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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 232, 2nd Waning of Nadaw 1379 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Tuesday, 5 December 2017



Hindus from Ngakhuya Village wait to receive aid delivered by volunteers. The second batch of volunteers from UEHRD arrived in Sittway on 29 November and started to conduct surveys and distribute aid in the villages of Buthidaung and Maungtau townships. **PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG**

Rebuilding Rakhine

2nd Batch Youth Volunteers of UEHRD begin work in Rakhine

THE following are the voices of volunteers, residents, and administrators who are collectively helping to rebuild and restore Rakhine State.

A villager shared his memories of the vicious attacks by masked Islamic terrorists. A pro-

gramme director spoke of the importance of youth in the rebuilding effort. A volunteer told a reporter of his pride in being able to help his countrymen. All remarked on the unity that they said is essential in the recovery.

In the weeks and months

since the terrorist attacks of late August, journalists, residents, and volunteers have witnessed a gradual return to normalcy in the region due to efforts by people of all races and ethnicities, from all walks of life and from many parts of the country.

The 2nd Batch Youth Volunteers of the UEHRD Programme arrived in Sittway on 29 November and started to conduct surveys in the villages of Buthidaung and Maungtau townships in Maungtau District.

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Hindus from IDP camps in Sittway return home

HINDU families sheltering at internally displaced camps in Sittway returned home yesterday as the situation in Rakhine State has returned to normalcy.

With the last batch of 123 Hindu people from 36 households today, all the displaced people staying at the 31 camps in Sittway have returned home with the help of local authorities.

“We have arranged a ship for the last batch 123 Hindus to go back home tomorrow,” said Rakhine State Government Office.

The Hindus who moved from Sittway are currently sheltering at a camp established near Maungtau District General Administration Department as they are repairing their homes.

“Some of their houses were burnt down in the terrorist attacks. Some are still reparable. We will send them to their houses when their houses are ready to accommodate them,” said U Ye Htut, Maungtau District Deputy Commissioner.

The local authorities have planned to allocate land to those who lost their homes in the terrorist attacks and to provide food and security to all communities in the area, according to the Maungtau District Deputy Commissioner.

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BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

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Infrastructure built, renovated for repatriation of refugees

Construction and basic infrastructure construction work group of UEHRD committee is building and renovating buildings in Taungpyo police station compound for use as repatriation camp in Taungpyo Letwe, Maungdaw Township to repatriate Bengalis and Hindus who went to Bangladesh after the August 25 Maungdaw region terrorists events it is learnt.

In doing this, 3 units of 120 ft. long, 30 ft. wide six-rooms buildings, 60 ft. long 18 ft. wide wooden staff quarter, a 40 ft. long 20 ft. wide building for staff quarter, a 20 by 20 ft. brick building for staff quarter were being repaired and renovated and 40 ft. long 30 ft. wide and 10 ft. high wooden brief hall, 4 units of 48 ft. long 6 ft. wide 8-rooms building with 4 bathroom and 4 toilets, a 15 ft. long, 8 ft. wide 4 feet high ground

tank, two overhead tank with a capacity of 1,200 gallons, a kitchen measuring 60 ft. long, 30 ft. wide and 11 ft. high kitchen, and dining hall, two tube wells and roads in front of the buildings were built.

Furthermore, Ministry of Construction is constructing a total of 80 modular houses of which 31 modular houses are for use as offices for staff assigned for repatriation work, 8 modular houses for staff to live, 41 modular houses for returnees to stay temporarily it is learnt.

Currently construction and basic infrastructure construction work group is renovating 2 barracks measuring 120 ft. long and 30 ft. wide while Ministry of Construction is stockpiling materials and conducting earth work to construct the modular houses.— Myanmar News Agency ■



A ceremony of week's activities for Asia-Pacific Malaria Elimination in 2030 held in progress. **PHOTO: MNA**

Activities week being held for Asia-Pacific malaria elimination

The ceremony of week's activities for Asia-Pacific Malaria Elimination in 2030 was held at Kempinski Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw this morning.

The week's activities were held with the 22 malaria-endemic countries. This is the second time that Myanmar hosted the 2nd week activity for Asia-Pacific Malaria Elimination with the joint cooperation from the Ministry of Health and Sports, World

Health Organization, UNOPS, Asia Development Bank (ADB), Asia-Pacific Malaria Elimination Network (APMEN) and Asia-Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance (APLMA).

At the ceremony, organizations which are concerned about malaria from ADB and the officials from APMEN discussed about how to fight against malaria. The subjects discussed including the speeding up of

targets aiming at the malaria elimination, to highlight the importance of targets, discussions about innovative approaches, the global technical strategy laid out by WHO, the strategy for malaria elimination in the Greater Mekong Subregion and how to face and solve the new challenges was held in order to be a malaria-free Asia-Pacific by 2030. The week's activities will go on until 8 December.—MDN ■

Coordination meeting to publish NRPC periodical



A coordination meeting for publishing NRPC periodical holds in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

A coordination meeting to publish a NRPC periodical that will inform the public of the national policy and the works done on the peace process was held yesterday morning at the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor meeting hall, Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, National Reconciliation and Peace Center (NRPC) secretary Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin explained about forming the required committee to publish the pe-

riodical and to widely describe the policies and processes of the union peace process works.

Next, Ministry of Office of the State Counsellor director general U Zaw Htay explained about publishing the periodicals and those in attendance discussed widely about policies and subjects to be included and determining the publishing intervals etc.

The meeting was attended by Peace Commission member U Aung Soe and departmental responsible persons.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives IBAHRI Director

U AYE THA AUNG, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and chairman of the Joint Bill Committee received Mr. Phillip Thamindjis, Director of the International Bar

Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI) works with the London-based global legal community at 10 am at the Hluttaw's Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Also present were Joint Bill Committee secretary Dr Myat Nyana Soe, joint secretary of the committee U Kyaw Soe Lin and officials.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Indonesia Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs arrives

An Indonesian delegation led by Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs Mr. Wiranto arrived to Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

The visiting Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs Mr. Wiranto and party were welcomed in Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director General U Soe Han, Indonesia Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Dr. Ito Sumardi and officials.— Myanmar News Agency ■



Director General U Soe Han welcomes Indonesian Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs Mr. Wiranto at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint attends Fourth World Internet Conference in Wuzhen, People's Republic of China yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint at Fourth World Internet Conference in Wuzhen

A tree planting event in commemoration of the Fourth World Internet Conference was held yesterday 11:30 a.m. local standard time at a vacant land in Shinetown, Xizha Scenic Spot, Wuzhen town, Zhejiang Province, People's Republic of China.

The tree planting event was attended by representatives of governments from countries attending the con-

ference and Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint planted the Phoenix tree.

In the afternoon "Developing through Innovation and Sharing Digital Dividend" session of the conference, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint discussed under the title of "The Effect of Social Media on Myanmar Society".

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint was joined by Kissing-

er Associates vice chairman Mr. Joshua Cooper Ramo, UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development vice chairman Mr. Peter Major, People's Republic of China Zhejiang Province Vice-Governor Mr. Feng Fei and China National People's Congress Financial and Economic Committee vice chairman Mr. Xiong Qunli in the discussion. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Every baby wants to be breastfed: unwanted infants abandoned after delivery

MYANMAR Women Affairs Committee's team for protection of child abandonment showed an educative programme on youth at the exhibition room, the Youth All-Round Development Festival held from December 1 to December 3 opened in the Yangon University Campus.

Dr Pyone Mo Ei, member of the team for protection of child abandonment said, "Some mothers abandoned their unwanted newly born infants after delivery. Every child wants to be brought up in the lap of their mother. Today's child, being future's leader-to-be, we would

not like them to start their life with bitter experiences. Had we managed to protect unwanted conception, child abandonment would never occur, we firmly believe so. Such events usually happen to youths, so it is assumed that unwanted conception and child abandonment will never take place, provided that careful awareness is done among youths."

At the youth all-round development festival, educative programmes were launched. Spreads of pamphlets and awarding prizes to winners in the quiz were made.



Myanmar Women Affairs team member distribute to students the pamphlets of the protection of child abandonment at the Youth All-Round Development festival in Yangon University. **PHOTO: MNA**



Myanmar Women Affairs Committee's team members launch educative programmes at the youth all-round development festival. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Dr Pyone Mo Ei said that such a way would make youths well convinced of family planning.

