair will be held on 24th November at Hpa-an Township in Kayin State. Officials from embassies and more than 300 local and foreign businessmen will be invited to join this fair. Those interested businessmen will also be taken on a tour to visit sites around Hpa-an such as industrial zones and potential business investment areas.

"At present, the Yangon Region attracts 60 per cent of local and foreign investments, while Mandalay Region has received 30 per cent of total investment. Only a small investment amount flows

into other regions and states. This fair aims to promote investments to far-flung areas in order to have balance in economic development across the country", said U Aung Naing Oo, the Director-General of MIC. As investors in Kayin State can enjoy seven years of tax exemption, more foreign investments are likely to flow into the state. The new Myanmar Investment Law has tax exemption and relief to investors depending on development of the regions and states. Investors in far-flung areas can enjoy tax breaks of up to seven years. According to the new Myanmar Investment Law, region and state DICA offices are authorised to give approval to investment proposals with capital of not more than US\$5 million (Ks6 billion).—May Thet Hnin ■

Myanmar signs MoU with New Zealand for joint pledge on cooperation for development (2017-2021)

The ceremony of the MoU signing the commitment of joint pledge on cooperation for development (2017-2021) between the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and New Zealand yesterday evening at the meeting hall of Ministry of Planning and Finance in Nay Pyi Taw.

Deputy Minister U Sat Aung, departmental officials, Parliamentary Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs, HE Mr. Fletcher Tabuteau, New Zealand Ambassador to Myanmar H.E Mr Steve Marshall and diplomats from New Zealand Embassy also attended the ceremony.

At the ceremony, Deputy

Minister U Sat Aung and New Zealand Ambassador to Myanmar H.E Mr Steve Marshall signed the MoU on joint pledge on cooperation for development (2017-2021) between the governments of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and New Zealand.

According to the pledge, New Zealand will help and cooperate in sustainable development of Myanmar's important sectors including agriculture, education and skills, renewable energy, disastrous management and to offer human capacity building courses and scholarships in Myanmar from New Zealand.

—Myanmar News Agency ■

Tribunal issues final decree in appeal 2/2007

The election commission has ruled in favour of Dr. Wunna Soe (NLD-Party), the candidate for constituency 2 of Kengtung township, Shan State, who had submitted a letter of objection — 4/2017 over representative-elect U Shar Mwe Leshen (USDP).

Unsatisfied with the jury's decision, Dr. Wunna Soe made an appeal to the Union Election Commission (UEC), which accepted it as appeal No-2/2017.

The appeal was heard by Tribunal 1 led by UEC chair-

man U Hla Thein, with U Aung Myint, U Soe Rae, U Tun Khin, U Hla Tint, U Myint Naing and U Than Htay as members. The Tribunal cancelled the objection 4/2017 decided on 22nd September 2017, issuing a final decree in favor of Dr. Wunna Soe, who got 2nd plurality votes in the 2017 by-election, hence the approved declaration of Dr. Wunna Soe, the appellant (NLD-Party) as the representative-elect of Kengtung constituency 2 in Shan State. —MNA

Hard work will reduce criticisms regarding Rakhine State

DURING the one-day visit of Mr. Rex Tillerson, Secretary of State, he paid a courtesy call on State Counsellor, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services, respectively. After meeting with the State Leaders, Mr. Rex Tillerson publicly asserted that broad sanctions would not solve the problem of those who crossed over to Bangladesh.

At the Joint Press briefing held on November 15, Mr. Rex Tillerson asserted that the US welcomed the cooperation between Myanmar and Bangladesh for accepting the displaced people and that the US has already given more than US \$ 87 million as humanitarian assistance for refugees in the Rakhine State crisis up to August 2017, pledging to provide an additional US \$ 47 million and cooperate with Myanmar to fight against terrorism.

On November 14, the Canadian Prime Minister Mr. Justin Trudeau who had been in the Philippines to attend 31st ASEAN Summit and Related Meetings said that we would not like to

At the Press Conference held on November 15, the State Counsellor, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said that she had not been silent on the refugee crisis, and she had focused on speech that avoided inflaming sectarian tensions between communities.

US and Canada have severely criticized Myanmar. Another noticeable remarkable change was that the Rakhine State issue in Myanmar was not specifically discussed at the recently held ASEAN Summit. In fact, such a change must be said to be the fruits of the efforts of the Union Government and the State Counsellor who handled the situation with patience, resilience and grace in the midst of criticisms from some countries.

At the Press Conference held on November 15, the State Counsellor, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said that she had not been silent on the refugee crisis, and she had focused on speech that avoided inflaming sectarian tensions between communities. It may be noted that the State Counsellor has placed more emphasis on actual good deeds, rather than spending time on words or arguments. We should note that the problems in the Rakhine State are long-standing, complicated and sensitive. For Myanmar there are many arduous tasks ahead of us and this may be considered to be just the beginning of a long journey to bring peace and prosperity to Rakhine State.

To sum it up, the Rakhine State issue is a great challenge for the incumbent government. But, from the beginning till now respective organizations have been formed and authorities concerned are implementing the tasks according to respective sectors step by step. We are confident that through hard work, we would be able to reduce false news, allegations and criticisms. ■

Thin Hlaing Hmwe
(Junior)

SOME people say that the earth has been under its infirmity for long. They believe that the earth is being harmed by human activity. However, others feel that human activity makes the earth a better place to live. In reality the earth gives enough to fulfill each man's necessities, not every man's covetousness.

We all realize that people in the ancient period need to battle common environment keeping in mind the final goal which was to make livings. They needed to chase preys and assemble food for their survival. They also chopped down trees to construct their houses. Nonetheless, as innovation enhanced, numerous individuals are now familiar with human exercises that have a very bad impact on our living earth.

It has also raised an argument on the issue on the impacts caused by the human activities on the earth.

Some people guarantee that human exercises harm our planet earth. At the same time, other individuals say that human action makes the earth an improved place to live. In my part, I consider that human exercises deteriorate our earth genuinely. In the

accompanying sections, I will attempt to detail why I think the earth is continuously hurt by human action. Our living earth is constantly hurt by human action on the grounds that individuals abuse characteristic asset in the present time.

