

NATIONAL
Pope Francis
leaves
Yangon
PAGE-3



NATIONAL
Roundtable discussion on
third session of 21st Century
Panglong Peace Conference
PAGE-2

NATIONAL
Dr. Win Myat Aye attends
meeting in China on
strategies for the disabled
PAGE-3

LOCAL BUSINESS
Mid-year Gems
Emporium to be held
from 12 to 21 December
PAGE-5

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Friday, 1 December 2017

State Counsellor in China for working visit

AT the invitation of the Government of the People's Republic of China, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi left Nay Pyi Taw for a working visit to the People's Republic of China yesterday.

During the trip, the State Counsellor will hold bilateral talks with President Xi Jinping and deliver a speech as the Special Guest of the Government of the People's Republic of China at the opening ceremony of the "Communist Party of China in Dialogue with World Political Parties" High-Level Meeting to be held in Beijing.

The State Counsellor was seen off at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for International Cooperation Ministry U Kyaw Tin, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council U Myo Aung, Mr. Yu Bianjiang, Charge d'affaires of Embassy of China in Yangon, and responsible officials from the Chinese Embassy.

The State Counsellor was accompanied by U Win Khaing, Union Minister for Electric and Power and Construction, U Zaw Myint Maung, Chief Minister for Mandalay Region and U Min Thu, Deputy Minister for the President's Office and other officials.

SEE PAGE-3



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomed at Beijing International Airport. **PHOTO: MNA**

Kayin State Government to donate houses, wells to Maungtaw

GOVERNMENT officials gathered in Rakhine State yesterday to inspect the site of building houses for new villages.

Dr. Chan Thar, Rakhine State Minister for Social Affairs, U Than Naing, Kayin State Minister for Planning and Finance, U Saw Pyae Thar, Minister for Transport and Energy and departmental officials led by U Nyi Pu, Rakhine State Chief Minister, Daw Nan Khin Htwe Myint, Kayin State Chief Minister went to the building site for the new Mingyi Village in Aung Sit Pyin village-tract in Maungtaw yesterday meeting.

"Old Mingyi Village was eroded. Now the teams representing Region and State Governments came here to collectively solve difficulties experienced in Rakhine State. The new village will be built as a model village under the sponsorship of Kayin State and Sagaing Region", said Dr. Chan Thar.

U Nyi Pu, Rakhine State Chief Minister said, "All Regions and States across the country are coming here to join in building up regional development in Rakhine State."

SEE PAGE-6



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Speaker U Win Myint lays the wreath at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker in Hiroshima, Japan

AT the invitation of H.E. Mr. Tad-amori Oshima, the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Japan, a delegation led by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint departed from Kyoto yesterday morning and arrived in Hiroshima at 12:10 am. In Hiroshima Speaker U Win Myint gave condolence for the people who died in the 1945 nuclear bombing of Hiroshima. Consequently, the delegation led by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker went and observed Atomic Bomb Dome in Hiroshima. The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and party arrived at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and visited the Peace Memorial Museum. Earlier in the day at 9am, U Win Myint and party also visited Kinkaku-ji Temple in Kyoto.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and party were then hosted at a luncheon by Hiroshima Mayor Mr. Kazumi Matsui.—MNA

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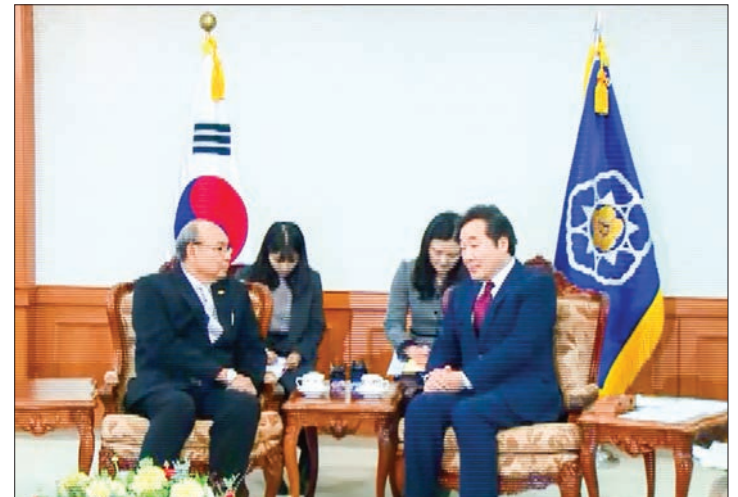
Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker meets Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than and party visited the ICT Experience Center of SK telecommunication in Seoul yesterday.

Officials explained that the center was founded in 2008 and was monitoring the potential ICT technologies of the future.

The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker and party were then hosted the luncheon by Senior Executive Vice President Mr. Joo, Si-Bo.

Next, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker met Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea, H.E. Mr. Lee Nak-Yeon and cordially discussed the cooperation and friendship between the two countries. There are about 200 companies from the Republic of Korea in Myanmar.



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than holds talk with Senior Executive Vice President Mr Joo, Si-Bo in Seoul. **PHOTO: MNA**

mar. The Republic of Korea ranks sixth among countries with the most investment in Myanmar.

After meeting, the Prime

Minister, the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker and party watched Nanta, the Korean traditional drumming show. —Myanmar News Agency

Roundtable discussion on third session of 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference

THE second day of roundtable meetings concerning the third session of the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong was held yesterday morning at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Nay Pyi Taw.

Meeting attendees discussed by titles the policy proposals from the political sector

that remain to be considered in the second session of Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong.

In his concluding speech, UPDJC secretary U Khin Zaw Oo said there is a need to submit to the next meeting ideas representing each group after conducting group discussions in this meeting.

The titles and topics discussed in this roundtable meeting will be re-discussed within each group, after which another roundtable meeting will be held.

Present at the meeting were representatives of the groups from the government, Tatmadaw, and ethnic nationals. —Myanmar News Agency

Union Minister for Information views Youth All-Round Development Festival

UNION Minister Dr Pe Myint and the chairman of the Youth All-Round Development Festival viewed preparation works for the event which will take place from 1st to 3rd December at the Campus of University of Yangon.

The Union Minister inspected the rehearsal for the opening ceremony of the festival, the performances of the band and Pom Pom troupes, preparation of the convocation hall at the University of Yangon where the opening ceremony will take place and booths of the Yangon Technological University, the University of Computer Studies Yangon, and the University of Yangon, universities'

science research department.

In the afternoon, the union minister met with Ms. Isabella Kurkowski, representative of Deutsche Weller Akademie (DW) at the Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV) on Pyay Road in Yangon.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to cooperation between the Ministry of Information and the DW, including the contract term between MRTV and DW, which will end in January 2018 and be extended to 2020.

Also discussed were extension of the MRTV and online media at the DW, connections with ethnic media in regions and states, training staff of the

Ministry of Information after online media bureaus are set up in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon, a survey for market research, and an entertainment programme for the digital channel.

Present at the meeting were MRTV Director-General U Myint Htwe, Director-General of the Printing and Publishing Department U Aung Myo Myint, Managing Director of the News and Periodicals Enterprise U Kyaw Soe and officials.

In the evening, the union minister viewed the booths of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC). — Myanmar News Agency



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint visits a booth of a university at the Youth All-Round Development Festival. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor in China for working visit

FROM PAGE-1

The delegation led by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrived in Kunming, Yunnan Province, at 11 am local time, where they were welcomed by Mr. Liu Huiyan of the CPC of Yunnan Province, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thit Lin Ohn, Ambassador of China to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang, Myanmar Consul-General U Soe Paing and embassy staff.

The State Counsellor and party proceeded to Hai Geng Garden Hotel by motorcade to attend a dinner hosted by Secretary of CPC of Yunnan Province Mr. Chen Hao.

After the dinner, the delegation left for Beijing by special flight and arrived at Beijing International Airport at 5 pm local time.

They were welcomed at the airport by Deputy Head of the International Liaison Department of the CPC and Military Attaché of Myanmar Brig-Gen Tint Hsan and staff of Myanmar Embassy in Beijing.

At 7 pm, the State Counsellor attended a dinner hosted by the Head of the International Liaison Department of the Communist Party of China Mr. Song Tao. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Pope Francis is seen off by dignitaries at Yangon International Airport on 30 November 2017. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

Pope Francis leaves Yangon

Pope Francis, who was in Myanmar for a four-day visit, left yesterday afternoon for Dhaka, Bangladesh, on a special aircraft.

The Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein,

region ministers, the Myanmar Ambassador to Vatican City State U San Lwin, Bangkok-based Myanmar Ambassador to Vatican City State Sayadaw Paul Chan An Nam, Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Strategic Studies and Training Department Director-Gener-

al Daw Kay Thi Soe, Catholic Bishops' Conference of Myanmar (CBCM) His Eminence Cardinal Archbishop Charles Bo, His Excellency Auxiliary Bishop John Saw Yaw Han, and CMBM's president bishop Felix Lian Khen Thang saw off Pope Francis at Yangon International Airport.

Before leaving, Pope Francis prayed yesterday morning together with Christian youths at Saint Mary's Cathedral Church located at Bogyoke Aung San Road and Bo Aung Kyaw Road. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Dr Win Myat Aye attends meeting in China on strategies for the disabled

Dr Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, attended the High-Level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-Point Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities being held in People's Republic of China.