It has been learnt that Philanthropic Team led by Film Star Khaing Hnin Wai also took part in the campaign for eradicating child rape. Khaing Hnin Wai said, "We helped to eradicate child rape and reduce child abandonment. We arranged short play and concert. We aim at educating youths as to why

child rapes are caused."

There are frequent news and photos concerning child abandonment and child rapes seen on social website pages commonly used across the country. Girls across the world including Myanmar are coming to loose value and their virginity. Practices of living together without marriage are spreading into the environment of youth. Website pages and periodicals

on sex and pornography are available within the reach of youths. With the increasing use of social web pages, trust abuses are abundant.

Living together and other reasons caused unnecessary cases such as unwanted conception, child rapes and child abandonments. By means of rightful education programmes we can reduce wrong sexual attitudes of youths. —Win Sandy Maw ■



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Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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Kites, related accessories sell well in Mandalay this season

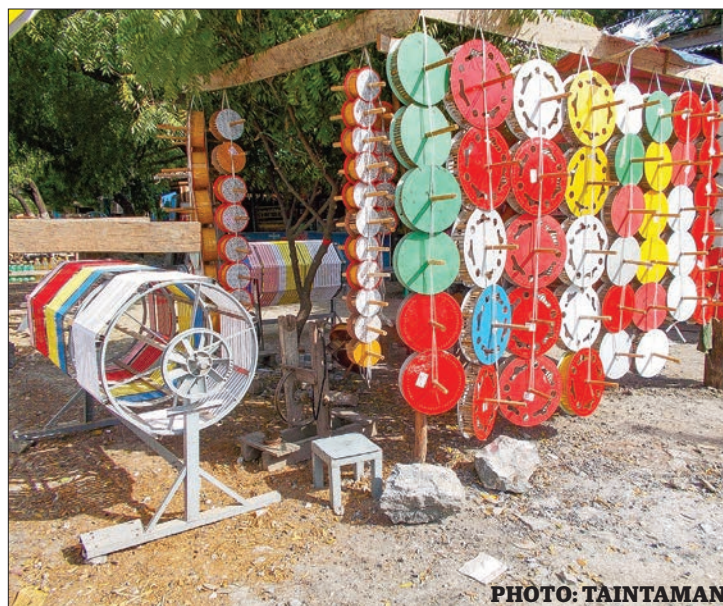


PHOTO: TAINTAMAN

KITES and related accessories has been sold well in Mandalay as the demand for the handicraft has increased in domestic market since this October, according to local kite makers. In the region, flying kite is a tradition for children and young adults especially in the cold season. People can see some colourful kites on the sky over some parts of the town in every evening this season. One of kite flyers said: "Both urban and rural residents used to fly handmade kite in the field, playground and park. They run on the ground and fly kites together with their friends. Peo-

ple are happy and forget about stress when they fly kites. It is really good for health."

The local kite makers normally produce four kinds of colourful paper kites as well as plastic kites. Kite makers mostly use bamboo to make kite frames and reels with handle on both sides that is used in flying a single line kite. In the domestic market, the small-sized kite is sold for Ks50 per head while the thread for kite has been sold for Ks1,700-Ks2,200 per package. Based on size and design, a reel with thread is worth between Ks500 and Ks3,500.—Taintaman ■

Villagers hope to get safe drinking water upon completion of water project

A WATER project is being implemented in a village in Myingyan Township in Mandalay Region for the purpose of supplying safe and clean drinking water to disaster-affected villagers throughout the year.

The new project targets to supply portable drinking water to village residents who moved

Lintgyima Village after they were affected by river bank erosion.

One of residents said: "People in the central arid zone experience water crises every summer. Natural disasters often cause damage to hand-dug wells and lakes. Construction of more tube-

wells is expected to resolve the drinking water problem during disasters."

Since mid-November, the township rural development department has carried out the construction of a tube-well and related water facilities in the village. Tube-well construction is cent-per-cent

complete while a water tank and a water factory are being built.

Responsible personnel made an inspection tour of the project area on Saturday, urging project implementers to try their best to meet the target time frame.—Min Myintmo (Ngazun) ■

Farm land and forest destroyed by unauthorized gold diggers



Farm land is damaged by unauthorized gold diggers in Bamauk Township, Sagaing Region.

PHOTO: LU AUNG (KATHA)

FARM land and forest in Bamauk Township, Katha District, Sagaing Region are reported to be damaged due to illegal gold mining.

Those gold miners are exploiting the far-flung areas to illegally carry out gold mining businesses in the reserves and

forests. They purchased the farm lands to do illegal gold mining activities, resulting in destruction of farm land and forest. They use machinery for gold mining, leaving the land as lakes or pits.

Some areas are found deforestation due to mining.

The local residents notice the illicit activities of unscrupulous and illegal gold miners damaging areas of land to a great extent.

Last month, illegal gold miners got caught with hard evidence in reserve.—Lu Aung (Katha) ■

Young man in critical condition after being stabbed in Ye Township

POLICE are in hot pursuit to arrest the offender connecting with a serious assault in Ye Township of Mon State, according to police investigators. In the case happened on Saturday at around 9.30 p.m. on the road towards Yangyiaung Ward a young man was stabbed in horrific knife attack in a large street fight among three drinkers, police reported.

A member of police said that the victim is in serious condition. He underwent surgical treatment at Ye General Hospital, with the result that he is able to speak this morning.

The three men including the victim are migrant workers. Police are still investigating the case to identify them and arrest the offender who will face legal charges under the existing law.—Htut Htut (Ye) ■

Non-producing rubber plants fetch over Ks80,000 a ton

A ton of rubber timber fetches Ks80,000 to 85,000 when perennial rubber plants which no longer produce natural rubber latex are cut down, said rubber growers.

If rubber plants are older, they are cut down and rubber growers replant them again. Currently, around three rubber farms are wiped out non-producing trees. A farm has over 10 acres in minimum. About 50 tons of raw rubber timber and 15 tons of finished rubber timber are daily produced. With rubber timber adding value, furniture is also produced. Four-foot rubber sheets are mostly placed on export market, said U Soe Naing, rubber grower from Taninthayi Region.

Rubber timbers are exported to Japan, America and China. A rubber timber producing factory will run with 10-100 labours. Mon State has rubber factories which produce both

raw materials and finished products.

In a bid to enhance rubber industry, pedigree rubbers were examined and researched. Further examination such as tapping latex system, freezing system, synthetic rubber latex producing, etc will also go on. The related department will proceed to awareness campaigns concerning GAP and seedling registration to the growers, said an official from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

The factories purchase around 100 tons of natural rubber a day at the rubber harvest time of November and December through respective representatives in Mon State, Taninthayi Region and Kayin State.

Technically Specified Rubber (TSR) producing plants are required to establish in order to produce high quality



A worker hangs rubber sheets to dry. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

rubber with the help of local and foreign investors. Rubber growers associations, private organizations and the related departments should exert the concerted efforts to create stable rubber market in an attempt

to control rubber quality, announce trade rules and regulation, release rubber information and set market price. There are 23 main rubber producing countries across the globe, including Myanmar. Rubber

farming acres doubled from FY 2005-2006 to FY 2010-2011. Similarly, rubber production also increased. Rubber industry intends to target 320,000 to 330,000 tons of rubber in FY2019-2020. —Zar Lin Thu (AMIA)



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Dr. Min Thein (Director, Department of Relief and Resettlement).



Mahn Aung Naing Kyi (leader of No. 3 team) UEHRD Youth Volunteer.



Daw San San Aye (Rakhine National).



Maw Nul Rau Soon (Hindu).



U Isuk (Islamist) Ngakhura Village.

Rebuilding Rakhine

FROM PAGE-1

On 1 December, youth volunteers went to Ngakhura in Maungtau township and Done-thein, Kyarno-pyin, Phar-yay villages in Buthidaung Township to collect data. On 2 December, they went to Ngakhura Village in Maungtau, where Rakhine, Hindus and Islamists co-existed to provide foods.

News teams went to Ngakhura Village, where they saw youth volunteers conduct surveys and provide food, interviewing personnel and locals for this report.

Dr. Min Thein (Director, Department of Relief and Resettlement)

In launching the UEHRD programme, we had two goals. The first is to provide humanitarian assistance to the needy with the cooperation of youths from across the nation. The other is to take part in the implementation of resettling villages which were destroyed, under the support of the governments of Regions and States. In providing assistance, we chose villages — remote areas and areas within reach of a one-day round-trip journey. Now the villages in Maungtau, including

Ngakhura, are to be done in the second batch. Here, local Rakhine people, Hindus and Islamists are living together. They share the same market and school. That being so, we symbolically chose the village as a priority.