As everyone knows, the population on our earth nowadays increases rapidly so that more people than before have to consume more food provision and daily commodities. To expand the above statement, regular assets will get less and less when populace keep increasing. In all honesty talking, the measure of petroleum declines rapidly on the grounds and the numerous individuals drive their autos

which require gas. According to the estimation of the experts, the individuals who live on the earth today can utilize gas for just thirty years and will sink in to vigour emergency later on. Besides, our earth is constantly being hurt by human movement since human action additionally prompts various types of deadly contamination.

As we know, to profit, numerous production lines empty off harmful waste water into waterways. Moreover, air contamination has recently harmed nature's domain of earth and us who live on the earth.

To detail the above contention, the fumes rage which is emitted by numerous manufacturing plants and autos can demolish ozoneosphere of the earth.

That is to say, a surfeit of ultraviolet beams will blanket the surface of our living earth. The consequence is that not just will human have a tendency to have skin malignancy, numerous sorts of species living on the earth may experience annihilation. Our living earth is, no doubt, hurt by human movement since human action dependably devastates the biological equalization of the earth. A case in

point, chasing the whales to fulfill their insatiability is one of the examples among many others.

As everyone knows, each species has its prey. Hence, if human over-chase a few creatures or over-devour a few plants, numerous animal types which eat the above creatures or plants will be on the verge of elimination.

As a matter of first importance, human exercises crush characteristic assets. With improvement of engineering and modernization of urban areas, many old green backwoods are bit by bit displaced by various processing plants and high rises.

Furthermore, harmful gases dispensed with from manufacturing plants contaminate air and water assets close-by.



azons woodlands which is the most harmed area and as a result, many creatures have been douse. This is a weight motivation to feel

It influences natural territory, as well as we ourselves are subjected to mechanical wastes. Deforestation prompts common calamities, for example, surge, disintegration, elevated amount ocean, torrent which have happened commonly. It is a cautioning for people to stop their oblivious conducts. These are several proclamations which will be able to support my concept. As a conclusion and considering the phenomena expressed above and in accordance with my lone opinion, it is important to adjust our live style rather than changing the earth. It is also crucial to attempt to stay away from the boundless misuse of regular assets. Life appears to be more agreeable than before with progressed machines. We have less and less opportunities to approach the nature. The urban areas get greater and when we need to go outing, we need to drive a long separation to discover a characteristic spot. There is no doubt that we are destroying what nature provides us. The earth is constantly being hurt by human's exercises. We should take notice its gratitude and secure it because there is no other place for the human beings to live except the earth. To entirely up, in understanding of the above contentions, I have already somewhat leavened that the earth is, no doubt, harmed by human movement. Numerous researchers, natural aggregations and the administrations of numerous nations additionally make laws to deny human action which is being squandered the regular assets and making different sorts of contamination and pulverizing biological system. Perhaps, some intellectuals might obviously hold diverse perspective of this issue. All thing considered, for the explanations that I have presented above, I consider my point of view is quite rather legitimate. ■

Our living earth is, no doubt, hurt by human movement since human action dependably devastates the biological equalization of the earth. A case in point, chasing the whales to fulfill their insatiability is one of the examples among many others.

As a matter of first importance, human exercises crush characteristic assets. With improvement of engineering and modernization of urban areas, many old green backwoods are bit by bit displaced by various processing plants and high rises.

Furthermore, harmful gases dispensed with from manufacturing plants contaminate air and water assets close-by.

Asia-Pacific forest and farm producers pivotal to improving smallholder livelihoods and achieving regional SDGs in climate-resilient landscapes

FAO Myanmar

FOREST and Farm Producer Organizations (FFPOs) from more than 10 countries of Asia-Pacific gathered in Myanmar recently for the second regional conference to accelerate and scale up implementation of the SDGs in climate-resilient landscapes for the benefit of local farm and forest communities.

The conference: "From users to producers: Scaling up FFPO businesses to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in climate-resilient landscapes" is a three-day meeting held on 20th November providing an opportunity for representatives of local, regional and global forest and farm-related organizations to share best practices that will help improve livelihoods through collaboration and networking.

At the core of this work are producer organizations with their strong organizational and operational structures and proven ability to offer a wide range of services to smaller producers — from management of natural resources to information, technology, business skills, market access and financing.

"Producer organizations are strategic partners for FAO in achieving its mandate and SDG targets on food security and poverty reduction," said Xiaojie Fan, FAO Representative in Myanmar.

"FAO supports existing dynamics in countries, by strengthening producer organizations' capacities at global, regional and national levels. Drawing on its global resources and expertise, and programmes such as the Forest and Farm Facility, FAO facilitates knowledge generation, organization capacity building, legal and policy reforms, partnerships and South-South cooperation," she added.

For more than 450 million people across Asia and the Pacific, forests are an integral part of their lives, with forest producers — through their key contributions to local economies and rural development — among the primary actors working daily towards the achievement of the SDGs.

FFPOs also play an important role in increasing the resilience of the most vulnerable rural communities who are socially or economically excluded, by providing a form of social protection that allows them to overcome these harsh situations and thereby avoid extreme poverty and hunger.

Community forest and farm businesses are also critical actors in the chain of measures to build and enhance climate resilience in landscapes.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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

Mr. Vijay Kumar Singh: We will do what Myanmar wants

Following is the interview with Mr. Vijay Kumar Singh, India's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. MNA

Q: First, what is your impression of Myanmar's democratization process?

A: I feel that Myanmar has embarked on a path towards democratization and that is something India and the rest of the world has appreciated. I'm quite sure that is the right way to go for the people. Very soon, we will start seeing the fruits of this path that has been adopted by Myanmar.

Q: Based on your experience, could you suggest how the people could enjoy the fruits of developments in the future?

A: You see, when democracy comes in, it will be the people who get power and they will get to decide what they want to do. Let me give an example from India. At the village level and the town level, we have the village panchayath or the village institutions, and at the local level you have the municipal institutions. Now they work directly with the people. At the next level you have a state and then assemblies are concerned and you have the rep-

resentatives of the people who, again, take input from the people and then pass it onto the government so that benefits from the government can pass onto the people. And then you have members of parliament who all see the entire process and gets in the central aid for the states to which they belong.