The meeting was held with the intention of reviewing development situations including the difference to be experienced and challenges in carrying out the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2013-2022) and the Incheon Strategy, discussing instructions on policies for further implementation, upgrading the implementation for the remaining half of the decade and laying down a notification through discussions.

ade and laying down a notification through discussions.

Present at the meeting were representatives of governmental institutions from 35 countries in Asian and Pacific Regions, UN Agencies, civil societies and disabilities-related organisations.

At the meeting, law, rules and regulations on rights for the disabled, formation of a national committee, disabilities-related social protection, examination of situations on child development, resettlement, a convention on opportunities of disabled persons, the UN, Incheon Strategy and cooperation between goals of sustainable development, it was learnt.

Myanmar learned about the



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye attends the High-Level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-Point Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities held in China on 30 November. PHOTO: MNA

Incheon Strategy currently implemented in regional countries and the experiences and difficulties of all-inclusive development, and how to upgrade international

cooperation which can result in human resources and techniques to help the disabled.

During the meeting, the Union Minister held talks with the

disabled development association of the Korean Government and the Asian and Pacific region disabled development team committee, it was learnt. — MNA ■

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

Yoma signs US\$400 million contracts to build Yoma Central & The Peninsula Yangon

YOMA Strategic Holdings signed an agreement Wednesday with two global construction companies to build Yoma Central and The Peninsula Yangon on the grounds of the former headquarters of Myanma Railway in Yangon, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

Both projects, which are a combined luxury hotel and real estate development effort, will be built on a 10-acre site in the heart of downtown Yangon. The value of the two projects is over US\$400 million and the contracts will include civil, structural, architectural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing and heritage works.

Yoma Central will include Peninsula-branded residences, two Grade "A" office towers, a business hotel, service apartments and retail shops. The Yoma Central project will be implemented jointly by BTJV Myanmar, a joint venture between Dragages Singapore Pte Ltd. and Taisei Corporation.



The construction of Yoma Central and The Peninsula Yangon seen in Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

The Peninsula Yangon will be constructed by BYMA Pte Ltd., which is joint venture between Dragages Singapore Pte Ltd. and Yoma company.

"This project is one of the largest foreign direct investments in Myanmar's real estate sector with an investment of over US\$700 million," said

Mr. Cyrus Pun, the executive director from Yoma Strategic Holdings Ltd. The project is expected to be completed in 2021, it is learnt.—GNLM ■

Coffee production and management training by Japanese experts

JAPANESE coffee experts will provide coffee training courses at the Coffee Production and Management Training programme at Ywa Ngan town in Shan State, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

"The coffee experts from Japan visit Myanmar annually. But it is not easy to get the technical system from them.

Therefore, we open the training courses every year for the local people," said Daw Lay Lay Myint, the owner of the Nyan Gyi Shin coffee enterprises.

The course will train students how to pick coffee seeds, how to store the coffee, how to make the best coffee and how to manage a coffee business.

The training course will be from 2 December to 7 Decem-

ber. Anyone who does not have any experience in the coffee field are allowed to join the free training course. The training course will take place at Nyan Gyi Shin coffee factory.

The township boasts 6,600 acres of coffee plantations across 120 villages, which has the capacity to produce over 700 tonnes of coffee beans annually.—GNLM ■

30 per cent of pharmaceuticals in local markets found to be illegal

AROUND 20 to 30 per cent of pharmaceutical drugs which are illegally imported through the border were found in local markets, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

When importers brought the medicines into the country the import document showed only a few medicine, and customs officials did not have enough time to check all the medicines, said Dr. Saw Nay Nwe, Deputy Managing Director of AA Medical Products.



A customer buys medicine at a pharmacy. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Moreover, people also import counterfeit drugs into the country. Certain pharmaceutical drugs and vaccines have to be kept at certain temperatures and therefore the drugs have to

be transported with cold boxes in refrigerated trucks.

Currently, Myanmar imports about 85 per cent of its drugs from foreign countries, it is learnt.—GNLM ■

Ministry to issue skills certificates for 15 more kinds of jobs

THE National Skills Standards Authority (NSSA) under the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population is planning to issue skills certificates for 15 more job categories, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

"Currently, we issue skill certificates for 25 kinds of jobs. Now, we are discussing to issue skill certificates for 15 more job categories annually", said Daw Khin Mar Aye, the headmistress of the training centre.

The Ministry is planning to issue skill certificates concerning rubber production, paddy farming, repairing agricultural equipment, use of agriculture machinery and construction sites.

The ministry provide these skill certificates with an aim to find jobs easily and earn more salaries in foreign countries, it is learnt.—GNLM ■

Legislation for rubber sector being drafted

By May Thet Hnin

THE government, in cooperation with the Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association, is currently drafting legislation for the rubber industry. Efforts are being exerted for a Rubber Central market to come out once a Rubber Law is instituted.

At present, officials from the Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association and related ministries including the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation are in discussions, said U Khaing Myint, the secretary of Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association.

“Only upon enactment of this bill can the Central Market be implemented. However, we do not waste our time in waiting for development of law. Therefore, we are preparing for the needs to produce the Central Market in cooperation with the competent authorities concerned, especially in choosing the place, construction and finding skilled labourers”, said U Khaing Myint.

A Rubber Law is being



Workers work in a rubber factory at Namtit in ethnic Wa territory. PHOTO: REUTERS

drafted and frequently amended. The bill is expected to be acted on by the Hluttaw in late 2018.

The Rubber Central Market will release the market prices, control the price and maintain quality. The Central Market will be established to become

a single spot at which local and foreign businesses can bid for rubber.

“The government’s guidance plays a vital role in emergence of the central market as it needs fund to pay the sellers in advance before the foreigner buyer company transfers the

money. Nobody will take risk without certainty on benefit to make deposit of thousands of millions at the Central Market”, said U Khaing Myint.

Upon emergence of Rubber Central Market, those who can lead processing in rubber market are crucial role to effective

management in order to avoid monopoly on market not to harm the rubber industry.

Rubber Central Market has already emerged in Thailand, reaping successful result. There has tight security in this market as market info might leap from unscrupulous staff to the companies outside.

“The emergence of the Rubber Central Market can control the market price and attract more foreign buyers. Moreover, rubber farm owners will also make efforts to upgrade rubber quality to place on the central market”, said Daw Lin Lin Tun, a rubber farm owner from Hlaingbwe Township in Kayin State.

Seventy per cent of Myanmar’s rubber goes to China. The remainder is sent to the markets of Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and other countries in the region.

Rubber is mainly cultivated in Mon and Kayin states, Taninthayi, Yangon and Bago regions. There are over 1.67 million acres of rubber plantations across the country, but only about 700,000 acres can produce natural rubber latex. ■

Government earns over Ks5 billion from jade and gems taxes

By Aung Thant Khine

THE government earned over Ks5 billion in trade taxes from jade and gems exports from Mandalay to Muse from November 2011 to August 2017. One-stop service opened in Mandalay to collect the tax for jade and gems exports in November 2011, according to the Jade Mining Department (Mandalay).

The staff from the customs department and the Internal Revenue Department are providing one-stop service at the jade mining department office on 35th Street, Chanayethasan Township, Mandalay from Monday to Friday.

“The government earns the tax mostly from cut jade and threaded jade beads. The gem and jade traders can pass the checkpoints without any delay with documents that show they have already paid the tax,”



A merchant appraises a jade stone at the Myanmar Gems Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: AUNG SHINE OO

said U Win Aung, the assistant general manager of the Jade Mining Department (Mandalay).

One-stop service provides inspection, assessment, weighing and price estimation of the jade and gems. The staff of the one-stop service collect a total of 8 per cent as extraction tax from the jade and gems.

One-stop service is available in Yangon, Mandalay and Mogok.

“The jade from Mandalay-Muse road are being sold in China. But the traders have to carry only through official checkpoints,” said an official from the one-stop service.

The quality of the jade is classified into five levels such as A, B, C and etc. ■

Mid-year Gems Emporium to be held from 12 to 21 Dec

The mid-year Myanmar Gems Emporium will be held at Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw from 12 to 21 December.

Local and foreign journalists will be allowed to cover the event from 12 to 15 December; and sales data will be released and handed out to journalists on 21 December at the Nawarat Kothwe Gate of the Maniyadana Jade Hall.

To cover the event, local and foreign journalists should register at the News and Periodicals

Enterprise of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw by 7 December. Forms for journalists are available at the Copyrights and Registration Branch and the Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club. Detailed information is available at 067-412125, 067-412126 of the News and Periodicals Enterprise, or at 067-414497, 067-414498 of the Administrative Affairs Committee of the Mid-Year Gems Emporium-2017.— Myanmar News Agency

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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National objectives for the 2018, 70th Anniversary of Independence Day

1. All nationalities to collectively preserve and protect non-disintegration of the Union; non-disintegration of national unity; and perpetuation of national sovereignty.
2. To strive hard to draw up a constitution suitable for the Union in accordance with democratic principles and norms for the emergence of a Democratic Federal Union.
3. To strive hard and exert our utmost efforts to implement the peace process as quickly as possible.
4. For all nationalities to work together with the State to achieve the goal of "lasting peace" through political dialogues.
5. By encouraging the private sector which is the main engine of growth for the economy, to collectively exert our efforts for improving and advancing the socio-economic life of the people.