In implementing the tasks under the UEHRD programme, we would like to share two pieces of news — one is our desire to show that not only local nationals but also the whole populace across the nation are giving support wholeheartedly, and the other is to show that we are not discriminating, as alleged by some.

Our project has two messages — the whole populace's stance together with the local nationals and non-segregation between two different believers. We cannot implement national development with a person or an organisation alone. Only if the whole populace collectively cooperates will success be gained. Especially now, it is time for the praiseworthy deeds of youths, the future generation, to wholeheartedly contribute their voluntary labour and withstand all the hardships. I would like to add that youths came to the area with some anxieties in their minds. Therefore, the Department of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement would like to

say thanks to them and simultaneously their parents for their kind permission to allow their offspring to come here.

Daw San San Aye (Rakhine National)

I have six family members. Altogether there are over 100 Rakhine nationals. Some left here, so only a few go to school. Now that the UEHRD youths came to provide some rations — rice, edible oil, salt, chillies, potatoes, pulses and others, we can live on them. Now we are unemployed. In the past, we used to sell commodities, but we have nothing left. At the time of the terrorist attacks, they, who were dressed in black masks, exchanged fire with security forces. At 10 pm or so, we rushed into the camp. In the village, Rakhine, Hindus and Bengalis co-existed in peace. We shared with each other. They asked for what they wanted and they in return helped us. Now we live in peace with them, those who remained in the village, without abandoning the village.

U Isuk (Islamist) Ngakhura Village

I live in Kappakaung, east of Ngakhura village. Organisations provided us with rice, cooking

oil, pulses, potatoes, powdered milk, onion and etc. And they collected data they wanted. They asked us what we need more. All living here were not involved in terrorist attacks. Those who got involved have escaped. Here, there are Rakhine nationals, Hindus and Muslims like us. We live here in peace. Thanks a lot for helping like this. It is necessary to help us to run businesses for the long-term.

Maw Nul Rau Soon (Hindu)

I am a leader of a 100-household of the Hindu village. In the village, there are 600 Hindus in the village. Youth volunteers provided us with various kinds of food and clothing. My family has 45 members, getting seven units of assistances. They asked whether there are conveniences or not as to collecting the family records. Now they came to give aid for four times. Thanks a lot for providing in such a way. It is convenient for us to live on what we got. But we are still afraid of the dangers of terrorists. For the time being, we have no jobs. It is not convenient for us to find meat for our daily consumption in nearby areas only. In the past it is not difficult for us to find meat and fish. Before now, we earned our living on fishing and hair-cutting. Some went to Malaysia for employment. What we ask is for the authorities

to let us do fishing freely. Some people were not enlisted in the family list. If possible, we want the matter to be implemented as soon as possible. Before now, in the village, Hindus, Muslims and Rakhine nationals used to live together. But some now have the feelings of anxiety and doubt.

Mahn Aung Naing Kyi (leader of No. 3 team) UEHRD Youth Volunteer

I live in Mayangone township, Yangon Region, being a Kayin-Bamar national. The objective of applying for the youth programme is that I am greatly interested in the programme, "20 Days of Youth for the People." That is because we — Hindu, Muslim and Rakhine, belong to the same human race with the same basic values. We respect these same basic values. Being human beings, we applied for taking part in the programme of UEHRD based on our willingness to help with humanitarian aid. We were given training in the camp. We were taught about safety and security, how to do surveys, how to collect data and how to distribute commodities. We were well trained how to avoid sayings, livings and doings which will result in outbreaks of another conflicts. And first aid was also taught to us. —News Team / Photo: Pho Htaung ■

MTG

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If you have burning desire and willingness, everything is possible for you: Mi Sandi, a vocalist

YOUTH All-Round Development Festival, which was held for three days on December 1-3, included literature, arts, sports, IT and science, book sales, youth education program, discussions and entertainment. During the discussion, Writer Ponnya Khin and youth vocalist Mi Sandi talked and discussed on the title of "The Pursuit of Art", at RC hall, University of Yangon.

Youth Vocalist Mi Sandi

I came here at the invita-

tion of Sayama Ponnya Khin, a well-known author and youths of the Yangon University. I managed to come and see them although I was fully occupied with my work. Being a youth, I want to take part in this festival and keep in touch with many youths from different schools and universities as it's a memorable moment for me.

Youths of today are sometimes at a loss what to do next between their aims and

fulfillment of their parents' wishes. It's a difficult for them to make a bold decision to go on with it.

Writer Sayama Ponnya Khin

I came to know that some of them are really interested in my similar experience how to overcome my difficulties, which was all about my education versus my artist life. They can learn from my personal experience.—Ohnmar Thant/Myat Sandi ■



Vocalist Mi Sandi and writer Sayama Ponnya Khin delivering the talk show at Youth All-round Development Festival in RC hall, University of Yangon. **PHOTO: YE HTUT**

Hindus from IDP camps in Sittway return home

FROM PAGE-1

"Still, they have worries for returning to their homes though the situation has returned to normalcy. We will make efforts for peaceful coexistence between the communities," said U Ye Htut.

All Myanmar Hindu Central Board issued a statement

on 1 October expressing deep sorrow for ethnic nationals and Hindus killed by ARSA extremist terrorists in Rakhine State and urges to make arrangements to provide security and restore the livelihood of the remaining family members.

The statement said ethnic Rakhine nationals, public

servants and some Hindus were killed and wounded by recent ARSA extremist terrorists' atrocities in Maungdaw, Rakhine State. The worst incident was the cruel mass killing of Hindu villagers of an entire village and the forced abduction of some Hindus to another country.—News Team ■

Union Minister Lt-Gen Sein Win receives DCAF Director Mr. Thomas Guerber



Union Minister Lt-Gen Sein Win holds talks with DCAF Director Mr. Thomas Guerber yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

MINISTRY of Defence, Union Minister Lt-Gen Sein Win received a delegation led by Ambassador Mr. Thomas Guerber, Director of Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) based in Geneva at 2:00 pm at the Minister's office,

Ministry of Defence yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to peace processes, the Rakhine issue, promoting co-operation between Tatmadaw and DCAF.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar export import status during FY 2017-2018 from April to September

DURING September of FY 2017-2018 the value of Myanmar's normal export is US\$ 1,190.40 million and border trade export is US\$ 567.05 million totaling US\$ 1,757.45 million. During the same period, the value of Myanmar's normal import is 1,209.02 million and border trade import is US\$ 282.30 million totaling US\$1,491.32 million. Therefore the total trade value for September of FY 2017-2018 is US\$ 3,248.77 million while the trade deficit was US\$ 266.13 million.

From April to September of FY 2017-2018, the value of Myanmar's normal export is US\$ 4,923.00 million and border trade export is US\$2,308.07 million totaling US\$ 7,231.07 million. Value of normal import is US\$ 7,640.67 million and border trade import is US\$ 1,454.22 million totaling US\$ 9,094.89 million. Therefore the total trade value during April to September of FY 2017-2018 is US\$ 16,325.96 million with a trade deficit of US\$ 1,863.82 million it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency

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Peace process and preparation in every sector

STARTING from over one month ago, meetings for convening the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong 3rd Session were held. Joint-committee meetings on assessment of NCA implementations were held on October 25-26, resulting in emergence of round-table negotiations in preparation for the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong 3rd Session.

As of 17th November, the working committee meeting was held for four days and the Secretariat meeting was also held. During those meetings, they were able to assess 5 terms of reference on the political negotiation framework and in addition certain requirements were amended. On 24th November as well, Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee meeting was successfully held in Nay Pyi Taw, approving five ToR and one SoP [standard operating procedures] on the political negotiation framework.

The Political Negotiation Framework was drawn up within 60 days according to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement; hence lack of fulfillment, that is, some requirements in the framework. The first-drawn-up frameworks were found inconvenient in some parts, at the time when the political negotiations were held.

Among the peace process until now since gaining Independence, political negotiations reached today's stage just at the time when the incumbent government took office, achieving agreement on 37 points resulting in the Union Agreement in the 2nd session of 21st Century Panglong.

of the peace process. Among them, there are schedules to convene RCSS-SSA national-level political negotiations in Linkhe township, Shan State in January 2018 and to convene UPC—21st Century Panglong's 3rd session in the last week of January, 2018 and to approve the political negotiation framework ToR and the regulations on convention of national-level political negotiations. Round-table talks in preparation for the UPC—21st Century Panglong 3rd Session had been held during the last part of November.