Now in any democracy, this exists in various forms but ultimately it is the interface of the people with the people whom they have chosen to represent them, which gets them the fruits of democracy and development.

Q: What kind of businesses is India willing to invest in Myanmar and how can we best attract foreign investment into Myanmar?

A: As I see, there are small businesses run by people here that can be boosted. Similarly in India we have what we call the MSME (Micro and Small and Medium Enterprises) sector or the Micro and Small Industry Sector; these are small units in manufacturing or something similar, and they do not require



Mr. Vijay Kumar Singh, India's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.

too much of a capital but they provide employment to a large number of people. In Myanmar, there are various sectors which are available, like the electrical or pharmaceutical or infrastructure sector, and the government of Myanmar has to decide what it is they want to develop and which are the areas they want to open up for other businesses to come in. Indian people will be happy to come and invest in Myanmar in conjunction with what the government placed.

Q: Is there any assistance in Myanmar's peace process

and solving the Rakhine issue?

A: You see, the Rakhine issue is an issue that concerns Myanmar and Bangladesh. It has got two parts. One is the humanitarian part and the other is the territorial integrity and how the nation looks at it. We are sensitive to both and we have ourselves available to both Myanmar and Bangladesh to assist them in reaching agreements, ensuring people settle down and ensuring that we give a certain amount of aid to wherever it is needed. We feel that within the perimeters of territorial integrity, the security and safety concerns, long-term settlements and all these issues need to be looked at to solve this problem. And India is ready to assist in any way we are asked to.

Q: Can you tell us about current and future cooperation between India and Myanmar?

A: We have a lot of things going on. We are working in the infrastructure sector; energy sector; we have recently modernized the port in Sittway and we have proposed that let it be tackled as a joint venture with India. There are many areas we would like to

cooperate and I think that as a trusted friend of Myanmar, our philosophy is very clear: we will do what Myanmar wants.

Q: Can you tell me your opinion on the past two days' foreign ministers' meeting?

A: I was able to meet foreign ministers from Asia and Europe and we've contributed to issues that will lead to peace, prosperity and development in both Asia and Europe. There are some things that got highlighted. One was how to tackle terrorism and we've said that we require very resolute action where terrorism is concerned. We need to have an approach where we are able to take action against people who support terrorism. We should share information and look at the radicalization that is taking place so that we can make all our countries safe.

We also discussed climate change issues and we have suggested that countries join International Solar Alliance and it will help people getting out of the use of this hydrocarbon and fossil fuels and getting into renewable energy.—MNA ■

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Notification No. (32/2017)

1379 Nadaw 4 Waxing Moon
(22 November 2017)

Notification on the decision of Union Election Commission in accord with Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw Election Law Section 75 (b)

1. U Shar Mwe Leshen had been elected as representative of Shan State Hluttaw from constituency 2 of Kengtung Township. The contender, Dr Wunna Soe of the same constituency submitted the objection letter to Union Election Commission against the election of U Shar Mwe Leshen as State Hluttaw Representative. Union Election Commission, exercising Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw Election Law Section 69, organized an election tribunal and had the necessary investigation and hearing and exercising Election Law Section 75, after hearing on the case of appealing to election objection, the election commission had already made the decision regarding the above-mentioned case.
2. In the decision of Union Election Commission on the Appeal of Election Objection Case (2/2017) dated 22.11.2017, it is stated that the election of U Shar Mwe Leshen as representative of Shan State, Kengtung Township Constituency 2 has been declared null and void and Dr Wunna Soe is declared as legally elected State Hluttaw representative of above-said constituency in accordance with the Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw Election law Section 75(a).
3. Therefore, U Shar Mwe Leshen is no longer a Hluttaw representative starting from the day this notification is issued and it is declared according to election law Section 75 (b) that Dr Wunna Soe 7/Da U Na (Naing) 041734 is now the State Hluttaw Representative of the Constituency 2 of Kengtung Township, Shan State.

(Hla Thein)
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Coordination meeting held for convening youth multi-development festival



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint delivers the speech at the youth multi-development festival coordination meeting. PHOTO: MNA

The coordination meeting for convening a youth multi-development festival was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Present at the ceremony were Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, chairman of the leading committee for convening youth multi-development festival, Secretary of the Committee and Permanent Secretary U Myo

Myint Maung, Joint-secretary and IPRD Acting Director-General U Ye Naing, representatives from respective ministries and responsible officials.

The festival is to be held on 1st December at the Yangon University Campus, welcoming the Centenary of Yangon University as well.

The Youth Multi-Development Festival will be convened with a view to making youths

grow and flourish in all sectors. Arrangements are to be made for youths to take interest in the festival and to actually help for all-round development, it was learnt.

At the ceremony, the Union Minister gave an opening address, with U Ye Naing, acting director-general of IPRD explaining arrangements for successful convention of the festival.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Some German Social Democrats question rejection of grand coalition

BERLIN — A group of Social Democrat (SPD) deputies is questioning their party's rejection of a renewed 'grand coalition' with Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives to resolve Germany's worst political crisis of modern times, according to Bild newspaper.

SPD leader Martin Schulz wants the party to go into opposition after September polls that brought support to its lowest level since foundation of the modern Federal Republic in 1949. The uncertainty has raised concern across Europe at a time when the EU faces complex political and economic problems.

But consensus within the party appears to be crumbling with roughly a fifth of 153 SPD lawmakers expressing doubts about the decision at a meeting of the parliamentary group, the mass-circulation Bild newspaper reported.

Merkel's bid to forge a three-way alliance with the pro-business Free Democrats and the environmental Greens collapsed on Sunday, raising the prospect



German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel and Chancellor Angela Merkel are seen during a session of the Bundestag in Berlin, Germany on 21 November, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

of new elections or a minority government if the SPD refuses to govern with the conservatives.

SPD lawmaker Johannes Kahrs, spokesman for the Seeheimer Circle, a conservative wing in the party, urged Schulz to keep an open mind when he

meets on Thursday with German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier to discuss a way forward.

Kahrs told the Passauer Neue Presse newspaper that the collapse of the three-way coalition talks had created "a new situation".

"We cannot just tell the German president, 'Sorry, that's it,'" he said.