Five suspects arrested, stimulant tablets seized

POLICE arrested five suspects and seized more than 1,200,000 stimulant tablets from them in Maungtaw and Buthidaung townships on Wednesday.

Acting on a tip-off that stimulant tablets would be transported along the Anguemaw-Maungtaw Road to Zula Village, Maungtaw Township, police staked out the area at 4am on Wednesday.

While police were waiting, a Hi-Jet vehicle driven by Mg Tin Win, 18, with two men on board, Mg Kyaw Kyaw Lin, 16, and Mg Thein, 19, was stopped near Zula Village. Police saw bundles unloaded from the vehicle and handed to 15 villagers, who took them and began walking toward Zula Village. When police gave chase, the villagers dropped the bundles and ran away.

Police arrested the driver, Mg Tin Win and the two pas-

sengers in the vehicle, together with 955,500 WY/R pink stimulant tablets. Police continue to investigate the suspects in accord with the law. On the same day, police seized 316,000 stimulant tablets in two gunny sacks with an estimated worth of Ks632 million near the old Dhamayone building in the compound of the Gannaryi philanthropic monastery west of Buthidaung Township. Police discovered the illegal drugs after a witness saw a white Probox vehicle drop off two gunny sacks.

Police arrested Khant Aung, 40, who lived in Hpa-An Township and Nay Soe Oo, 46, who lived in Hlainethaya Township on Bogyoke Road, Miyethtar Seik Ward, Buthidaung Township. Police filed a lawsuit against the suspects in accord with the law after they admitted carrying that two gunny sacks.—MNA ■

Kayin State Government to donate ...

FROM PAGE-1

Under the leadership of the Union Government and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, peace, stability and development of Rakhine State, resettlement and rehabilitation works are being supported by other Regions and States. Remarkable changes and development are being made so that in near future peace, stability and development will be seen by all."

Chief Ministers of Rakhine and Kayin States, and ministers of Rakhine State Government took part in a ground breaking ceremony at the site of the new village, spraying scented water. Mingyi village will be home to 72 families and 352 family members. Eighty-eight land plots measuring 40 by 60 ft will be made along with a school, dispensary, monastery and wells, it was learnt.

Old Mingyi Village was eroded by Pyuma Creek. The new village will be built near Wetkye-in Village, on the side of Taungpyo-Kyeinchaung Road. The Kayin State government will build 29 houses and wells.

Daw Nan Khin Htwe Myint, Chief Minister said, "We came here to build houses. But on seeing the actual necessities, we arranged to dig wells. The solar electric panels we brought are very convenient, meeting the requirements of the village. Houses will be built within a two-month period. Out of 74 houses, Sagaing Region will build 45 and Kayin State will build 29 dwelling abodes." In the afternoon, Chief Ministers and members met with departmental personnel, providing them with noodles, sardines, coffee, cooking oil and other food-stuff.—News Team ■

Those who want to return and live in Myanmar should abide by the existing law



U Soe Aung.
PHOTO: MIN HTET



U Myint Kyaing.
PHOTO: MIN HTET



U Thein Zaw.
PHOTO: MIN HTET

If not action should be taken effectively according to existing law

IMPLEMENTATION Committee on recommendations on Rakhine State joint secretary and Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung together with officials visited Rakhine State in 29 and 30 November to inspect and view the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) works. Following are the brief of the interviews conducted with officials from implementing departments and companies.

Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

This trip to Rakhine State is to coordinate the resettlement and regional development works under UEHRD conducted by private entities and government departments. Repatriated people will be thoroughly screened by personnel from several government departments at the Taungpyo Letwe and Ngakhuya stations which are the main entry points where assessments will be made according to bilateral agreement and immigration law. As the departmental personnel will have to conduct this work for long, living quarters and offices for them were being constructed. Modular houses will be constructed by the end of December. There'll be 16 modular houses with 80 rooms in Taungpyo Letwe. Ministry of Construction is constructing these modular houses in Taungpyo Letwe. Private entities under UEHRD are constructing the modular houses in Ngakhuya.

U Myint Kyaing, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population

MoU was signed for repatriation of people who fled to Bangladesh from Myanmar. According to the MoU, the repatriation will be systematically conducted under the 1982 Citizenship Law and this visit is to inspect the status of preparing the repatriation stations. Those who are repatriated along the land route will be inspected at Taungpyo Letwe station while those who are repatriated along the sea route will be inspected at Ngakhuya station. Taungpyo Letwe station is 45 percent completed and soon it will be fully completed. As for Ngakhuya, only about 15 per cent of preparation work is completed. Application forms to return and live according to existing laws were being sent to Bangladesh through Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The application form will include the applicant's name, family list, type of identity held when they lived in Myanmar (white card, NV or receipt issued when the white card was returned). Finally they need to admit in the application that they are returning to Myanmar on their own free will without intimidation or threat from anyone.

They also need to concur that they'll live in Myanmar according to existing law. A recent photo will be attached on the application and the application will be sent back to us. Repatriation assessment committee formed by the government will assess and receive them back. They will be assessed based on the data collected three times a year in the border areas. Only those who are in this list will be accepted back. Applications of those who are accepted will

be sent back to Bangladesh. All applicants will not be accepted back. Only those who are found to be included in the earlier collected data will be accepted. Applicants in the applications and returnees will be compared using biometric means. Myanmar will be ready to accept the repatriation by the end of December. Only thing is no application to return had been sent back from Bangladesh to date. Complete application with photos need to be sent quickly. Only then can it be checked and accepted back in the repatriation stations. Muslims who had lived for long in the country will not lose their human rights and will be protected and permitted to live according to 1982 Citizenship Law. The main point is everyone can live peacefully in the country according to the law. If not effective action will be taken according to the law.

U Thein Zaw, acting director general, department of building, Ministry of Construction

I am in this trip to inspect the construction of 16 Modular House in Taungpyo Letwe station. The Modular House donated by China is being used in this construction. It will be constructed by our department. 22 Modular House for Ngakhuya station is being issued to Eden Company that is constructing it. Taungpyo will be completed by end December and Ngakhuya will be completed by end January. Three mountain crossing roads were being planned for this region. A single lane road is completed for Kyeinchaung-Gopi Road. It will be upgraded to an all-weather road. Two remaining mountain crossing will also be constructed.—News Team ■

Voices on Youth All-Round Development Festival



U Ye Naing (Director General),
Information and Public Relations
Department.



U Hlaing Win Maung (Deputy
Director, Department of Fine Arts,
Ministry of Religious Affairs and
Culture).



U Thein Soe (Thein Soe Thiha
Yadana).



Dr. Pho Kaung, Rector, Yangon
University.



Dr. Kathy Kyaw (Director, Yangon
Region Department of Social
Welfare).

Interview By Win Win
Maw
PHOTO BY MAW GYI

YOUTH All-Round Development Festival, a memorable once-in-a-lifetime event for Myanmar youth, will be held for three days from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on December 1-3. The event includes activities related to literature, arts, sports, IT and science. It will also have book sales, youth education program, discussions as well as entertainment performances like playing music, singing song and dances. Myanmar News Agency interviewed responsible officials who are making preparation for the event.

U Ye Naing (Director General), Information and Public Relations Department, joint secretary of Youth All-Round Development Festival Leading Committee

This festival includes sectors such as information, knowledge, creativity and entertainment preparation works are now 90 per cent completed.

High school and university students numbering about 400 from Yangon Region were invited to the opening ceremony. On the remaining days Ministry of Education had arranged transportation for students from selected universities to attend and some schools had sent a list of students that are visiting while announcement were being made in the media for the public to attend so we are expecting more than 10,000 visitors daily.

All can freely visit and security checks will be conducted on people and things at the inspection gates. The main aim is for youth to enjoy the festival and security measures are put in place appropriately for safety of everyone.

Ministry of Information (MOI) will mainly conduct literature related activities. In

addition to youth discussion in Eco (University of Economics) and meeting between youth and famous artistes in RC (Recreation Center), literature exhibition around Thit Pote Pin (an old tree near RC that is a land mark of Yangon University) and poem recitation event will be held while music band from Myanmar Radio and Television will provide entertainments.

In the Arts Hall facing Thit Pote Pin, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture will also provide an entertainment program. Arrangements are made so that anyone who comes to the festival can go directly to the program that they like. Fine Art hall will especially have entertainment programs. Ministry of Health and Sports is taking responsibility for sports events.

Sagaing Hall and the areas beside Adipati Road are designated as sports area and sporting events will be held. A group walk will be conducted on 6 a.m. 2 December.

2,000 T-shirts with logo of the ceremony will be distributed. The plan is to have the group walk conducted with participants wearing these T-shirts. The walk will start in Adipati Road and will end at the Adipati Road entrance to the university. The route will be along Adipati Road, University Avenue Road, Inya Road and Pyay Road.

This is a rare chance for youth. All are invited to participate enthusiastically. Youth All-Round Development Festival is held with an aim of providing not only information and knowledge but development of artistic and sporting abilities.

The festival programs were posted on MOI social media page. More than 60,000 had visited the page while questions about the festival raised at the page were being answered. Details about the festival can be seen in the page and inquiries made.