It is heartening to have seen efforts for preparation of 3rd session of UPC—21st Century Panglong in spite of many duties of the national-level leaders. Similarly, it is praiseworthy to have known about the efforts of NCA signatories. Among the peace process until now since gaining Independence, political negotiations reached today's stage just at the time when the incumbent government took office, achieving agreement on 37 points resulting in the Union Agreement in the 2nd session of 21st Century Panglong. At the coming UPC - 21st Century Panglong 3rd Session, efforts will be made for laying down fundamental principles. In brief, we wish that the aims and objectives will be achieved at the UPC - 21st Century Panglong 3rd Session to be held in the end of January.

Prosperity of a Nation Depends on Development of its All Youths

By Aung Kyaw Moe
[Social Welfare]

YOUTHS' strength plays an important role for a nation's development, deciding the destiny of that nation and its good or evil effects in the future. Being the precious human resources of the country, role of youths and their development occupies the top on the totem pole of the priorities to be implemented by the State. Accordingly, the newly elected government has laid down the working process—the emergence of the policy on youths as a priority in 100-day plan.

From the deepest core

Starting from May 2016, the Ministry of the Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement systematically formed 3 committees—central committee, working committee and drafting committee, in cooperation with the related ministries including the Ministry of Health and Sports, the Ministry of Education, youths representing Regions and States, female representatives and those representing the disabled youths, UN Organizations, NGOs and INGOS. Committees at different levels are also constituted of youth representatives to basically collect youths' voices, opinions and suggestions. In drafting the policy, thorough considerations were made so as not to go astray from standards of human rights, different situations in Myanmar, necessities



The first batch of youth volunteers deliver aid to people in Maungdaw. PHOTO: MMAL

on the ground, basic principles being exercised currently and national-level strategies. Youth seminars, forums and discussions were broadly held in the respective Regions and States. And, arrangements had been made to make youths and interested persons across the nation known for them to give suggestions, newspapers and broadcasting media. Simultaneously, youths' opinions were collected from surveys on the ground and through social websites.

With regard to drafting policy on youth, the drafting com-

mittee on youth policy, Myanmar held meetings for 3 times, with the working committee for 2 times and the central committee for one time respectively, in cooperation with UNFPA. The meeting among the three committees on drafting youth policy was held on 24th August, attended by 3 Union Ministers and Central Committee members. It managed to make final discussion of policy on youth affairs [draft]. After submitting the draft to the committees at different levels, the Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement finally tendered it on 8th November to the Union Government for approval.

Major sectors included in the policy on youth affairs

Policy on youth affairs, Myanmar designates youths' ages at 15 to 35 and the major sectors are as follows:

- [A] Education
- [B] Health
- [C] Narcotic Drugs and Their Related Risks
- [D] Sports and Recreation
- [E] Job Opportunities

- [F] Economy
- [G] Politics
- [H] Literature, Arts and Culture
- [I] Research
- [J] Science and Technology
- [K] Civil Ethics and Being Good Citizens
- [L] Exploitation of Natural Resources and Conservation of Natural Environment
- [M] Peace and Security of Life
- [N] Equality between Sexes

- [O] Human Rights
 - [P] International Relation
- At present, policy on youth affairs being implemented designed for youths is to be clarified in Regions and States. Later after the release of policy on youth affairs, strategic plans on youths and arrangements to be carried out further are to be implemented by the respective ministries, together with youths.

With a view to healing socio-economic destructions between both societies due to the conflicts happening in northern

Rakhine, the Office of the Government of the State formed the UEHRD under the notification 86/2017 on 17th October. It laid down the youth-all-inclusive program, "20 days of youths for the people," to collect data on humanitarian assistances and other necessities. Voluntary youths to take part in the campaign were conducted 3-day training for systematic implementation. Similar trainings will be conducted in three batches. First batch was conducted from 6 to 8 November, and 40 volunteers had made data collection in Buthidaung and Maungdaw regions and referring to respective organizations if necessary.

Simultaneously, youth all-round development festival was held for 3 days from 1st to 3rd December in the Yangon University Campus by the ministries headed by the Ministry of Information, aiming at sharing knowledge, intellect, technology and ethics and building up Future Myanmar with the broad-minded visions of youths. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement had

presented programs of youth activities and performances, educative talk shows, exhibition room on youths, showing models for ideal youths' centers, entertainment shows from schools for the disabled under the social welfare department and selling Myanmar traditional foods. At the exhibition room on youth, a program for sharing knowledge on family planning was included as a program of protecting children from abandonment, together with a general knowledge quiz contest.

By implementing the working process laid down for youths together with policy on youth affairs, today's youths will be able to steer future's youths as elite leading guides. So, later after the emergence of policy on youth affairs, we, the whole national populace, should take part in campaign for our future generations included in the strategic plans to be implemented further; the government and the youths. ■

Translated by
Khin Maung Oo



Among children, AIDS epidemic is far from over, UNICEF finds

By Ellen Wulffhorst /
Reuters

EIGHTEEN children every hour were infected with HIV last year, a sign of scant progress in protecting the world's young from the deadly AIDS-causing virus, the United Nations' children's agency said on Friday.

At the current rate of infection, there will be 3.5 million new cases of HIV among adolescents by 2030, according to projections in the 2017 UNICEF Statistical Update on Children and AIDS.

Around the world, nearly 37 million people - the equivalent of the population of Canada - were living with HIV last year, according to UNICEF.

Among these, 2.1 million adolescents had HIV, a 30 percent increase from 2005, while 55,000 adolescents aged 10 to 19, and 120,000 children younger than 14, died from AIDS-related causes.

Infected children younger than 4 years old faced the highest risk of AIDS-related deaths compared with other age groups.

"The AIDS epidemic is not over; it remains a threat to the lives of children and young people," said Dr. Cheweluo, chief of HIV for UNICEF, in a statement accompanying the report.

"It is unacceptable that we continue to see so many children dying from AIDS and so little progress made to protect adolescents from new HIV infections."

UNICEF said nearly all the adolescent deaths were in sub-Saharan Africa and, worldwide, more adolescent girls than boys are infected.

The testing and treatment of babies is also lagging, with fewer than half of HIV-exposed infants getting tested in their first two months of life.

UNICEF said some progress had been made in preventing mother-to-child transmission, with about 2 million new infections averted since 2000, it said, but that progress was slowing.

UNICEF called for an array of action, including getting treatment to all infected children, making intervention for adolescent girls in sub-Saharan Africa a priority while also introducing HIV self-testing and better data collection. ■

Public Peace Movement Week events in Kawthoung and Taninthayi towns



Kawthoung 88 Generation Peace and Open Society official U Htin Kyaw Kyaw and Amyotha Hluttaw representative Dr. Khin Maung Win cut ribbon to launch Public Peace Movement Week event in Kawthoung. **PHOTO: NAN THA YI- HTEIN WIN (IPRD)**

Public Peace Movement Week events in Kawthoung and Taninthayi towns were held in the two towns on 2 and 3 December respectively in order to make the public aware of the importance of public's participant in peace process and for the public to cooperate and participate in the peace process.

The event in Kawthoung was opened by Kawthoung 88 Generation Peace and Open Society official U Htin Kyaw Kyaw and Amyotha Hluttaw representative Dr. Khin Maung Win who cut the ceremonial ribbon in front of Myintzuthaka Hall, Kawthoung Town at 6 p.m. December 2 after which singer Lin Lin and Naung Yo together with local singers sung peace songs.

Next, U Min Ko Naing and U Jimmy of 88 Generation Peace and Open Society gave speeches on Public Peace Movement and the people in attendance lighted peace candles and prayed for peace. The public was then entertained with peace songs.

U Jimmy of 88 Generation Peace and Open Society said "Myanmar didn't progress as much as it ought and there will

be development only after peace is achieved. That is why knowledge on peace is being shared with the public." At the event, Cartoon Maung Maung Fountain and cartoonists from the town drew peace cartoons for free.

A similar Public Peace Movement Week event was held in Taninthayi Hall, Taninthayi Town with songs and speeches at 6:30 p.m. 3 December it is learnt.