Bild said German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel, who handed leadership of the SPD to Schulz and became foreign minister earlier this year, also favours a resumed tie-up with conservatives.

Gabriel declined to comment on the issue during an event with the Qatari foreign minister on Tuesday.

Merkel has said she would prefer new elections to an unstable minority government. Until a government is agreed, she continues as acting chancellor and previous ministers remain in post, while the newly-elected parliament also proceeds with business. Stephan Weil, the SPD premier of Lower Saxony who just completed a coalition agreement with conservatives in his state, has said a new election could leave few options other than a grand coalition anyway, the Sueddeutsche newspaper reported. But Thorsten Schaefer-Guembel, deputy leader of the SPD, told

broadcaster ZDF that his party wanted to avoid another grand coalition that could strengthen support for the far right, as has happened in Austria.

"At the moment we don't see a basis for a grand coalition," he said, adding that conservatives had shown little appetite for changing their positions on key issues. "In the end it's all about maintaining power for them," he added.

Dieter Kempf, head of the DIHK industry group, urged politicians to accelerate efforts to form a new government, warning that prolonged uncertainty would harm companies.

Joe Kaeser, chief executive of Siemens, told Die Welt newspaper that he hoped new elections could be avoided since the results would likely be little changed from 24 September. A new poll released Wednesday showed that half of Germans favour a new election, while a fifth back formation of a minority government. Only 18 per cent would support a renewal of the SPD-conservative coalition that ruled the past four years.—Reuters ■

Italy's Berlusconi takes fight against ban from office to European court

STRASBOURG, France — Lawyers for Silvio Berlusconi argued on Wednesday at the European Court of Human Rights against his ban from holding public office, hoping for a green light that will allow him to run for prime minister at Italy's election early next year.

In a hearing before the Strasbourg court, the four-times prime minister appealed against his banishment from holding public office that followed a 2013 tax fraud conviction. It is supposed to remain in place until 2019.

The billionaire media tycoon was widely written off after he quit as prime minister in 2011 amid a sex scandal involving his "bunga bunga" parties, while Italian bond yields surged to unsustainable levels at the height of the euro zone debt crisis.

However, the 81-year-old Berlusconi has made a remarkable comeback after recovering from open heart surgery last year and his Forza Italia (Go Italy!) party is now the lynchpin of a centre-right coalition which leads in opinion polls ahead of

the election. The "Berlusconi versus Italy" case is being heard by 17 judges who make up the court's Grand Chamber, which is used for particularly important and complex matters. Berlusconi has hired a top London law firm to represent him.

The court will not issue a verdict on Wednesday, and even if it eventually decides in favor of Berlusconi the ruling may not come in time for him to run in the election, which must be held by May next year.

In an interview on Wednesday with la Repubblica newspaper, Berlusconi said he would still be campaigning for his party whether he can stand for office or not.

"Irrespective of whether I can stand, I'll be a player and I'll bring the center-right to power," he said. Berlusconi was not present at the hearing.

Berlusconi argues that because the tax fraud took place many years before the 2013 Italian law that bars him from running for office was passed, the legislation is being applied retroactively and is therefore

illegitimate. Berlusconi received a four-year prison sentence in August 2013 for organizing a complex scheme to illegally lower the tax bill of his Mediaset media company.

Three of the four years were immediately waived due to an amnesty to relieve prison overcrowding, and he was allowed to serve the remaining year in community service, helping out in an old people's home.

After the conviction, Berlusconi was expelled from Rome's Senate, or upper house of parliament.

With or without Berlusconi, the election is expected to produce a hung parliament. The anti-establishment 5-Star Movement leads in opinion polls with around 28 per cent of the vote, followed by the ruling centre-left Democratic Party on about 25 per cent.

The centre-right bloc is made up of Forza Italia and the anti-immigrant Northern League, each on around 14 per cent, and the right-wing Brothers of Italy, with around 5 per cent.—Reuters ■

US Navy plane crashes in Philippine Sea with 11 crew and passengers



PHOTO: REUTERS

TOKYO — A US Navy transport plane carrying 11 people crashed in the Philippines Sea south of Japan on Wednesday as it flew to the aircraft carrier the USS Ronald Reagan, the US Seventh Fleet said.

Eight people had been rescued, with the remaining three unaccounted for, Japan's public broadcaster NHK reported. A spokesman for the US Navy in Japan said that it had no information on whether anyone on board had been picked up.

"USS Ronald Reagan is conducting search and rescue operations. The cause of the crash is not yet known," it said

in a press release.

Japanese Minister of Defence Itsunori Onodera told reporters the US Navy had informed him that the crash in the Philippine Sea may have been a result of engine trouble.