Dr. Pho Kaung, Rector, Yangon University

I am assigned the duty of exhibition holding committee secretary. Technology exhibition is in the empty area between Yangon University convocation hall and University of Economics and will have 15 booths. 13 will be universities and colleges booths while 2 will be Myanmar Computer Federation booths. Universities and colleges include Yangon Arts and Science University, University of East Yangon, Yangon Technology University and Technology University and Computer University around Yangon. Arts and Science side will show science exhibits while Technology University will exhibit their invention and computer technologies.

Yangon University was founded in 1 December 1920 and it is an honor for Yangon University to hold the first Youth All-Round Development Festival on its birthday of 1 December.

Dr. Kathy Kyaw (Director, Yangon Region Department of Social Welfare)

Five ministries are jointly hosting the Youth All-Round Development Festival. As Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is responsible in drawing up youth policy, it is displaying exhibits, providing entertainments and conducting talks in the festival.

In the exhibition part in addition to history of Taunggyi Mingala Oo model Youth Center recognized by Social Welfare Department, making of Taunggyi hot-air balloon, Shan tradition costume made from lotus thread and making of Shan paper, activities against natural disasters, youth participation in humanitarian assistance to Rakhine region, exhibition on preventive activities on violence against women and abandoning new born child conducted by Women Affairs Committee is included.

Sale and demonstration of cloths (making), weavings, crocheting by Women Development Centers and Vocational Training Centers for Women under Department of Social Welfare will be shown. Schools for household work will also demonstrate Myanmar traditional foods making and sell the foods made. Drug rehabilitation works of Department of Social Welfare will be shown and activities related to drawing up youth policy will also be exhibited.

Information related to handicaps children school will be provided. There'll be Q&A session with prizes. Talks on violence against women and abandoning new born child will be conducted in the recreation center in December 2 and 3 within 9 a.m. and twelve noon. The talks are jointly organized by Department of Social Welfare and related organisations. A group led by Khaing Hnin Wei will conduct talks, act in a play and hold Q&A session on human trafficking.

Handicap persons under the supervision of Department of Social Welfare will conduct entertainment programs in the Art Hall.

The exhibition of Department of Social Welfare faces the Recreation Center is on the side of the road where the University Library and Science Hall is located. Department of Social Welfare exhibits are displayed in time segments. A quiz on hand signals used by the deaf and prize awarding will be included. Child age training school will also show photography using computer.

U Hlaing Win Maung (Deputy Director, Department of Fine Arts, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture)

I am assigned as the art activity sub-committee secretary. Entertainment sector, drawing sector and education sector is included. In the enter-

tainment sector, students from National University of Arts and Culture, Yangon will entertain on 1 December. Students from State High School of Arts, Yangon, youth personnel from Department of Fine Arts and artistes will entertain on 2 and 3 December. Handicap youths under the care of Department of Social Welfare will entertain with performances throughout the 3 days.

In the drawing sector, students from National University of Arts and Culture will conduct a drawing exhibition on 1 December. Students from State High School of Arts will draw sketches, portraits, cartoons, caricature and postcards on 2 and 3 December. Poems related to the university will be included in the postcards. Drawings and sketches of views and sites selected on the spot by the drawers will be drawn/sketch in a demonstration. In the education sector, traditional dresses, cultures and foods of ethnic nationals of the country will be shown. It will include photographs, LED displays and videos.

Children can take pictures with the mascot animals. There'll be quiz and puzzles in the Art Hall while paintings, sculptures, statues and artworks are displayed outside. All visitors can participate in it.

U Thein Soe (Thein Soe Thiha Yadana)

I'm responsible to show the images of 20th century authors and writers. Their works and conducts will be shown together with their images. There'll be about 300 pictures in three display booths. More than 70 stalls under the leadership of Myanmar Publishers & Booksellers Association will sell various books at special and discount prices while rare books will be on display. This is a festival that young book enthusiasts ought to visit and all are invited. ■

Bringing about peace through loving-kindness

POPE Francis who has been in Myanmar on an official friendly visit at the invitation of President U Htin Kyaw, was welcomed with a Guard of Honour in Nay Pyi Taw.

Here, we would like to express our deep satisfaction that the President's heart-felt cordial welcome to the Pontiff, the Papal Speech to the Government Dignitaries, members of the Diplomatic Corps and religious clerics, and the State Counsellor's welcoming speech to the Holy Father Pope Francis made Myanmar feel blessed with auspiciousness.

The State Counsellor said in her speech, "It is incumbent on us to continue the task of building a nation founded on laws and institutions that will guarantee each and every one in our land justice, freedom and security." This statement made by the State Counsellor

explains very clearly the aims and objectives of the Government towards the people.

The Pontiff also asserted, "I can only express appreciation for the efforts of the Government to take up these challenges," and "Indeed, the arduous process of peace-building and national reconciliation can only advance through a commitment to justice and respect for human rights." This may be considered as valuable guidance for Myanmar and her people.

Taking the Papal Speech and the welcom-

ing speech of the State Counsellor into careful consideration, we all felt a wonderful feeling of peace and equality based on loving kindness. Those statements show that the Pontiff's visit brought strength and hope as the Pope has deep understanding of our need and longing for peace, national reconciliation and social harmony. Myanmar is a country comprising 135 ethnic national races, coexisting for generations throughout history facing difficulties together and sharing sorrows and happiness. Though being different in race, religion, skin colours and traditions, all the national races of Myanmar have been living on the same land in friendship and harmony acknowledging each other as their own brethren. It can be likened to a beautiful garden full of lovely flowers of different colours.

Myanmar stood tall in the midst of countries holding principles of justice, freedom and equality, at the time when Myanmar gained her Independence. Yet, later on till now, situations which harmed mutual trust and understanding, social harmony and co-operation appeared for long, among different communities. As a result, the country lagged much behind other countries and the people had to live in poverty.

Accordingly, all the people of Myanmar should make strenuous efforts as we march towards the goal of peace, by building up mutual trust through unity, equality, loving-kindness and happiness, in accord with the valuable guidance given by the two distinguished leaders.

Help an emergency patient on the road

By Tekkatho Zaw Htoo Oo

BY nature, Myanmar people tend to help others in need, philanthropically. Yet, sometimes they find it difficult to decide daringly as to whether they should do so or not, in the cases of accidents due to various reasons. Especially, their feet are too slow to give help victims in critical conditions, from road accidents or aggressive quarrels on roads or other dangerous events.

Even volunteers who are always ready and willing to help needy ones take time to decide to give a help or not in such cases, because of standing trials as evidences before courts of justice and undergoing frequent investigations of police authorities concerned. Even though victims are found on roads, some drivers pretend not to notice the incident for fear of sending the patients to clinics or hospitals. It seems that they do not want to get involved in criminal cases or they do not want to spare time to give a help.

Now Pyithu Hluttaw promulgated a new legislation to give timely care for urgent medical treatment to emergency patients. In the law, it is described that any individual who finds emergency victims suffering injuries during accidents is responsible for giving care to the patient himself or with the help of others else.

It is also defined that an



File photo shows highway Police and rescuers prepare to send the injured from a road accident to the hospital.

emergency patient means anyone who suffers physical or mental injuries—minor or major cases—and anyone facing effects of trauma or other life-threatening conditions due to road accidents, natural disasters or other causes. Thus, we may occasionally meet such emergency patients in our environment.

You can help such a patient though not being a medical staff or a paramedic. Had you acquired smattering knowledge on giving first-aids, you are required to give paramedical

treatment to the patient and thence to transport the patient to a hospital or a clinic.

Some injuries may get involved with police cases. At that time, the volunteer is required to inform reports to the police station or police outpost himself or through the authority concerned from ward or village administration members or other means or ways. If it is concerned with a criminal case, the process of the case and evidences must be kept under control so as to remain intact, and simultaneously marks need

be made where necessary, for example—the place in which the victim fell down. Only after these have been done, arrangement for transport must be made.

Under the presently promulgated law, the person who finds the emergency patient must transport the patient to the nearest clinic or hospital by possible means unless the former cannot manage to give first aids care to the latter. Besides, it is also described that he must report to a nearest police station, police outpost, fire brigade, or other emergency assistance groups' numbers.

In the past, concerning victims of car accident, assault and battery case, suicide poisoning, drowning cases, the patients or the bodies must be sent to Yangon General Hospital where forensic medicine branch was situated. Volunteers have to send to the nearest hospital or clinic, from there the patient or the corpse must continue to be transported to YGN. Now, they can be transported to many places. Once in the past, ambulances were not that plentiful as in now, depending upon taxis. The then taxi-drivers transported willingly. Now situations changed greatly. Taxi drivers pretended not to notice such accidents, avoiding getting involved with police. At



The Holmatro Rescue Equipment (the Netherlands) Product Presentation & Demonstration is held at the office of Magway Region Fire Services Department in Magway

present, the country came to abound with ambulances and volunteers.

Provided that the case on the injured emergency patient is an arrest-able offence, suitable means any ways must be sought for volunteers who helped the emergency patient or persons who first saw the emergency patient not to be put burden in case investigations are necessarily to be made in performing the police procedure concerning the case. It is strictly described that anyone who voluntarily performs assisting aids to the emergency patient in accord with the law must not be sued nor arrested for any reasons.