At that event, singer and actor Naung Yo, Kar Kar, Be Wa and Bo Bo Htut sing songs related to peace movement while cartoonist Maung Maung Fountain discussed with local youths and students about the peace logo and explained about the essence of the peace logo. Youths and students then drew the peace logo, cartoons and drawings on peace according to their thoughts and ideas after which they discussed about the benefit of drawing.

Next, U Min Ko Naing and U Jimmy of 88 Generation Peace and Open Society gave speeches on peace. Afterwards, attendees led by U Jimmy lighted candles and call out "May there be peace

on earth. May 21st Century Panglong be successful" and prayed (for peace).

While the calls and prayers were made in candle light with the electric lights off, singer Kar Kar entertained by singing a peace prayer song. Next, singers continued to sing peace songs and U Jimmy also sang a song at the request of the local populace.

Taninthayi town public peace movement (week) talks were jointly organized by Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Aung Kyaw Hein, constituency 2 State Hluttaw representative U Ye Myint Swe, party members of Taninthayi Township National League for Democracy and civil society organisations with the support of the local populace and the day's event was attended by more than 600 interested persons.

Public peace movement week events will be held in Myeik, Kyunsu, Thayetchaung, Palaw, Dawei, Launglon, Kanbauk and Yebu towns, Taninthayi Region until December 9. —District IPRD and Nan Tha Yi -Htein Win (IPRD) ■

Man injured in old bomb explosion in Kachin State

A local man injured in an old bomb explosion in Manmaw Village, Dawphonyan Sub-Township in Kachin State at 4 am yesterday.

A local identified as U Paw Sae Hong sustained minor injuries in the incident while he was working after he set fire on the rubbishes near his house.

He has been admitted to Bhamo Hospital for medical treatment by a local social organization.—Myanmar Digital News ■

MYANMAR GAZETTE

1. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on expiry of the one-year probationary period from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(1) U Khin Latt	Director-General Union Minister's Office Office of the President
(2) U Kyaw Kyaw Han	Director-General Political and Security Department Office of the President
(3) U Bharat Singh	Director-General Department of Economic Affairs Office of the President

2. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(1) U Myo Thant Pe	Director-General
Deputy Director-General	Consular and Legal Affairs
Political Department	Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
(2) U Soe Han	Director-General
Deputy Director-General	Political Department
Political Department	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	

Suspicious package in Myanmar Embassy, Bangkok, Thailand

ACCORDING to a news release from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at about local standard time 10 a.m. a suspicious package was found in the compound of former Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand where Myanmar passports were being issued and police were informed to investigate.

The package was found to be a fake bomb made of rice in a pipe that was taped together with a clock.

Myanmar Embassy officials are taking special care to increase security in the embassy, staff houses as well as the office where passports are being issued.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Correction

Please read "Dr. Ne Win Zaw" instead of "Dr. Ni Win Zaw", and also read "Dr. Poe Poe" instead of "Dr. Nilar Kyu" and read "Dr. Nilar Kyu" instead of "Dr. Poe Poe" in the captions of the photos appeared along with "Voices from Youth All-Round Development Festival" on page-13 of December 2 Issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar.— Myanmar News Agency

Administrative machinery needs to be strengthened to restore rule of law

By News Team
PHOTO: MIN HTET

It reached for over 3 months that ARSA extremist terrorists made a series of attacks in Maungtaw, Rakhine on August 25. Due to the events, situations on administrative, economic, transportation, regional development affairs strayed from the right paths, displacing people to other regions. Concerning these changes, with the instructions of the State Government and Regional Governments authorities concerned are implementing restoration of the machinery into normal state by launching operations on the ground, starting to come into existences to some extent, for the time being.

Here is the interview with U Ye Htut, Maungtaw District Commissioner who is now dealing with the implementation of the development in Maungtaw Region by the News Team.

Q: Let me know the process implemented after 3 months period of August 25 event in Maungtaw.

A: After August 25 event, regional security was under control in cooperation between organisations taking responsibilities of security sector. And, we had managed to deal with rule of law in the region. At the time of restoration of security and rule of law, humanitarian assistances are being given to all the injured people living in the region, regardless of race and religion. Simultaneously rehabilitation and resettlements are being implemented. Statistics and necessary facts and figures of those injured and destroyed due to the events were collected systematically with the help of departments and security forces. For the time

being, necessary food and other commodities are being given. During the periods, displaced people were assembled in a place and provided with aids. Now that area consolidation is being gained, aids deliveries were made to those who are greatly in need of help. In doing so, people were provided equally depending upon the amounts of the population, regardless of race or religion. Remote villages and those which were not easily accessible were assembled in a place and infrastructures needed for them were built. For now, 12 new villages were designated.

Q: It has been learnt that preparations are being made to accept those who run away to the neighboring countries. Let me know the time to be implemented?

A: It has been agreed between Myanmar and Bangladesh. With the instruction given through the Rakhine State Government according to the National Policy laid down, we will carry out. Concerning the acceptance, those who will come by road will be accepted at Taungpyo Letwe camp, with those who will come by boat to be accepted at the Ngakhura Camp. After making them stay at the temporary camp for some period, accommodation for them will continue to be launched. It will be implemented as soon as possible as agreed at the national level.

Q: New villages are being built, it was learnt. What kinds of buildings are being built?

A: The land has been designated for building 12 combined villages. Of them, at six villages ground-breaking was already made. Reclamation and foundations were already being made. All the companies had



Maungtaw District Commissioner U Ye Htut.

been ordered to complete the construction not later than 31st March. Most include one-storied buildings. Traditional types will also be included.

Q: What about the arrangement for construction in the villages destroyed by fire?

A: It is impossible to restore in its original condition, concerning resettlements in the villages burnt down by terrorists. On such grounds, there were no inhabitants and properties, home-made firearms and mines were found in finding those places on receipt of news and information. It needs to systematically clear away on these place. Now the places are being cleared away with machineries provided by the government.

Q: To which extent, had the process of harvest in Maungtaw district reached?

A: Due to the events, there were more than 60000 acreage of un-harvested monsoon paddy in the region.

Harvest and winnowing was started one month ago. Altogether 0.14 million baskets of rice had been collected. Under the supervision of the Rakhine State Government, harvest, dry-

ing and selling was made.

Q: We heard people say about slow development of road transport in Maungtaw. Let me know about the preparations, if ever?

A: Concerning repair of roads, they are being repaired for the roads to be able to be used for the time being. Companies assigned by the national-level are also implementing. On completion of website of roads most of the roads in Maungtaw district will become better, we hope.

Q: It has been learnt that Rathedaung-Buthidaung-Maungtaw Power Grid Line started to be implemented. When will it be used in Maungtaw region?

A: For the time being Buthidaung and Maungtaw areas were supplied with power generators. After the event October 9 2016, electricity is being distributed from 6 pm to 6 am for the whole night. In March 2017 Rathedaung and in June Buthidaung and December in 2018 Maungtaw will be supplied with electricity.

Q: Due to the event, almost all basic education schools were known to have suspended. Let us know the present situation of reopening the schools.

A: In Maungtaw region, there are more than 400 schools. As schools are being reopened as situation permits more than half are being reopened by now. As for the (school) buildings, there were some that were damaged. If it is not damaged and if there are students ready to attend it, it will be reopened. If it is damaged and there isn't any student to attend, it is not reopened. The school is not damaged but if there isn't any student to attend,

it will remain suspended. If the school is not damaged and there are students ready to attend, it will be opened as soon as security situation permits.

Q: Explain about the status of trade in Maungtaw region and reopening of markets.

A: In Maungtaw district, there are small markets in every village in the past. These markets are not systematic in terms of municipal law. Therefore, arrangements are made for those markets to systematically conduct trade. The markets are to be operated under the management of the municipal. Similarly, markets under the management of municipals are being arranged to be opened. Although Maungtaw Myoma market is opened 24 hours, meat, fish and vegetables were being sold in each wards and villages markets. Myoma market sells clothing and other consumer products the whole day but the development is not like in main land area so people are relying on individual shops. People are depending more on markets in wards and villages and Myoma market is not as busy as in the past. Myoma market is a distinct market in Maungtaw town and plans are underway for it to be the indicator of development.

Q : How do you see the Maungtaw situation as a district administrator?

A: If you want to develop a region, you need to view the event in the region as it is. Based on the view, cooperation must be provided with good intention. Some will think along the way they want based on the events in the conflict area while some will think one-sidedly.