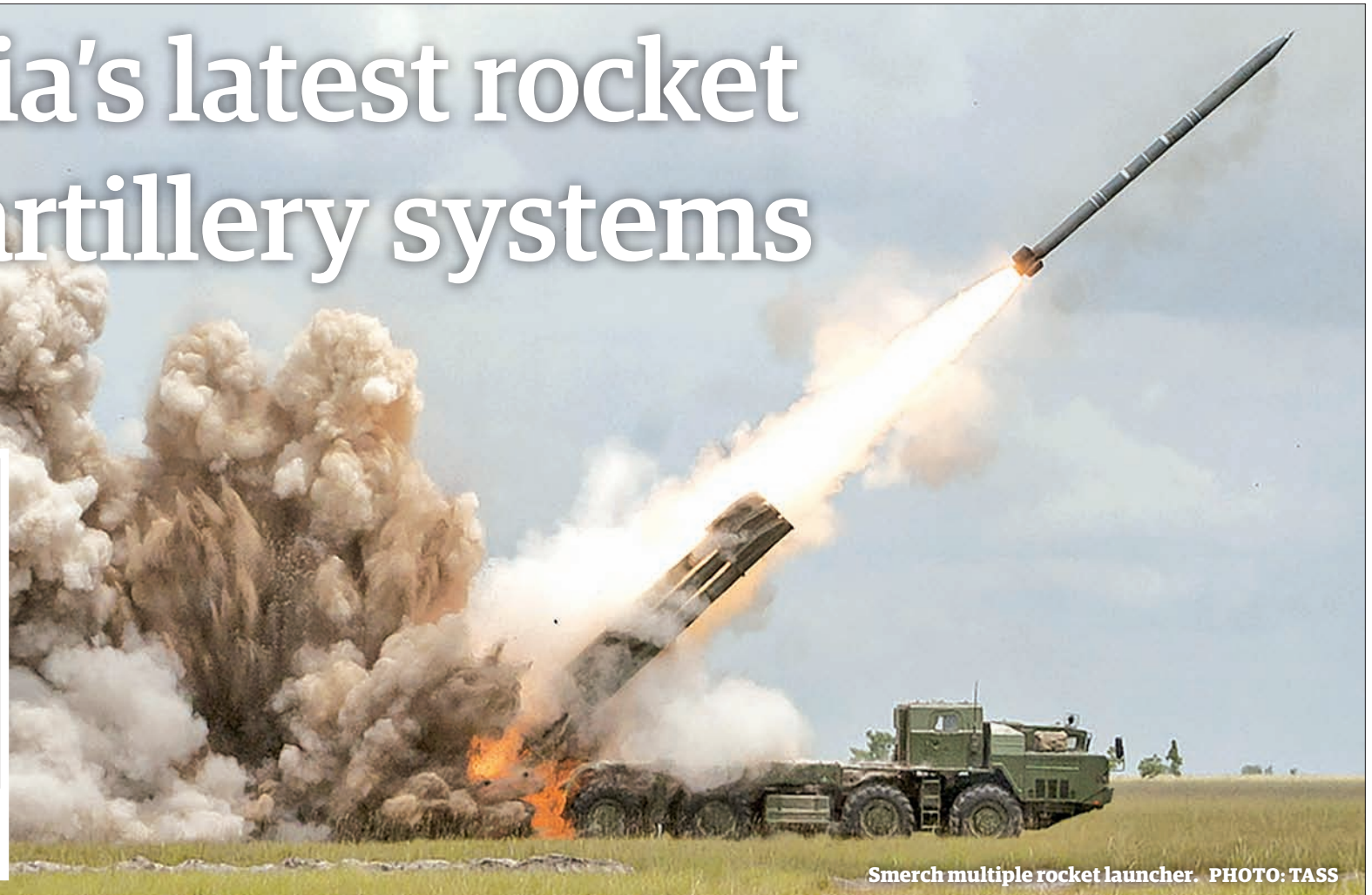
The propeller powered transport plane, a C-2 Greyhound, carries personnel, mail and other cargo from mainland bases to carriers operating at sea.

C-2 planes have been in operation for more than five decades and are due to be replaced by the long-range tilt-rotor Osprey aircraft.—Reuters ■

Russia's latest rocket and artillery systems



Koalitsiya-SV self-propelled tracked howitzer. PHOTO: TASS



Smerch multiple rocket launcher. PHOTO: TASS

MOSCOW — Russia's Missile Force and Artillery Day is celebrated annually on 19 November. The celebration date was set to commemorate the merits of artillery during the Soviet counter-offensive in the Battle of Stalingrad in 1942.

Historically, artillery has been called "the God of War" in the troops. The ground troops' missile forces and artillery are the primary means to inflict fire and nuclear damage on the enemy on the battlefield.

They consist of missile, rocket and artillery brigades, regiments and battalions operating both as standalone units and as part of divisions, brigades and military bases of the Russian Army.

Missile and artillery troops' armament

*multiple launch rocket systems (Grad, Uragan, Smerch, Tornado and others);

*self-propelled artillery systems (Msta-S, Gvozdika, Nona and others);

*towed artillery guns (Msta-B, PAT-B and others);

*Iskander tactical ballistic missile systems (they are arriving for the troops to replace Tochka and Tochka-U complexes).

Russia continues rearming its missile formations to replace Tochka-U complexes with

advanced Iskander-M missile systems.

A total of ten brigade sets of Iskander-M missile systems are already operational in the Russian Army and all of Russia's missile formations are expected to be rearmed with these latest complexes by 2020. The Iskander's large upgrade potential will allow it to operate on a par with foreign analogues up to 2030.

"We continue further experimental design work on developing new missiles for the Iskander-M complex. It is constantly developed further. Several more missile types have been developed. Externally, they look alike but differ radically from inside. The complex currently has at least seven missile types or, perhaps, more..."

New armament

*The troops received a batch of modernized 2S4 Tyulpan 240mm self-propelled mortars as part of the 2017 defense procurement programme.

*Russia's Defence Ministry and the Burevestnik Central Research Institute signed a contract on the delivery of an experimental batch of ten latest Koalitsiya-SV self-propelled artillery guns. Serial deliveries are scheduled to begin in 2020.

*The troops are receiving modernized Msta-SM self-propelled howitzers and Tornado-G multiple launch rocket systems

integrated into the single tactical-level command and control system.

*The Southern Military District has received BM-21 Grad multiple launch rocket systems and Akatsiya self-pro-

er-in-Chief Colonel-General Oleg Salyukov said in 2016 that the rearmament of the Missile Force and Artillery was expected to be completed by 2020.

Considering the modern stage of the development of

warfare means in the world's leading armies, the final goal of developing Russia's Missile Force and Artillery is to create a "reconnaissance and firing system consisting of the reconnaissance, destruction and combat support sub-systems."

They are planned to be united by a common automated control system. Also, the rearmament of rocket artillery brigades with the upgraded Tornado-S systems instead of Smerch complexes will be completed by 2020.

According to data of Russia's Defense Ministry, Russia's missile and artillery troops are expected to have three types of highly mobile brigades — missile, rocket artillery and artillery units with increased combat capabilities exceeding the 2016 potential by 1.5-2 times. —Tass ■



Tornado-G multiple rocket launcher system. PHOTO: TASS

pelled artillery guns this year.

*Ant-tank units are receiving the latest Khризantema-S all-weather anti-tank missile systems.

*The troops are receiving the advanced means of radar reconnaissance (the Aistyonok and Zoopark-1M radars), sound ranging (the AZK-7M complex) and electro-optical surveillance (the PRP-4A) system, and also unmanned aerial vehicles.