For some people did not manage to decide as to whether those victimized during events of car crash, collision or other causes must be transported to hospitals or clinics as quickly as possible if they were found at the place an accident happened, or whether they must be transported to hospitals or clinics only when the police arrives at the scene, some victims died unluckily. Under the newly prescribed law, anyone is responsible to help provided that there is a demand for the injured emergency patient to be transported to a hospital or a clinic, or to volunteers who provide urgent first aids. If someone is convicted that they are found to have delayed or obstructed the transport of the emergency patient to a clinic or a hospital, they must be sentenced to imprisonment of not more than one-year or fined not more than one lakh or both punishments without alternative to choose, it

was described.

Private hospitals and clinics as well are hesitant to give medical treatment to the injured patients. Some often scold at volunteer transporters occasionally. Send them to the nation's general hospitals, if possible. It has been instructed in the hospitals and clinics that the hospital or the clinic is responsible for giving medical treatment, concerning the injured emergency patients. On receipt of the report that there is the injured emergency patient in the hospital, necessary arrangements must be prepared to be able to give medical treatment at the hospital, and to prioritize them than the normal patients. Patients must be treated as soon as possible and as effectively as possible in accord with the standard of the hospital or the clinic. If necessary, they must be referred to suitable medical doctors and hospitals. As for the private hospitals and clinics, the injured emergency patients who got involved with criminal cases must be transferred together with patients' records to the government-run hospitals in time.

Similarly, it was described in the prescribed law concerning the duties to be performed by respective police station, fire brigade and ward and village-tract administrators. Had the Emergency Patient Care Law promulgated under Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law no/53, 2014 been still valid, anyone can give treatment and care to emergency patient.

Translated by
Khin Maung Oo

WEATHER

Low pressure area over Andaman Sea to concentrate into Depression

According to the observations at (18:30)hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area over Malay Peninsula and adjoining South Andaman Sea still persists. It is likely to concentrate into a Depression during next (24)hrs. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.—GNLM

Governments gather in Beijing to accelerate commitments towards a disability-inclusive society in Asia and the Pacific

SENIOR government officials, policymakers, civil society and academia from over 30 countries across Asia-Pacific have gathered in Beijing this week to accelerate commitments towards improving the rights of the 690 million disabled persons across the region, and beyond.

In a congratulatory message to the meeting, Chinese President Mr. Xi Jinping's said, "The Asian and Pacific Decade of Person's with Disabilities was initiated by China in Beijing. It has greatly propelled Asia-Pacific countries and regions to learn from each other, and set an example of cooperation to benefit persons with disabilities."

In his message to the meeting, United Nations Secretary-General Mr. António Guterres said, "I commend the Asia-Pacific region for being the first in the world to adopt a regional framework to address the issues of disability-inclusive development."

At the opening of the ministerial segment yesterday, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP Dr. Shamshad Akhtar noted that one in every six persons in Asia and the Pacific has a disability, yet they are amongst the most marginalized groups in society. She drew attention to the difference in poverty rates between persons with disabilities and the overall population, which range between 4 to 21 per cent. Of concern was that around 50 per cent of children with disabilities do not transition from primary to secondary education and as a consequence, persons with disabilities are two to six times less likely to be employed compared to their peers. Other challenges include that persons with disabilities continued to be underrepresented in political structures and decision-making processes, and that with more than half of the region's persons with disabilities being women, their access to development opportunities are constrained.

"The challenges are significant but not insurmountable," said Dr. Akhtar. "They call for renewing our commitment to the Incheon strategy and driving forward its implementation with renewed vigour. Among others, persons with disabilities could benefit from government's bolstering their education and employment opportunities, increasing their representation in political structures and processes, strengthening national coordination mechanisms, and improving statistics."

ESCAP launched a new report at the meeting which showed that social protection measures do not meet the needs of persons with disabilities, with coverage in disability benefit programmes as little as 28 per cent in some countries.

The report entitled, 'Building Disability Inclusive Societies in Asia and the Pacific' indicates that persons with disabilities continue to face extreme poverty and are up to six times more likely to be unemployed. Their participation in decision-making is also low, with only 0.4 per cent representation in national parliaments across the region.—ESCAP



Yangon General Hospital Emergency Department. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

US warns North Korean leadership will be 'utterly destroyed' in case of war

SEOUL/UNITED NATIONS — The United States warned North Korea's leadership it would be "utterly destroyed" if war were to break out after Pyongyang test fired its most advanced missile, putting the US mainland within range, in violation of UN Security Council resolutions.

The Trump administration has repeatedly said all options are on the table in dealing with North Korea's ballistic and nuclear weapons programmes, including military ones, but that it still prefers a diplomatic option.

Speaking at an emergency UN Security Council meeting, US ambassador Nikki Haley said the United States had never sought war with North Korea.

"If war does come, it will be because of continued acts of aggression like we witnessed yesterday," she said. "...and if war comes, make no mistake, the North Korean regime will be utterly destroyed."

Haley said the United States has asked China to cut off oil supply to North Korea, a drastic step that Beijing - the North's neighbour and sole major trading partner - has so far refrained from doing. Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping talked on the phone earlier on Wednesday.



United States ambassador to the United Nations (UN) Nikki Haley speaks during a meeting of the UN Security Council to discuss a North Korean missile launch at UN headquarters in New York, US, on 29 November 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

"Just spoke to President Xi Jinping of China concerning the provocative actions of North Korea. Additional major sanctions will be imposed on North Korea today. This situation will be handled!" Trump wrote on Twitter.

Previous US administrations have failed to stop North Korea from developing nuclear weapons and a sophisticated

missile programme. Trump, who has previously said the United States would "totally destroy" North Korea if necessary to protect itself and its allies from the nuclear threat, has also struggled to contain Pyongyang since he came to office in January.

Urging China to use its leverage and promising more sanc-

tions against North Korea are two strategies that have borne little fruit so far.

In a speech in Missouri about taxes, Trump, who has traded insults with the North in the past, referred to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un with a derisive nickname. "Little Rocket Man. He is a sick puppy," Trump said. —Reuters ■

North Korea meeting seeks 'better ideas' to solve crisis — Canada

OTTAWA — An international meeting in Canada on North Korea in January is designed to produce "better ideas" to ease tensions over Pyongyang's nuclear and ballistic missile tests, Canadian officials said on Wednesday.

A Canadian source who declined to be identified said that up to 16 foreign ministers were scheduled to meet in Vancouver, although North Korea itself will not be invited. Canada announced the meeting on Tuesday and said it would be co-hosted by the United States.

"By discussing the various options out on the table, by lis-

tening to ... local wisdom of the regions and especially (to those) who live a bit closer to Korea than we do, you can come up with some better ideas," Andrew Leslie, parliamentary secretary to Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland, told reporters.

Early on Wednesday, North Korea tested its most advanced intercontinental ballistic missile yet, putting the continental United States within range and increasing pressure on US President Donald Trump to deal with the nuclear-armed nation.

Freeland later told reporters that Japan, South Korea and China would be among those

invited to the meeting.

"It's an important step in terms of showing the unity of the international community in applying pressure on North Korea," she said, sidestepping a question about whether Trump might do something to upset the talks.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who came to power in 2015 promising the world that "Canada is back", last week said he had discussed with Cuban President Raul Castro in 2016 the possibility of working together to address the crisis.

"These are the kinds of things where Canada can, I

think, play a role that the United States has chosen not to play, this past year," Trudeau said, referring to Trump's isolationist global stance.

Defence experts say North Korean missiles aimed at the United States could land off course in Canada.

Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan told reporters Canada was looking at the threat extremely seriously but declined to say what military counter measures he might be take.

"We believe the diplomatic solution is the way to go - we feel there is hope for it," Sajjan said. —Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Russia's ruling party says to back Putin if he seeks new term

MOSCOW — Russia's ruling United Russia party will support President Vladimir Putin if he decides to run for a new term in office, its leader, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, said on Thursday.

Putin, 65, has so far kept silent on whether he plans to seek a fourth term in a presidential election due in March 2018.

"Our party, and I personally, will support him in this in every possible way," Medvedev said in an interview with Russian television channels broadcast live. "Because we believe that he is a successful president who is leading our country." —Reuters ■

Former Thai foreign minister, ASEAN chief Surin dies at 68

BANGKOK — Former Thai Foreign Minister Surin Pitsuwan, who headed the Association of Southeast Asian Nations around a decade ago, died of an acute heart attack on Thursday, according to a fellow Democrat Party member. He was 68.

According to Thepthai Senpong, Surin collapsed in the morning and was rushed to the city's Ramkhamhaeng Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. —Kyodo News ■

Severe drought, conflict displace 32,000 in Somalia in October: UN

MOGADISHU — About 32,000 people have been displaced by conflict and severe drought ravaging several parts of Somalia in October, the UN humanitarian agency said on Thursday.

The UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said in its latest bulletin this is a slight decline in the number of newly displaced people, compared to about 49,000 people displaced in September.

"Of those displaced in October, 23,000 were due to drought related reasons as the cause of the displacement, while 8,000 cited conflict," the UN said. —Xinhua ■

Spring Japan suspends 10 pilots over safety regulation breach

CHIBA, (Japan) — Spring Airlines Japan Co., a subsidiary of Shanghai-based Spring Airlines Co., suspended 10 pilots for breaching safety regulations in the six months through October, company officials said Thursday.