SEE PAGE-12



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Administrative machinery needs to be strengthened to restore rule of law

FROM PAGE-11

By viewing the situation as it is and cooperating, trust will improve. Due to the conflicts, security is affected. When security is affected, rule of law become weak. If rule of law is weak, (the region) it is left behind in development. If all want development all need to cooperate with good intention. Terrorism based on religion is not related to a religion. It is simply terrorism. It is related only to those who use religion for other matters. We are at the age of democracy government and everything will be conducted according to the law. There will be no discrimination in anyway. Those who want to cooperate need to cooperate according to the law.

Q: There were crit-



Workers collect rice after drying the grain under the sun in Maungtau region. **PHOTO: MIN HTET**

icisms that Maungtau region is weak in rule of law. As a responsible person, what would you like to say about this?

A: The administrative machinery must be firm to restore rule of law in Maungtau region. As the administrative machinery is run according to the law, enforcement of law is required. Without firm administrative machinery,

rule of law is not easy. Policies, rules, regulations etc. need to be obeyed exactly. If not, effective action needs to be taken. Only then will the rule of law be established. Once the rule of law is firm the idea of having no security need not be considered.

Based on the country's policy, preparation to elect new administrators is being made. As for the

villages, administrative organizations and departmental organizations are weak in reaching the local populace. As the administrative organizations did not reach the local populace, trust and dependent on the administration organizations is also reduced. Administrative organizations need to be in touch with the local populace regularly. Data are

to be collected systematically. Short and long term plans need to be drawn up and submitted to the state government. Villages are to be pushed and managed to implement policies set. Management will be according to the law. If anyone goes beyond the law, effective action will be taken. Fences that are making a maze in the village will be removed.

There should be proper road for entry and exit to/from the village. Existence of health hazards and lack of systematic house construction is due to the weaknesses of the related departments. Nothing more need to be said about rule of law in the region if the administrators administer according to the law and the people obey the law. ■



Harvesting of monsoon rice in Maungtau region. **PHOTO: MIN HTET**

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV GSS YANGON VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSS YANGON VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.12.2017 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.

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MV OEL MALAYSIA VOY. NO (1722)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV OEL MALAYSIA VOY. NO (1722) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.12.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

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(S'PORE) PTE LTD**

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CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV MINANUR CEBI VOY. NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MINANUR CEBI VOY. NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.12.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AIPT-1 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

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CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV HHL VALPARAZSO M VOY. NO (-)

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

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Phone No: 2301928



This photo taken on 6 November, 2017, shows delegates speaking at a two-day conference on foreign graduate employment at SOAS, University of London. Participants agreed universities and employers need to provide more assistance for graduates. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Foreign job seekers need better preparation for working in Japan: experts

LONDON — European universities and employers need to improve the assistance they provide to foreign graduates looking to work in Japan, according to delegates at a recent two-day conference in London.

Participants of the 6-7 November forum agreed Japanese studies departments need to broaden the range of skills students acquire so they can meet the needs of Japanese firms.

The gathering of academics, students and human resources staff from across Europe also agreed Japanese employers have to be more sensitive to the needs of overseas graduates in Japan.

Harald Conrad, a lecturer in Japan's economy and management at Sheffield University, arranged the event at SOAS University of London.

He told Kyodo News, "I think there was general agreement among the participants that universities should and can address employability more in the curriculum. I don't think Japanese studies departments have thought about this in a systematic way and we hope to

change that."

Conrad also argued graduates need to understand better how Japanese companies think and operate in practice. Anecdotal, many foreign graduates drop out of Japanese firms because they have unrealistic expectations.

Human resources specialists told the conference that while a good proficiency in Japanese is often important, firms are frequently looking for graduates with additional skills. They recommended studying Japanese alongside other subjects such as business.

Ian Robinson, human resources manager for Toshiba Europe Ltd, said, "We are not necessarily looking for Japanese speakers. We are looking for people who can change how we do business in Japan and change the mindset."

Japanese studies departments are already adapting courses in order to ensure students are better equipped for the world of work, according to the conference.

Instead of just writing essays, students are en-

couraged to take part in group work that involves developing a range of business-friendly skills, including a better understanding of Japanese workplace culture and negotiation skills. They also prepare their resumes and job interviews in Japanese and carry out internships.

Boosting employability (skills which can be transferred from the classroom into the workplace) has become increasingly important as students are forced to take on more of the costs of their education.

But it is also Japanese employers who need to change their approach if they are to attract and, more importantly retain, foreign graduates.

Some companies now aim to take on 20 per cent of their annual graduate intake from overseas in order to bring about innovation and improve understanding of overseas markets.

Conrad and Hendrik Meyer-Ohle, from the National University of Singapore, have recently conducted a survey of these fresh foreign graduates.—Kyodo News ■

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 Electrification Project (NEP). The IDA No of the financing agreement is No-5727MM. The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, in its role as implementing agency of the NEP, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this credit towards eligible payments under the Contracts for which this invitation for Quotation is issued.

DRD now invites eligible suppliers to express their interest in supplying the following items:

Item No	Reference No	Description	Quantity	Units
1	C2-G.17	Office Furniture for Union Level	33	Nos
2	C2-G.18	Office Equipment for Union Level	13	Nos

Eligible Suppliers having expressed interest will receive a REQUEST FOR QUOTATION by e-mail, Sealed Quotations will be submitted to the address below at the latest at the deadline, after which no Quotations will be accepted.

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 (revised July 2014).

Please submit Sealed Quotations to: U Thein Lwin, 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 0673409529/ Email: neppmo.drd@gmail.com. Please indicate your e-mail address as only electronic copies of the RFQ will be send.

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE PROCUREMENT OF WORKS

REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL ROAD DEVELOPMENT
UNDER THE MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION
FLERP – FLOOD AND LANDSLIDE EMERGENCY RECOVERY PROJECT
Credit No.:5889-MM

Contract Title: SAN KIN - KA LOT THAUK ROAD REHABILITATION WORKS
AYEYARWADDY REGION

Reference No. : NCB C2-W01-01 (single lot)

Contract Title: SHAN ZU- CHAUNG ZAU to HLE ZEIK ROAD REHABILITATION
AYEYARWADDY REGION

Reference No. : NCB C2-W02-LOT 1-2

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of the Flooding and Landslide Emergency Recovery Project (FLERP). The Department of Rural Road Development (DRRD) under the Ministry of Construction, in its role as Implementing Agency of Component 2 of the FLERP, intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract(s) for the procurement of Road Works.

The Department of Rural Road Development (DRRD) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following road works in the Ayeeyarwaddy Region:

C2-W01-01 (single lot)

ROAD REHABILITATION WORKS. LENGTH OF ROAD 4,825 METER ON THE SAN KIN – KA LOT THAUK ROAD UNDER DANUPHYU TOWNSHIP

C2-W01-02-LOT 1:

ROAD REHABILITATION WORKS. LENGTH OF ROAD 7,012 METER SHAN ZU – CHAUNG ZAU TO HLE ZEIK ROAD UNDER KYONE PYAW TOWNSHIP (KM 0+000 to 7+012)

C2-W01-02-LOT 2:

ROAD REHABILITATION WORKS. LENGTH OF ROAD 6,900 METER SHAN ZU – CHAUNG ZAU TO HLE ZEIK ROAD UNDER KYONE PYAW TOWNSHIP (KM 7+012 to 13+912)

The works are scheduled to start on 1 February 2018 with an estimated maximum duration of 150 days.

The contract for C2-W01-01 (single lot) will be awarded to the Bidder offering the lowest evaluated cost to the Employer. For the contract(s) C2-W01-02 LOT1-2 Bidders have the option to Bid for any one or both lots. Bids will be evaluated lot-wise, taking into account discounts offered, if any, for combined lots. The contract(s) will be awarded to the Bidder or Bidders offering the lowest evaluated cost to the Employer for combined lots, subject to the selected Bidder(s) meeting the required qualification criteria for lot or combination of lots as the case may be.

Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in "the World Bank's Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers dated January 2011 and revised in July 2014" (the Procurement Guidelines), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Department of Rural Roads Development (DRRD), Ms. Tin Moe Myint, FLERP Project Director, (ruralroad.drrd@gmail.com and/or rbbdrd@gmail.com) and inspect the bidding documents during office hours Monday to Friday from 10.00 to 16.00 Hrs at the address given below.

A complete set of electronic bidding documents in English Language may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders by simple e-mail request to the address below. Alternatively, a complete set of printed bidding documents in English Language may be obtained by interested eligible bidders upon submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of 70,000.00 MMK. The method of payment will be cash payment or cashier's check directly at the address mentioned below where the set of bidding documents can be collected. No printed documents will be sent.