*Missile and artillery technical units are being armed with the advanced Bataliya automated armament monitoring system. Russian Army Command-

"We continue further experimental design work on developing new missiles for the Iskander-M complex. It is constantly developed further. Several more missile types have been developed. Externally, they look alike but differ radically from inside. The complex currently has at least seven missile types or, perhaps, more..."

Valery Kashin
Chief designer of the Machine-Building Design Bureau

Zimbabwe's Mnangagwa to be sworn in as president on Friday

HARARE — Zimbabwe's former vice president Emerson Mnangagwa will be sworn in as president on Friday following the resignation of Robert Mugabe after nearly four decades in power, state broadcaster ZBC reported on Wednesday. Mnangagwa, who fled for his safety after Mugabe sacked him two weeks ago, will land at Manyame Airbase in Harare at 6pm (1600 GMT), ZBC said. Mnangagwa's sacking prompted the military takeover that forced Mugabe out.

Mugabe's downfall came suddenly for a man once feted across Africa as a liberation hero for leading his country to independ-

ence from Britain in 1980 after a war. The 93-year-old had clung on for a week after the army takeover, with ZANU-PF urging him to go. He finally resigned on Tuesday moments after parliament began an impeachment process seen as the only legal way to force him out. People danced in the streets of Harare and car horns blared at the news that the Mugabe era was finally over. Some brandished posters of Mnangagwa and army chief General Constantino Chiwenga. Speaker of parliament Jacob Mudenda is due to hold a news conference at 1030 GMT. Mugabe led Zimbabwe

from relative prosperity to economic ruin, presiding over the forced takeover of white-owned farms at the end of the century, which devastated agricultural foreign exchange earnings and led to hyperinflation.

Alleged human rights abuses and flawed elections prompted many Western countries to impose sanctions in the early-2000s, that worsened the economic problems.

Though new investment from China softened the blow, most of Zimbabwe's 16 million people remain poor, squeezed by chronic currency shortages and sky-high unemployment.—Reuters ■



A freight train linking China's Nanchang and Viet Nam's Hanoi departs Henggang railway station, marking the launch of the service, in Nanchang, China on 22 November, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Egypt detains 29 people on suspicion of espionage for Turkey

CAIRO — Egypt's public prosecutor has ordered the detention of 29 people suspected of espionage on behalf of Turkey and joining a terrorist organization, state news agency MENA reported on Wednesday. According to the results of an investigation by the General Intelligence Services, the group has been recording phone calls and passing information to Turkish intelligence as part of a plan to bring the Muslim Brotherhood back to power in Egypt, MENA said.

The nationalities of the suspects were not specified. They are also accused of money laundering and trading currency without a licence. Ties between Ankara and Cairo have been strained since the army ousted President Mohamed Mursi of the Brotherhood following mass protests against his rule in 2013. The Muslim Brotherhood has close ties with Turkey's ruling AK Party and many of its members have fled to Turkey since the group's activities were banned in Egypt.—Reuters ■

Man charged with terrorism, murder in New York truck attack

WASHINGTON — A federal grand jury on Tuesday indicted Sayfullo Saipov on terrorism and murder charges stemming from last month's truck attack in Lower Manhattan in which eight people were killed, the US Justice Department said in a statement.

Saipov was arrested immediately after the 31

October attack in which he plowed a truck down a New York City bike lane and has been in federal custody.

The indictment charged Saipov with eight counts of murder, 12 counts of attempted murder, one count of providing and attempting to provide material support to Islamic State and one count of violence and destruction of a

motor vehicle resulting in death, the Justice Department said.

Saipov, an Uzbek immigrant, was hospitalized after he was shot by a police officer and arrested.

Islamic State claimed responsibility for the truck attack, which was the deadliest assault on New York City since 11 September, 2001.—Reuters ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Transport and Communications Department of Civil Aviation

Invitation to Expression of Interest (EOI) For Muse Airfield to be implemented by PPP Scheme

The Department of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Transport and Communications, invites the interested local companies with foreign firms forming the consortium to submit Expression of Interest (EOI) for the Muse Airfield which will be implemented by PPP scheme for the construction, financing and operations of the airport.

The EOI document in the English language may be purchased by interested firms on the evidence of payment of non-refundable fee of 100,000 kyat by means of bank transfer to Current Account No. MD 011681, MEB INSEIN.

Available date of EOI document : From (27-11-2017) to (1-12-2017)

Deadline to apply EOI : (15-12-2017)

Contact detail : Director

Aerodrome Standards & Safety Division
Department of Civil Aviation
Mingalardon Township, Yangon.
01-533002 , 01-533013

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RESTU VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.11.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP/AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S HELIO INT'L SERVICES
PTE LTD.**

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Noel Gallagher discards any trace of Oasis sound in new album

LOS ANGELES — Former Oasis songwriter Noel Gallagher embarked on a new kind of creative journey with his latest album “Who Built the Moon?” with his High Flying Birds band.

The British musician worked with Northern Irish producer David Holmes, who told Gallagher not to bring any pre-written songs to their sessions.

“Every time it started to sound a bit like Oasis, he (Holmes) would stop me what I was doing and say ‘You’ve done all that before. Try something different,’” Gallagher, 50, told Reuters Television.

“I would try all the things I’d learned down the years on the guitar or whatever I was playing... It was only when I’d switch off and I was just playing that the magic would happen,” he said.

The result is a mix of different styles and genres. “Who Built the Moon?” is released on Friday.

Seven years after 1990s



Musician Noel Gallagher poses for a portrait while promoting his upcoming album “Who Built The Moon?” in Los Angeles, California, US, on 29 September 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

rockers Oasis broke up in bitterness between Gallagher and his younger brother Liam, Gallagher claims all the credit for the band’s enduring legacy.

“I wrote those songs. Nobody else wrote them... I wrote them, I produced them, I came up with all the parts.”

He ruled out any prospect

of reconciling with Liam, adding, “It’s a one-way thing. He’s (Liam) got a problem with me. There’s nothing going back the other way.”

Despite the well-publicized fights with his brother, the wild parties and the blaring newspaper headlines, Gallagher says he has no regrets.

“If I had to go back and do it all again tomorrow, I would make all the same mistakes because the mistakes were great. The drug years were... unbelievable and they were only unbelievable because I was smart enough to get to point and go ‘That’s it now,’ you know.”