The airline has sent four captains and six copilots for retraining. The figure roughly accounts for 20 per cent of the total number of its pilots. Of them, seven have so far resumed flights.

There has been no effect on daily operations, a company spokeswoman said. Japan's transport ministry requested the budget airline take action to prevent similar problems. Among the safety breaches that prompted the suspension was an incident in May where pilots tried to take off at Saga airport in southwestern Japan bound for Narita near Tokyo despite the plane's wing flaps being in the wrong position. In October a plane heading for Sapporo in northern Japan from Narita took off after its captain failed to notice the cruising altitude shown on its flight plan was wrong. The operation section of the company makes flight plans, but each captain is obliged to check their contents before flights.

"We are sorry for the troubles. We will strive for safe operation from now on," the spokeswoman said.—Kyodo News ■

Greece moves asylum-seekers from Lesbos to mainland

PIRAEUS — Greek authorities on Thursday moved a few hundred asylum-seekers from the island of Lesbos to the mainland in an effort to ease overcrowding in its camps.

Thousands of asylum-seekers have become stranded on Lesbos and four other islands close to Turkey since the European Union agreed a deal with Ankara in March 2016 to shut down the route through Greece.

"I came to heaven from hell," said 30-year old Mohammad Firuz, who lived for two months in a state-run camp in Lesbos.

Firuz was among 300 people, many of them women and children, aboard a ferry that reached the port of Piraeus early on Thursday morning. The asylum seekers would be taken to camps and apartments in the mainland, authorities said.

Lesbos is now hosting some 8,500 asylum-seekers,



Refugees and migrants line up for food distribution at the Moria migrant camp on the island of Lesbos, Greece, in 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

nearly three times the capacity of state-run facilities.

Violence often breaks out, mainly over delays in asylum

procedures and poor living standards.

Lesbos residents went on strike earlier this month to pro-

test against European policies they say have turned it into a "prison" for migrants and refugees.—Reuters ■

Venezuelan gov't has "high expectations" of dialogue with opposition

CARACAS — The Venezuelan government is gearing up for a round of political dialogue with the opposition with "high expectations," a top official said on Wednesday.

"We are going with high expectations. It should be the mechanism for understanding between two sides with different views, in this case, we have di-

vergent historical projects, a Bolivarian project and an anti-Bolivarian sellout project," Delcy Rodriguez, President of the National Constituent Assembly (ANC), said on Twitter. Earlier, Rodriguez met with Alfred-Maurice de Zayas, the United Nations' Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order, to

explain Venezuelan government policies and the undertakings of the ANC. De Zayas arrived in Caracas at the start of the week to assess the human rights situation, which has been riven by the power struggle between the ruling socialist party and the right-wing opposition, a battle marked by economic warfare and violent anti-government

demonstrations.

De Zayas, a Cuban-born US lawyer and human rights expert, is also set to meet with opposition leaders. The talks between the government and the opposition will be held on 1 and 2 December in the Dominican Republic with the participation of some foreign ministers of other countries.—Xinhua ■

Prosecutors of SCO member states discuss cooperation in countering cybercrime

ST. PETERSBURG — The 15th Meeting of Prosecutor Generals of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states opened here on Wednesday with main focus on the fight against cybercrime and the use of the Internet in extremist and terrorist activities.

Delegations from the 15 countries took part in the event. The Russian Prosecutor General Yury Chaika talked about measures to combat extremism in social networks and messengers. He also noted that effective counteraction to cybercrime requires coopera-

tion at the interstate level due to the cross-border nature of such crimes.

The Procurator-General of the Supreme People's Procuratorate of China Cao Jianming also attended the meeting and said China will strengthen contacts in order to eradicate both symptoms and root cause of cybercrime, to maintain prosperity and stability in the region and promote creation of the community of common destiny.

Bilateral and multilateral meetings were also held on the sideline of the meeting.—Xinhua ■



Delegates pose for photos before the 15th Meeting of Prosecutor Generals of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states in St. Petersburg, Russia, on 29 November 2017. PHOTO: XINHUA

Tourists fly out of Bali at last as wind blows volcanic ash away

DENPASAR, (Indonesia) —Airlines laid on extra flights to the Indonesian holiday island of Bali on Thursday to allow thousands of passengers stranded for days by an erupting volcano to fly home as a switch in wind direction blew the ash away.

But a plume of smoke and ash still rose above Mount Agung on Thursday and the volcano, whose crater glows red, continued to rumble.

Bali airport reopened on Wednesday after being closed on Monday.

“We are happy we can leave now,” American tourist David Strand said at the airport. “It’s been interesting to have the volcano active, but we certainly hope that it doesn’t cause any more damage to the people of Bali.” The airport on neighbouring Lombok island was closed.

China Southern Air-



Lava, inside the crater of Mount Agung volcano, reflects off ash and clouds, while it erupts, as seen from Amed, Karangasem Regency, Bali, Indonesia, on 30 November 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

lines and China Eastern Airlines sent planes to fetch more than 2,700 Chinese tourists from Bali, Xinhua news agency said.

Korean Air said it had sent a charter flight. Jetstar said it would fly 3,800 passengers on 10 sched-

uled flights and six relief flights back to Australia on Thursday. It also encouraged customers booked to fly to Bali up to 7 December to look at alternative destinations. From January to September, Bali received 4.5 million foreign tourists,

nearly half of the 10.5 million arrivals in Indonesia.

Chinese have overtaken Australians to become the top visitors to Bali, representing around a quarter of arrivals on the island.

Losses in revenue could be more than \$650

million since the volcano warning level was first raised in September, Indonesian Tourism Minister Arif Yahya estimated.

Agung looms over eastern Bali to a height of just over 3,000 meters (9,800 feet). Its last major

eruption in 1963 killed more than 1,000 people and razed several villages.

Authorities are urging people living up to 10 km (6 miles) from the summit to move to emergency centres, but tens of thousands don’t want to leave their homes and livestock unattended.

The disaster mitigation agency said on Wednesday about 43,000 people had moved to shelters, but many were thought to be staying put as up to 100,000 people are estimated to live within the danger zone.

“We cannot predict whether it will be bigger than 1963, but ... according to our evaluation the potential for a full-scale eruption is still high,” Devy Kamil Syahbana, an official at Indonesia’s centre for volcanology and geological disaster mitigation centre, told Reuters.—Reuters ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV ANAN BHUM VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.12.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP 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 LINES**
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ABLE VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.12.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINE**
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV BAGAN STAR VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BAGAN STAR VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.12.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of 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 CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD**
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV MAERSK ABERDEEN VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAERSK ABERDEEN VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.12.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE) PTE LTD**
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV DYNAMIC OCEAN 09 VOY. NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DYNAMIC OCEAN 09 VOY. NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.11.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of BSW-2 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S RK SHIPPING & TRADING PTE LTD.**
Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RAJIN VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAJIN VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.12.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES**
Phone No: 2301185

Large iceberg breaks free from glacier in southern Chile

SANTIAGO — A large iceberg broke off the Grey glacier in southern Chile, authorities said on Tuesday, adding that the cause of the rupture was unclear.

Chile's CONAF forestry service shared photos on social media of the enormous block of blue-white ice, which measured 350 meters (1,148 feet) long by 380 meters (1,247 feet) wide, as it floated free in waters of a glacial lagoon near the southern tip of the South American continent.

Park officials at Chile's Torres del Paine National Park, home to the glacier, said such ruptures were rare and had not occurred since the early 1990s.

Torres del Paine is one of Chile's most popular tourist attractions, famous for its mountain views and visited by more than 115,000 tourists annually, according to CONAF.—Reuters ■

Tropical storm kills at least seven in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO — A tropical storm has killed at least seven people and left five fishermen missing in Sri Lanka, bringing down trees across main roads and on houses, officials said on Thursday, warning of landslides and flooding in severely hit areas.

Heavy winds hit the island's southern, western and south-central areas.

"At the moment, there are reports of seven deaths, five missing, and more than 20,000 affected," said Pradeep Kodippili, spokesman for the state-run Disaster Management Center.

The government declared a holiday for schools in the rain-hit areas on Thursday.

Floods and landslides kill more than 200 people each year in Sri Lanka. Flash floods and landslides in May killed at least 122 people.

The wettest time of the year in Sri Lanka's south is usually from May to September.—Reuters ■

New vaccine, long-acting drug trials buoy hopes in HIV fight

LONDON — Researchers announced the launch of two big studies in Africa on Thursday to test a new HIV vaccine and a long-acting injectable drug, fuelling hopes for better ways to protect against the virus that causes AIDS.

The start of the three-year vaccine trial involving 2,600 women in southern Africa means that for the first time in more than a decade there are now two big HIV vaccine clinical trials taking place at the same time.

The new study is testing a two-vaccine combination developed by Johnson & Johnson (J&J) with the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The first vaccine, also backed by NIH, began a trial last November.

At the same time, GlaxoSmithKline's majority-owned ViiV Healthcare unit is starting another study enrolling 3,200 women in sub-Saharan Africa to evaluate the benefit of giving injections every two months of its experimental drug cabotegravir.