Interested Bidders that obtained the bidding documents will be invited to attend a Pre-Bid Conference on Monday 11 December 2017.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before Friday 5 January 2018 1:00 pm Myanmar time. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below on Friday 5 January 2018 2:00 pm Myanmar time.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security or a Cash Deposit with a reputable Bank in Myanmar, licensed by and under the supervision of the Central Bank of Myanmar for this activity.

The address referred to above is:

Department of Rural Road Development
Attn: Daw Tin Moe Myint, Project Director FLERP
Yanaung (2) Quarter, North of (200) Bedded Hospital, Pyinmana
Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar

For Detailed information please contact:

Ms. Tin Moe Myint +95(67) 24821 (office telephone) +95(67) 24762 (office fax)
e-mail: ruralroad.drrd@gmail.com and/or rbbdrd@gmail.com

HOTLINE / 09-974424114

Japanese actor Yakusho receives award in Singapore

SINGAPORE — Japanese actor Koji Yakusho was honored with the Cinema Legend Award in Singapore on Saturday.

Yakusho, who has appeared in over 60 films and is well known for his role in Shohei Imamura's Cannes Palme d'Or winner "Unagi" ("The Eel"), received the award at the 28th Singapore International Film Festival at the Marina Bay Sands Grand Theater.

Yakusho, who hails from Isahaya in Nagasaki Prefecture, shot to fame in the 1996 Japanese hit comedy "Shall We Dance?" in which he played a ballroom-dancing salaryman.

The award is aimed at "celebrating his talent and outstanding achievements in bringing Asia's story to life on the silver screen during his 39-year career," the organizer said in a statement.

He is the third winner of the award that was launched in 2015. Previous winners are Malaysian star Michelle Yeoh in 2015 and Hong Kong's Simon Yam last year. Prior to the ceremony, the actor said, "I'm 61 now and don't know how much longer my career will last. But receiving such a wonderful prize makes me tell myself 'Hang in there.'"

Yakusho, who flew into the city-state just hours before the ceremony on Saturday, also revealed that it was his first visit



to Singapore in 35 years. Japanese actor Koji Yakusho speaks after being presented the Cinema Legend Award at the 28th Singapore International Film Festival at the Marina Bay Sands Grand Theater in Singapore, on 2 December 2017. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Founded in 1987, the Singapore International Film Festival is the largest and longest-running film event in Singapore that focuses on ground-breaking Asian cinema in Singapore and the region. Aimed at nurturing and championing local and regional talent, it brings together emerging filmmakers from Asia and Southeast Asia while paying tribute to acclaimed cinema legends.

The event is organized by the Singapore International Film Festival, a non-profit organization. —Kyodo News ■

Script of Bruce Lee biopic a work in progress: Shekhar Kapur

SINGAPORE — Veteran director Shekhar Kapur said the script of the biopic on iconic Chinese-American star, Bruce Lee, is a work in progress.

The 71-year-old filmmaker has signed up to co-write and direct the film titled, "Little Dragon", his first China project.

"We are working on the script," Shekhar said, adding that the first script draft was written by Bruce's daughter, Shannon Lee.

"Little Dragon" is being planned as an official US - China co-production, with several Chinese companies expected to co-finance and co-produce the film.

The feature film will chronicle Bruce's early life before he left Hong Kong for Hollywood and went on to become an icon and Kung-Fu movie master in the 1970s. Shekhar also believes Indian films have a big market in China.

"I used to say Indian films will definitely be very popular in China and yes, they are. 'Dangal' has proved what I said," he told PTI, after completing his chief judge assignment at the 28th Singapore International Film Festival yesterday.

Aamir Khan's "Dangal" or "Let's Wrestle, Dad" raked in more than USD 93.3 million within a month, when it released

in China in May this year.

Shekhar's said his ambitious project, "Paani" is ready for take-off again and awaits investors' commitment.

He said the film will have new artistes as those who worked in the film, including Sushant Singh Rajput, were much older than the age of actors required for the roles. Shekhar, who worked on the film for 15 years, conceded "Paani" is an expensive project and would cost about USD 30 million. The director said he is dedicated to the art of filmmaking. "Every morning when I wake up, I say to myself I should be working more," he added. —PTI ■

Don't know where I'm going to live the rest of my life: Emma Stone

LONDON — Actor Emma Stone said she is unsure where she would finally settle down for the rest of her life but feels excited about a new adventure of shifting houses.

The 29-year-old actor said she is currently putting up in a rented home in New York as she is shooting for her film "Maniac".

"Right now, I'm renting a house. I don't know where I'm going to live for the rest of my life. That's an interesting conundrum.

"I do love it. I'm looking to reinvigorate my relationship with the city. I go to the same restaurants and pretty much stay in the same two-block radius," Stone told Marie Claire

magazine.

The Oscar-winning actor said she is enjoying this phase of her life also because she has all the things for her comfort around her.

"I work in different places a lot of the time and it just makes me feel very comforted to be within the same two blocks," she said. — PTI ■

Leia leads resistance in Carrie Fisher's final 'Star Wars' film

LOS ANGELES — Carrie Fisher's final performance as the beloved Leia in "Star Wars" puts the character on the front lines in a dark new chapter that reaches theatres this month, leaving a galactic hole to fill after the sudden death of the actress a year ago.

Fisher had filmed all of her scenes for "Star Wars: The Last Jedi," the eighth instalment of the blockbuster space saga, before she died of a heart attack in December 2016. "She's irreplaceable," Mark Hamill, who plays Luke Skywalker, told Reuters. "'Star Wars' is about great triumphs and great tragedies, and I can't think of a bigger tragedy than missing our Leia," Hamill told Reuters. Writer and director Rian Johnson said he did not change Leia's story in "Last Jedi" after her death. The film debuts in theatres 14 December.



Carrie Fisher poses for cameras as she arrives at the European Premiere of Star Wars, The Force Awakens in Leicester Square, London, in 2015. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

It will be up to the makers of 2019 film "Episode IX" to decide the ultimate fate of the character

first seen as a spunky princess in the original 1977 "Star Wars" film, Johnson added.

In "The Last Jedi," "we didn't tailor it to be a farewell to her," Johnson said. "But, that

having been said, I think there's some moments that I think will really mean a lot to fans. You will see more from Leia that you haven't seen before."

Fisher's final film appearance is expected to boost already feverish interest in the franchise, now owned by Walt Disney Co. Boxoffice.com projects "Last Jedi" will haul in \$185 million to \$215 million at US and Canadian ticket windows its first weekend, which would rank as one of the biggest film debuts in history.

The cast and director provided few details about the film's plot. John Boyega, who portrays former Stormtrooper Finn, said the movie finds Leia, now a general, leading the Resistance against the evil First Order during a tense time in the raging battle to protect the galaxy far, far away. —Reuters ■

St Petersburg drawbridge season draws to a close

ST PETERSBURG — The navigation on the Neva River, the main waterway in St Petersburg, ended on 30 Thursday November, drawing to a close the drawbridge season.

“Today, the drawbridges will be opened up for the last time on schedule,” Andrei Kochin, deputy head of the city’s bridge operating company, told reporters.

He said that bridges could be opened later if the company received special requests.

In all, the drawbridges in Russia’s second largest city were opened more than 2,300 times from 10 April to let some 3,300 vessels pass up and down the Neva River.

The iconic Palace Bridge, which spectacular opening draws crowds of tourists on summer nights, was drawn for 421 times.

The navigation on the city’s smaller waterways, including



Palace Bridge in St Petersburg. PHOTO: TASS

the Moika and Fontanka rivers and the Griboyedov canal, was closed on 16 November.

According to Yevgeny

Zubarev, the president of the Association of Owners of St Petersburg Passenger Ships, more than 1.5 million

passengers traveled along the city’s waterways during the 2017 navigation season. —Reuters ■

Kiwi-Aussie hybrid ‘Kwaussie’ wins Australia’s word of the year

SYDNEY — Oscar-winning actor Russell Crowe is one, and so is Barnaby Joyce, Australia’s deputy prime minister whose dual citizenship almost brought down the government.

They can both describe themselves as “Kwaussie”, a portmanteau term that refers to a person who is both Australian and a New Zealander and was named on Monday as Australia’s word of the year. It means someone who is both a “kiwi”, or a New Zealander; and an “Aussie”.