“No regrets. You can’t have any. They’re useless anyway. They drive you mad,” he said.

Nevertheless, Gallagher says it is “preposterous” that he has never had a number one US album nor been Grammy nominated, despite the huge success of Oasis in Britain.

“That’s out of my hands but there’s nothing I can do to change that. There are people that I’d like to work with, but I won’t be getting on the phone and calling them,” he said.

—Reuters ■

Beyonce is 2017’s highest-paid woman in music with \$105 million

LOS ANGELES — Beyonce’s hit album “Lemonade” and world tour made her the highest-paid woman in music in 2017, according to an annual Forbes list on Monday, edging out Britain’s Adele and pop star Taylor Swift.

The R&B singer earned some \$105 million (79.31 million pounds) from record sales and from her “Formation” concert tour, according to Forbes. She also has her own Ivy Park fashion line and other business interests.

Adele, whose “25” album broke first-week U.S. sales records in 2015 and who completed her first major tour since 2011, made second place with an estimated \$69 million, despite having no major endorsements for other products.

Swift, who topped the last year’s list with \$170 million in estimated earnings, raked in \$44 million this time despite having finished her “1989” world tour. The singer is expected to see her earnings rise significantly in the next 12 months courtesy of her new album “Reputation” — the best-selling album of 2017



Beyonce. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

- and an upcoming tour.

Canadian superstar Celine Dion took the No.4 spot, earning some \$42 million after taking a break from her Las Vegas residency following the death of her husband Rene Angelil in January 2016.

Forbes compiled the list after estimating pretax in-

come for the 12 months from June 2016 to 2017, based on interviews with managers, agents, lawyers and some of the stars.

It also looked at data from the Pollstar, the Recording Industry Association of America and tracking firm Nielsen SoundScan.—Reuters ■

‘I don’t like being a show off,’ says Barbra Streisand

LOS ANGELES — Barbra Streisand gets no kick out of performing live.

Stage fright, feeling “like a show off,” and an aversion to the trappings of fame have limited the double Oscar and 10-time Grammy winner to singing just 100 public concerts since 1963.

So, at age 75, Streisand took the opportunity to capture on film the Miami concert from her 2016 US tour for a Netflix special. “Barbra: The Music... The Mem’ries... The Magic!” is set to be released on Wednesday.

“I don’t enjoy getting up on stage and prancing around. I feel like a show off. I don’t like being a show off. I like to be still. I like to sit in my chair and sing quietly to the audience. It’s hard for me to be too theatrical,” Streisand told Reuters.

“You put in a lot of time — like three months to prepare a concert, figure out what you are going to sing. It takes me as long as it does to film a movie, so you want to document it for posterity,” she said.

In the Netflix special, Streisand sings many of her best-known songs from her 11 No 1 albums, including classics like

“The Way We Were,” “People” and “You Don’t bring Me Flowers,” mixed with film clips and behind the camera footage from movies including “Yentl,” and some of her recording sessions.

It also captures some of the “Funny Girl” star’s private moments — doing her own make-up backstage, rehearsing, and nerves. Apart from occasional benefits, Streisand says stage fright kept her from performing live in public for 27 years after she forgot her lyrics at a 1967 concert in New York’s Central Park.

Overcoming it was a challenge and was partly behind her series of farewell and comeback concerts in the last 20 years.

“I tried all kinds of things. Then they invented teleprompters, which at least had my lyrics in front of me, so I could look and see what I am doing.

“I really envy those who enjoy performing in front of people. I just don’t, that’s why I love recordings or doing movies,” she said.

“When I got more well-known, I really started to dislike stardom itself. I really am only focussed on the creative process. That is what intrigues me.” —Reuters ■

British embassy cat in Jordan appointed chief mouser

AMMAN — At the British embassy to Jordan, a former rescue cat is settling into his new position as chief mouser — as a traditional well established in the ministries of London goes global.

“Lawrence of Abdoun” is a fluffy black-and-white tom who, according to his Twitter feed, reports directly to the Foreign Office’s Palmerston, a cat that delights his 57,000 followers with regular updates from the ministry in Whitehall via @DiploMog.

Lawrence, named after T.E. Lawrence, a British military officer who fought alongside Arabs against the Ottoman Empire during the First World War, has

already gained 2,500 followers since being adopted from an animal shelter last month.

Abdoun is the neighbourhood of Amaan where the embassy is located.

“Apart from his mousing duties, he reaches out to followers on Twitter. What’s quite interesting is the British public are seeing the UK embassy in Jordan in a different light,” said Deputy Ambassador Laura Dauban.

“Through Lawrence’s Twitter account we’re trying to show a different side to Jordan, what it is really like, a peaceful, prosperous country that British tourists should come and visit.”



Laura Dauban, deputy ambassador of the United Kingdom to Jordan plays with Lawrence of Abdoun, the first diplo-cat to be appointed by the British Embassy in Jordan, at the embassy headquarters in Amman, Jordan, on 15 November, 2017. Picture taken on 15 November 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Tweeting under the name @LawrenceDipCat, Lawrence has discovered the perils of social media, and has even been fat-

shamed by trolls.

“He’s been a bit upset because some people have said he looked a bit fat in the last tweet

he did, so he’ll be doing some exercises and posting to sort of rectify that situation,” Dauban said.—Reuters ■

Athens toy museum opens offering journey to childhood through centuries

ATHENS — The latest museum to open its doors to the public here this fall, the Benaki Museum of Toys, has already won the hearts of locals who queue to enjoy a journey to childhood throughout the centuries.

Housed in a fairytale mansion resembling a castle, the Benaki museum was built in 1900 in a neo-gothic style in the southern suburb of Faliron. It overlooks the Saronic Gulf and hosts 3,500 toys and games and

reconstructions from antiquity until the present day.

A wooden rocking horse that early 20th century statesman Eleftherios Venizelos had given to his grandson greets visitors at the entrance.

Mechanical toys made of wood or tin across Greece or Europe in the 19th century, dolls from Africa and America, shadow theater figures from the Mediterranean and puppets from Asia fill the halls of the mansion,

which was donated by the family of late captain Athanassios Koulouras.