The ViiV initiative, which is expected to run until May 2022, also has funding from the NIH and the Gates Foundation.

Women are a major focus in the fight against the sexually transmitted disease since in Africa they account for more than half of all new HIV infections.

ViiV is also running another large study with its long-acting injection in HIV-uninfected men and transgender women who have sex with men. That study started in December 2016.

Although modern HIV drugs have turned the disease from a death sentence into a chronic condition and preventative drug treatment can help, a vaccine is still seen as critical in rolling back the pandemic.

The latest vaccine experiments aim to build on the modest success of a trial in Thailand in 2009, when an earlier vaccine showed a 31 per cent reduction in infections.

"We're making progress," said J&J Chief Scientific Officer Paul Stoffels, who believes it should be possible to achieve effectiveness above 50 per cent.

"That is the goal. Hopefully, we get much higher," he told Reuters. The new vaccines require one dose to prime the immune system and a second shot to boost the body's response.—Reuters ■



ပြည်ထောင်စုရင်းနှီးမြှုပ်နှံမှုနှင့် အထွေထွေ ဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်ရေး ဝန်ကြီးဌာန (သို့မဟုတ်) ဝန်ကြီးဌာန၏ အောက်တွင် အလုပ်လုပ်ဆောင်နေသည့် အဖွဲ့အစည်းများမှ ဝန်ကြီးဌာနသို့ ပါဝင်ဆောင်ရွက်နိုင်ပါသည်။

နံပါတ် (၉) နာရီမှ ညနေ (၅) နာရီအထိ ရန်ကုန်တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်းအတွင်း ကျင်းပမည်ဖြစ်သည့် အချိန်ကို ဝင်ရောက်ကြည့်ရှုနိုင်ပါသည်။

INVITATION FOR PRICE QUOTATIONS

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the National Community Driven Development Project (NCDDP). The IDA N° of the financing agreement is N° H814MM. The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, in its role as implementing agency of the NCDDP, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing towards eligible payments under the Purchase Order/Contract for the following packages. DRD now invites eligible suppliers to express their interest in supplying the following items:

Reference Number: G -95, G -97, G-99, G-100, G-101, G-102, G-103, G-105

Reference No.	Item N°	Description	Quantity
G-95	1	Electric Current Stabilizer for 16 new Townships	16
G-97		PRINTERS and PHOTO COPIERS and FAX-SCANNERS for the UNION and 16 new townships	
	1	PRINTER (black and white)	90
	2	PRINTER (color)	17
	3	PRINTER (all in one)	16
	4	PHOTOCOPIER	23
	5	FAX-SCANNER	26
G-99	1	PROJECTOR and SCREEN for 16 new townships	16 sets
G-100	1	GSM PHONE HANDSET (GSM) for 16 new townships	35
G-101		CAMERAS and VIDEO CAMERAS for 16 new townships	
	1	CAMERA	40
	2	VIDEO CAMERA	18
G-102		WATER COOLER and AIR CONDITIONERS for 16 new townships	
	1	WATER COOLER	22
	2	AIR CONDITIONERS	32
G-103		OFFICE FURNITURE for 16 new townships	
	1	DESK - TWO DRAWERS	192
	2	DESK - ONE DRAWER	117
	3	DESK - CHAIR	319
	4	COMMERCIAL CHAIR	20
	5	FOLDING CHAIRS	480
	6	BOOKCASE (open shelf cupboard with 2 shelves)	80
	7	BOOKCASE	12
	8	FILING CABINET	69
	9	FAX and PHONE STAND	16
G-105	1	SAFETY EQUIPMENT LIFE JACKETS for 16 new townships	1,000

Expressions of Interest on Quotation must be submitted in a written form to the email address below and clearly indicate the reference number above. The invitation to quote will be distribute on the needs of DRD. Eligible suppliers having expressed interest will receive an INVITATION TO QUOTE (ITQ). Sealed Quotations will be submitted to the address by corresponding **date and time as stated in each package**, after which no Quotations will be accepted.

The goods will be contracted in lot-by-lot basis. Suppliers will be selected following the Shopping Method as per the "Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers" dated January 2011.

Please submit your Expression of Interest for receiving the Invitation to Quote (ITQ) to: U Kyaw Soe, Deputy Director General, Department of Rural Development, Office No.(14), Nay Pyi Taw. For detailed information please contact U Kyaw Swa Aung, Director, Procurement and Logistic Section, Mobile phone 0943434333 or office phone 067409071/ Email: unioncddprocurement@gmail.com. Please indicate your e-mail address as only electronic copies of the ITQ will be send as well as introduce your company name and contact number to communicate with you. For more information on the NCDD Project please also visit Website: www.cdd.drdmyanmar.org.

Meeting on film about the life of Bogoyoke Aung San

THE 1st coordination meeting on a biographical film being made about the life of Bogoyoke Aung San was held at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street, Dagon Township in Yangon yesterday.

At the meeting, the Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Chairman of the Biographical Film Production about the life of Bogoyoke Aung San, said, "Those present at today's meeting will have to deservedly take the responsibility of producing a biographical film about the life of Bogoyoke Aung San. All nations across the world usually produce classic films about their national leaders. In Myanmar as well, there started to make attempts to produce the film about Bogoyoke Aung San on February 13 in 2012. Now the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture had an opportunity to successfully produce the classic film about the life of Bogoyoke Aung San,



Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture takes steps to fil about the life of Bogoyoke Aung San. PHOTO: MNA

together with Myanmar Film Association, simultaneously linking with respective ministries. For successful implementation of producing the film, the Ministry will help as much as possible. We firmly believe that the biography of Bogoyoke Aung San will be presented with actual history

and Bogoyoke's performances artistically. In doing so, actualities must be laid stress on." The Union Minister added, "Costumes, furniture, the then buildings and vehicles must be traced back so that they can be in chronological order. Simultaneously, we hope that a high-quality classic film

will be produced by use of advanced technology. The Ministry has drawn up duties and assignments for sub-committees to perform the tasks from film editing to production. We warmly invite those present at the meeting to take part in discussion."

Afterward, U Tun Ohn, per-

manent secretary of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and secretary of the production committee, explained the formation of committees and subcommittees and their duties. Following that, U Zin Wine, Chairman of the MFA, U Lu Min, Joint-Secretary of Biographical Film Production, U Thu Ra (a) U Zar Ganar, Htun Eindra Boh, director Min Hitn Ko Ko Gyi, U Zaw Thet Htwe, Director Ei Ei Khaing and Director Kyi Phyu Shin spoke.

Union Minister U Aung Ko accepted Ks830 million for producing the Bogoyoke film. Present at the meeting were permanent secretaries from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and Union Auditor General, departmental officials, Myanmar Historical Association, Myanmar Film Association Chairman and members. —Myanmar News Agency ■

U Myo Myint Than Presents Credentials to King of Thailand

U Myo Myint Than, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Thailand presented his Credentials to His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Bodindradebayavarangkun, King of Thailand on 27 November 2017, in Bangkok. —MNA



in Picture Band Troupe and Pom Pom troupe rehearse for the opening ceremony of Youth All-Round Development Festival at the University of Yangon one day ahead of opening ceremony. PHOTO: MNA

Nay Pyi Taw to host martial arts contest in December

The 17th inter-region-state traditional martial arts (Thaing) contest is scheduled to be held in Nay Pyi Taw from 13 to 18 December.

The participants will be given opportunities to show off

their ability in Bando attack, sword attack, individual attack and team attack in the events. The competition will be jointly organized by the Ministry of Health and Sports. —Myanmar Thaing Federation/MDN ■

Japan-UNICEF partnership to benefit over 25,000 school children in Rakhine

UNICEF and the Government of Japan handed over to Myanmar's Ministry of Education one of the 78 schools being constructed, rehabilitated or repaired with funding support from the Government and people of Japan.

The school construction was in response to the devastating 2015 floods, which hit large parts of Ayeyarwady, Bago, Chin, Rakhine, Magway and Sagaing. Japan provided \$10 million to UNICEF to support its efforts to ensure access to quality education for all children from all communities in Rakhine.

Taking place at the Kin Seik Basic Education Post-Primary School in Minbya Township, Rakhine State, the official hand-over ceremony was attended by the Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar, Tateshi Higuchi; UNICEF's Deputy Representative, Paul Edwards; and the Social Affairs Minister of the Rakhine Government, Dr. Chan Thar.

"Japan is promoting the principles of 'Build Back Better', with better and stronger building standards and structures, so that the schools are more resilient to future floods and other natural disasters" said H.E Tateshi Higuchi.



Japanese Ambassador Mr. Tateshi Higuchi and dignitaries pose for photo with children in at Kin Seik Village in Rakhine State. PHOTO: MNA

Prone to cyclones, floods and earthquakes, Rakhine is one of the poorest States in Myanmar with 30 percent of children not enrolled in primary school. It is also home to over 120,000 displaced persons as a result of intercommunal tensions.

With some 30 schools still being repaired across the State, including 22 in northern Rakhine, the target is to benefit over 25,000 children from all communities. In addition to the construction work, UNICEF and partners have also conducted teacher training, training of school administrators

and delivered "School Kits" that contain backpacks for children and other essential school materials like whiteboards, first aid and recreational kits.