Researchers say Crowe, the star of the films such as “Gladiator” and “Les Misérables”, was one of the original “Kwaussies”.

Crowe lives in Australia but was born across the Tasman Sea in New Zealand. “We were able to trace it back to print in a Wellington newspaper in 2002 referring to Russell Crowe,” said Amanda Laugesen, director of the National Dictionary Centre.

“Since we put out the word of the year today we have had some suggestions from some people who knew it back in the 1970s,” she told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

The term gained real trac-

tion this year during the citizenship crisis that forced nine lawmakers out of Australia’s parliament, even though it has a longer history. It had hardly been used until Joyce discovered that he was a New Zealander and therefore ineligible for parliament because Australia’s 116-year-old constitution bans dual citizens from holding national office.

The constitution, unlike the word, aims to prevent split allegiances. The crisis could ripple even wider, with a deadline for politicians to prove their citizen-

ship status set for Tuesday.

“Kwaussie” was named word of the year ahead of other contenders such as “jumper punch” — an Australian football term referring to an illegal, sneaky fist to the face — and “Waxit”, a Brexit-style referral to Western Australia state.

Also shortlisted was “makarata,” a Yolngu Aboriginal word meaning peace treaty. It was used by indigenous leaders in May in a call for a legal agreement between the government and Australia’s native Aborigines.—Reuters ■

JR East to run special train for cycling enthusiasts from January

TOKYO — East Japan Railway Co. unveiled new cars Monday for a special train that will enable people to take bicycles aboard without the need to fold or disassemble them.

Starting January, the weekend service will connect Ryogoku in Tokyo and various coastal towns on the Boso Peninsula, a popular cycling destination in Chiba Prefecture.

The company has converted a commuter train into the new six-car Boso Bicycle

Base that can accommodate 99 bikes.

Each passenger seat on the train has a metal post for cyclists to lock their bikes.

“We hope many people will enjoy bicycle trips around the peninsula,” a company spokesman said.

Passengers will need to book seats at least five days in advance, with round-trip adult fares starting from 6,500 yen (\$58), according to the operator.—Kyodo News ■



A cyclist locks her bike onto a metal post on an East Japan Railway Co train car in Tokyo on 4 December, 2017. Such cars will be serviced on weekends starting in January, and will connect Ryogoku in Tokyo to coastal towns on the Boso Peninsula, a popular cycling destination in Chiba Prefecture. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Macao launches light festival to attract tourists

MACAO — Macao Light Festival 2017 was unveiled at the Ruins of St Paul on Sunday night, kicking off a string of events and festivities to fill the entire December with new elements of tourism and leisure.

Under the theme “Wish-Making under the Stars”, the opening ceremony featured dance performance choreographed and performed by a local dance troupe.

The opening kicked off an array of projection mapping shows and light installations at eight local tourist attractions, taking visitors and residents onto a dazzling journey.

In the opening ceremony, Macao Government Tourism Office Director Senna Fernandes said that the tourism office will forge the Macao Light Festival into one of Macao’s annual signature events and continue to combine elements of gastronomy, culture and creativity for the goal to build Macao into a world center of tourism and leisure.

She also added that a string of other events and festivities will follow in this month, including the 2nd Macao International Film Festival & Awards, the Macao Shopping Festival and the Macao International Parade, as well as celebrations for the 18th anniversary of the establishment of the Macao SAR, the Christmas holidays and the New Year’s Eve.

Staged from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm local time from 3 to 31 December, the festival will present projection mapping shows, light installations, interactive games and a series of new activities such as light art exhibitions, outdoor local concerts and outdoor movie shows.

Related cultural and creative products will also be launched during the festival. —Xinhua ■

Matsuyama 5th at Hero World Challenge, Woods strong in comeback

ALBANY (Bahamas) — Japan's Hideki Matsuyama finished in a tie for fifth on Sunday at the Hero World Challenge after carding a final-round 68 for an 11-under-par 277 total.

American Rickie Fowler overcame a seven-shot deficit to win at 18-under, but media attention was firmly focused on former world No 1 Tiger Woods, making his comeback following a fourth back surgery and playing his first competitive round since

February.

Tournament host Woods displayed impressive form as he finished three of the four rounds in the 60s on his way to a tie for ninth at 280.

Eighteen of the world's top-ranked players took part in the 30 November-3 December tournament at Albany Golf Club.

World No 5 Matsuyama, winner of the tournament last year, bogeyed the last two holes and said he was disappointed he

wasn't able to close out his last event of the year on a good note.

"On the first and second days, I was able to putt really well, but my problem has been keeping the momentum (in the later rounds)," he said.

"I think it will be good if I can gradually improve (next year)."

Matsuyama is scheduled to compete in the Sentry Tournament of Champions in Hawaii which gets under way on 4 January.—Kyodo News ■



Hideki Matsuyama of Japan hands his caddy a putter in the final round of the Hero World Challenge at Albany Golf Club in the Bahamas on 3 December, 2017. Matsuyama placed fifth. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Dejected Koeman yet to recover from Everton sacking

LONDON — Former Everton manager Ronald Koeman is yet to get over the disappointment of being sacked by the Premier League club and has rejected multiple managerial offers since his dismissal.

Koeman was fired in October, after 16 months in charge of the Merseyside club, as significant transfer spending failed to inspire Everton, who dropped into the relegation zone after winning just two of their opening nine league games.

"I had started something at Everton and I really wanted to finish it in a good way. This is why my disappointment is bigger than ever before. I have to be realistic and I am not moaning about it," the Dutchman told the Sunday Mirror.

The 54-year-old was touted to take over at several vacant managerial roles at Premier League and European clubs, including West Bromwich Albion and West Ham United, but turned down the offers. "I need to put those feelings of disappointment away first," Koeman added.



Everton manager Ronald Koeman. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

"This is the reason why I've not taken any of the offers — the offers were there immediately after leaving Everton.

"I had a few offers from the Premier League and a few more elsewhere in Europe."

Everton have climbed to 10th in the standings under the guidance of interim boss David Unsworth and newly-appointed permanent manager Sam Allardyce and travel to fourth-placed Liverpool for the Merseyside derby on Sunday.—Reuters ■

Stones hopeful of City return during Christmas period

LONDON — Manchester City defender John Stones is targeting a return from his hamstring injury during the Premier League club's packed Christmas schedule, the England international has said.

The 23-year-old defender has missed the club's last three league games and one Champions League fixture after being substituted off with the injury during last month's match against Leicester City.

"It's been a long time since I've been out injured — the rehab is going well and hopefully I'll be back soon," Stones told Sky Sports. "I'd like to be back out there for Christmas but let's see where it goes. I think it might be just after." City re-established their eight-point lead atop the league table and extended their

winning streak to 20 games across all competitions with a 2-1 win over West Ham United on Sunday. Stones made 18 appearances for City before the injury and he credits manager Pep Guardiola for his strong performances this campaign.

"It's been a joy to play in — Pep is very demanding," Stones added. "Everyday Pep wants to improve you as a player — I feel like I've done that off the pitch as well being in the surroundings that his staff have created. That's a quality in itself to be able to bring that out of his players." Guardiola's side travel to Shakhtar Donetsk for their final Champions League group game on Wednesday before a highly-anticipated derby against second-placed Manchester United next Sunday. —Reuters ■

United on the verge of hitting top form: Herrera

LONDON — Manchester United are optimistic ahead of a crucial period of fixtures as they are close to finding their best form, midfielder Ander Herrera said ahead of Sunday's top of the table showdown against Premier League leaders Manchester City.

United beat top four contenders Arsenal 3-1 on Saturday, thanks to goals from Jesse Lingard and Antonio Valencia along with a brilliant performance from goalkeeper David De Gea, to record their fourth consecutive league win.

"We are going to find our best moment very soon," Herrera told the club's website. (www.manutd.com) "We are second and chasing to be top of the table.

"It was a fantastic result (at Arsenal) with some great performances. David was amazing, and we were clinical in the first half, with two chances in the first 15

minutes and two goals.

"Jesse is on fire now, Paul (Pogba) as well, it's a pity he got a red card. Romelu (Lukaku) didn't score but he helped us a lot.

The centre-backs — Victor (Lindelof) is in fantastic form

right now. So we are optimistic of course."

City are in dominant form and look almost unstoppable as they aim to extend their 20-game winning streak across all competitions along with their eight-point lead.—Reuters ■



Manchester United's Ander Herrera. **PHOTO: REUTERS**