The collection of the museum, which is also a donation by Maria Argyriadis, a collector and researcher of toys, comprises toys and books associated with childhood across the world, literature and education as well as photographs and archives.

The collection — which totals 20,000 items — is considered one of the top ten in Europe. It

was donated back in the 1990s by Argyriadis to the Benaki museum which founded a special department of childhood, toys and games, seeking a home.

The Greece-related objects include handmade infant and childhood toys from the 18th to the 20th century, replicas of toys from ancient Greece and toys made by retirees based on their memories of their childhood games.

The Europe-related objects consist of popular toys from the 18th to the 20th centuries, mainly from Britain, France and Germany.

Until 1991 they were crowded inside Argyriadis’ home and in boxes at the basement. “Something was missing. I would tell myself that it is not right that only I and my children could admire these toys. The toys should find their way outside, to the world, for all children to see,” she told Xinhua recently giving us a tour through the museum.

She had started collecting toys in the 70s. “This is how I started the collection: from a yellow teddy bear I found thrown in the garbage. This was the start of the collection, because I remembered a similar teddy bear I had as a child,” she said.

Her passion to preserve toys was there since childhood. “It all started when I was young, 5-6

years old. My parents could not afford to buy many toys for me for Christmas. Just one,” she explained.

She remembers her mother making new dresses for her old dolls and placing them under the Christmas tree in brand new boxes.

“My mother used to say: take care of your toys, hug them with love, be careful with them and do not throw them away,” Argyriadis recalled.

Asked to choose one toy among the 20,000 of the collection, she starts making a long list. It is impossible, she said. Each one bears a part of the history and children’s daily life throughout the centuries.

Each one has a story to tell. In many cases people who gave her their toys to enrich the collection also shared with her their memories and feelings about making the toy or playing with it.

Argyriadis points to a small wooden set of sofas and chairs put on display in the new museum as a characteristic example.

“A miniature set of living room furniture made of cheap wood that a mother made for her daughter’s birthday during the Nazi occupation (in the 40s)... She brought it to us herself and she told us its story. This toy has a special significance for us,” she told Xinhua. —Xinhua ■



Photo taken on 11 November, 2017 shows toys on display at the Benaki Museum of Toys in the southern suburb of Athens, Greece. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Guardiola focus on winning, not possible last 16 opponents



Manchester City's Gabriel Jesus in action with Feyenoord's Bart Nieuwkoop during the Champions League at Etihad Stadium in Manchester, Britain on 21 November, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

LONDON — Manager Pep Guardiola is calm about Manchester City's potential opponents in the Champions League

knockout stages as the Spaniard is expecting a tough fixture regardless and says the Premier League leaders are only

focused on winning.

City progressed to the last 16 earlier this month and are top of their group after extend-

ing their winning streak to 17 matches across all competitions with a 1-0 win over Feyenoord on Tuesday.

Guardiola's former teams Barcelona and Bayern Munich are among City's potential opponents in the next round, with the draw for the knockout stages to be held on 11 December.

"We play to win the games and after that we will see how things finish," Guardiola told reporters after the match.

"It is important that City have got 15 points at this stage for the first time and we are going to go now to Shakhtar to try to finish well and to try to go and win the game.

"In the last 16, it doesn't matter which one (you get), it always will be complicated."

Playmaker Kevin de Bruyne will miss City's final group game at Shakhtar Donetsk on 6 December through suspension after picking up his fifth yellow card of the campaign but Guardiola had no complaints against the Belgian's booking.

The Manchester side have an eight-point lead at the top of the league and travel to promoted Huddersfield Town on Sunday.—Reuters ■

Myanmar football star Aung Thu going to Thailand's top league

MYANMAR football star Aung Thu, a striker for Yadanabon FC, will likely to transfer to Thailand's Premier League team Police Tero, according to the websites of the Myanmar Football Federation and Police Tero.

The transfer will be a good opportunity for Aung Thu, said Myanmar national football team Head Coach Gerd Zeise.

"This is a good consequence for not only Aung Thu, but for the Myanmar national team. The Thai leagues are very good in tactics and strategies and stress powerful playing. After about two years of playing in this league, Aung Thu will become a brilliant player, with better skills and stamina. He then will give more benefit to the Myanmar national team. There will be a barrier for his progression if he will continue to play here. I would like to say congratulations to him for his transfer," Mr. Gerd Zeise told the MFF.



Myanmar's football player Aung Thu. **PHOTO:MDN**

There was an agreement between Yadanabon FC and Police Tero for the transfer, according to the official announcement of Police Tero, though the final decision is in the hands of Aung Thu.

Police Tero FC, formerly known as BEC-Tero Sasana Football Club, is a Thai pro-

fessional football club based in Bangkok. The club finished as runners-up in the inaugural AFC Champions League competition in 2003. The club merged with Police United in season 2017 and changed their name to Police Tero Football Club starting in the 2018 season due to AFC Club licencing policy.—KyawZin Lin ■

Tottenham beat Dortmund 2-1 in UEFA Champions League

BERLIN — Borussia Dortmund crashed out of Europe's elite competition after losing 2-1 to Tottenham Hotspur in the 5th round of the Champions League group stage on Tuesday.

The BVB failed to protect their one-goal lead until the end of the clash as Tottenham bounced back on two second-half goals from Harry Kane and Heung-Min Son to seal Dortmund's exit from the Champions League.

However, Peter Bosz' men ensured a bright start on home soil and grabbed the reins. Andrey Yarmolenko unleashed a shot on target in the early stages before he set up the first chance of the game for Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, who pulled wide from close range in the 19th minute. Yarmolenko remained in the thick of things as his backheel pass into the path of

Aubameyang allowed the Gabon international to drill the ball past Tottenham's goalkeeper Hugo Lloris into the bottom corner of the far post at 31 minutes of play.

Dortmund's opener was a wake-up call for the visitors from Tottenham, who increased the pressure.

The hosts had to be grateful as their goalkeeper Roman Buerki denied two golden opportunities within short succession before the break. Buerki first blocked Christian Eriksen's side-foot with a superb reflex before he tipped Eric Dier's header on target over the bar.

After the restart, Tottenham responded well and shocked the hosts with the equalizer through Harry Kane, who had time and space to hammer home from the edge of the box four minutes into the second half.—Reuters ■