"Today marks an important milestone not only for these schools, but also for the wider community," said UNICEF Deputy Representative Paul Edwards. "Investing in children's education in Rakhine State, can help break the cycle that traps children in the same poverty their parents' experience and create a better future for all children". —GNLM ■



Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe is welcomed by Thailand Ambassador. **PHOTO: MNA**

King Bumibol's birthday, Father's Day celebrated

UNION Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe attended the celebration being marked as Thai national day, King Bumibol's birthday and Thailand's Father's Day which was held at the Hilton Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw last night.

The celebration was opened by the anthems of Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Thailand.

Thailand Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Jukr Boon-Long gave a welcoming speech, honouring the ninth Thai King Bumibol Adulyadej and

the current King Maha Vajiralongkorn.

Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe also gave a welcoming speech. The Union Minister together with the Thailand Ambassador to Myanmar then posed for documentary photos before sitting down to dinner and enjoying the entertainment.

Present at the meeting were Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, chairman of Union Election Commission, union ministers, departmental officials and invited guests. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Millennium anniversary of Laungshe Township to be celebrated

LAUNGSHE Township is approaching the time of its millennium anniversary very soon according to historical documentation. So, the local people are planning to celebrate this anniversary.

"There were so many pagodas built by ancient Myanmar Kings, located in Saw Township, Gangaw District" said one of the trustees of Mya Marlar Pagoda.

At this ceremony, listening to religious sermons, offering

food to the monks, joyful entertainment, publishing a commemorative magazine will be included. In addition, monuments which have four faces that are carved with the names of the headmen of the village through history are being built for the anniversary and the exhibition of cultural icons will also be included.

"For the purpose of getting to know the national dignity and to embrace the history of the

KBZ Bank crowned with Bank of the Year in Myanmar for five consecutive years

THE Financial Times based in London held a ceremony to award the "Bank of the Year Awards 2017" at Hilton London Bankside Hotel on 29 November and Kanbawza Bank (KBZ) has been named Bank of the Year in Myanmar 2017, a title it has held for five consecutive years.

The best banking awards for 2017 were also won at the ceremony by banks from 141 countries including Lloyds Banking Group in England, China Citic Bank in China, DBS Bank in Singapore and Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group in Japan.

KBZ Bank was chosen as the winner for its important role in improvement of the economy of Myanmar, being the most reliable bank for the people in Myanmar, achievements in improving banking services and system efficiency, the establishment of more than 1,000ATM machines and more than 500 bank branches nationwide, issuing more than 1,300,000 Prepaid/Credit cards with more than 20,000 staff nationwide, for an owning a large share of the market, granting an



KBZ Bank's Chairman U Aung Ko Win accepts Bank of the Year Awards 2017. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

increasing in amount of loans to businesses year by year, providing safe and secure service in cooperation with world famous international technology companies like Oracle and Microsoft, providing modern services in local and international by establishing a safe and secure network in cooperation with Hughes in the US and AsiaSat satellite companies, showing higher income and profits, the improvement of the calibre of its staff, the use of modern equipment, connectivity

with other international banks, assisting in emergence of successful new business persons, attracting foreign investment to Myanmar by opening overseas bank branches, bringing the role of Myanmar to a higher role in the economic sector in the Asia, and being number one on the country's tax-paying list for five years consecutively and taking a leading role in philanthropic works in the country with more than K138 billion donation.—Thura Lwin (Eco) ■

Bagan to get community tourism centers

COMMUNITY-based tourism centres will be opened to get information easily for tourists in Bagan in this tourism season, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

The centres will provide tourism information and domes-

tic products from villages in Bagan, and will train local people to carry out socio-economic sectors of ICT. Currently, a community centre of E-Bagan will be established in a most popular village.

"Upon completion of centres, E-bagan mobile software applica-

tion, which will include maps and histories of pagodas in Bagan, will be created by the Mandalay Region Government and Computer Experts Association," said U Okkar Kyaw, the chairman of the Myanmar Computer Experts Association.—GNLM



Local people in Laungshe are preparing to celebrate the town's millennium anniversary. **PHOTO: MNA**

township for today's youths this is a cause for celebration" said U Saw Min Naing, secretary of organizing committee.

Laungshe Village is twelve

miles south of Saw Township. In the past, it was difficult to reach it in the rainy season but today the Gangaw-Htilin-Saw-Laungshe-Ngape-Sidoktaya route

or the Chauk-Seikphyu-Saw-Laungshe route or the Pakoku-Pauk-Kyauktu-Saw-Laungshe route can easily be used to reach Laungshe. —MDN ■

Myanmar National League changes its name to MPT MNL 2018

KyawZin Lin

For the upcoming 2018 season, the Myanmar National League will change its name to the MPT Myanmar National League, it was decided at the league's committee meeting on 20 November.

The name was changed as MPT Myanmar will sponsor the league as an official partner.

In 2009, the MNL, the top-tier professional football league of Myanmar replaced the Myanmar Premier League, which consisted of 14 Yangon-based football clubs, with eight of those

clubs representing different regions across the nation. On 16 May 2009, the league launched its inaugural two-month tournament, the Myanmar National League Cup 2009, in preparation for its first full season in 2010. Despite its national ambitions, the league held the MNL Cup 2009 matches only in the country's two main stadiums in Yangon due to the lack of adequate facilities elsewhere.

On 5 July 2009, Yadanabon FC defeated Yangon United FC in the MNL Cup final to become the first-ever MNL Champions.

The league added three clubs for the 2010 season, and one more club joined for the 2011 season, for a total of 12 clubs.

Two more clubs representing Chin and Shan states participated in the MNL season starting in January 2012.

Promotion and relegation were added by the 2014 season as the MNL looked to expand once again.

Officials from the MNL have already announced that the purse for the upcoming MNL League-1 Champion will be Ks110 million.



Kenya's Eliud Kipchoge celebrates winning the men's race at 2016 Virgin Money London Marathon, London, Britain, on 24 April 2016. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Kipchoge to make London Marathon return in 2018

LONDON — Olympic champion Eliud Kipchoge will return to the London Marathon in 2018 after a year's absence, resuming his quest for a third victory in the event, organisers said on Thursday.

The 33-year-old Kenyan won the 2015 race and finished eight seconds outside Dennis Kimetto's world record time of 2:02:57 to triumph again 12 months later, but he did not defend his title this year after focusing on the Nike Breaking2 project. The former 5,000 metres world champion's official best marathon time of 2:03:05 set in London in 2016 is the fourth-fastest in history. He came close to the world record again in Berlin this year, clocking 2:03:32 in damp conditions. "I feel like I'm in good form," Kipchoge said in a statement. "Berlin was difficult because the weather was not good but my time showed I was in the right shape. As ever with marathon

running, everything needs to come right on the day. "The competition is always tough in London so I must wait and see how well I train and what the weather will be. I know that I have the world record in me so we will have to wait and see what happens." Kipchoge ran the quickest recorded marathon at the Nike event in Monza in May, finishing in 2:00:25, though that time is not an official world record due to aspects of the event not satisfying IAAF criteria. The Kenyan joins fellow Olympic champion Mo Farah of Britain in confirming his intention to run the London Marathon on 22 April. "I came so close to breaking the world record in 2016 and it is natural for anyone in that situation to think of what might have been," Kipchoge added. "But that race gave me the confidence to go on and win the Olympic title in Rio and run so well throughout 2017." —Reuters ■



Manchester City's Raheem Sterling scores their second goal at Etihad Stadium, Manchester, Britain, on 29 November 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Sterling strikes at death as Man City beat Southampton

LONDON — Raheem Sterling struck in the sixth minute of stoppage time as Manchester City beat Southampton 2-1 for a club record 12th successive Premier League victory on Wednesday.

It had looked as though the Oriol Romeu's 75th minute equaliser had slowed the City juggernaut, but Sterling curled an unstoppable effort past Fraser Forster at the death to send the Etihad

Stadium crowd wild. Sterling has now scored the winning goal in three successive games for City.

City were never at their fluent best but Kevin De Bruyne's free kick, which took a touch off of Saints defender Virgil van Dijk, put them ahead straight after half-time.

Forster made some crucial saves to keep his side in the game and former Chelsea play-

er Romeu struck with a shot off the underside of the crossbar to reward Southampton who had gone close twice before the break.

Sterling's moment of brilliance ensured that City stayed on course to break Arsenal's all-time record winning streak in the Premier League and restored their eight-point lead over Manchester United who won at Watford on Tuesday. — Reuters ■

Rooney roars back to life as Allardyce watches on

LONDON — Wayne Rooney scored his first hat-trick in six years and a first treble for his beloved Everton as they roared back to life in a troubled season by thrashing West Ham United 4-0 in the Premier League on Wednesday.

Rooney showed no mercy to the man who had handed him his professional debut at Goodison Park back in April 2002, giving David Moyes another unhappy return to the

ground where the Scot spent 11 years before joining Rooney in an ill-fated, short-lived spell at Manchester United. Rooney's treble, which was complemented by a late header from Ashley Williams, ensured caretaker David Unsworth bowed out on his brief yet troubled reign with a smile on his face, picking up a second win from seven games in all competitions. "It was very enjoyable," Rooney told the BBC. —Reuters ■