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in
Picture

State Counsellor receives UNDP Resident Representative

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, received Mr. Knut Ostby, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative a.i, yesterday at Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw. During this meeting, they exchanged views on matters relating to cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Action taken on resolution related to Myanmar at Special Session of UNHRC

Myanmar dissociates itself from the resolution

At the request of the member states of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the 27th Special Session of the Human Rights Council on Myanmar was held on 5 December 2017 in Geneva. At the meeting, Bangladesh delegation submitted a draft resolution entitled "Situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar".

After the introduction of the resolution, Permanent Representative U Htin Lynn of Myanmar delivered a statement. Main points of his statement are as follows:

- Myanmar opposes any country specific resolution. The resolution gives rise also to polarization, division and confrontation. It does not reflect the principles of the Human Rights Council such as impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity.
- The draft resolution is focusing on a particular group of people belonging to a particular faith. The promotion and protection of Human Rights should be for all people of the globe irrespective of race, religion and gender.

- Some elements in the draft resolution are infringing on the state sovereignty of Myanmar. Allegations without sufficient and concrete body of evidence are also incorporated in the text.
- International assistance should be part of the solution, not part of the problem.
- It fails to condemn the attacks of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army-ARSA.
- For these reasons, Myanmar delegation shall dissociate itself from the resolution under consideration.
- Myanmar will continue to work relentlessly to address challenges of the Rakhine state with or without a resolution by the Human Rights Council.

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International assistance should be part of the solution, not part of the problem.



BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

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Union Minister for Information meets Vice President of China Radio International in China



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint meets Vice President of China Radio International, Mr Hu Bangsheng in Beijing. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Information, Dr Pe Myint met with Vice President of China Radio International, Mr Hu Bangsheng at the building of China Radio International in Beijing, People's Republic of China yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, the co-operation of media, exchange of Information Technology sector

between the two countries were discussed. At night, a delegation led by Union Minister arrived back in Yangon and they were welcomed by responsible officials of the Ministry of Information and Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang at the Yangon International Airport. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Workshop for HDI users held in Nay Pyi Taw

A workshop for Human Development Index users was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Human Development Index is a composite statistic of life expectancy, education, and per capita income indicators, which are used to rank countries into four tiers of human development.

At the opening ceremony, U Thein Swe, the Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population, spoke of the importance of the statistical index.

“For systematic compilation and implementation of Human Resource Management Projects, it mainly depends on the acquisition of accurate and reliable statistics on human resources. The Vice-President instructed us to make concerted efforts for emergence of statistics that reflect current economic conditions and social welfare”,

the Union Minister said.

The Union Minister said one of the purposes of the workshop was to give updates on how this information is being used.

“For the development of human resources, efficiency training schools are being conducted with a view to encouraging vocational education. The Manual on Human Development Index (2017) includes facts and figures of certain periods — from 2011-2012 to 2016-2017. And it represents 62 indexes including national population, education, health, social affairs, employment, agriculture, etc. For emergence of the Human Development Index, which will be of great use for the nation as well as for the region, I hereby urge representatives from departments to wholeheartedly give suggestions based on their experiences and skills”, the Union Minister said.

Afterwards, U Win Shein, Director-General of the Department of Labour said, “Being the

index of great importance for HDI Users, facts and figures sent from the respective ministries need to be accurate and authentic and the respective departments need to take responsibility and accountability for the statistics they sent.”

Following that, departmental heads, representatives from NGOs and experts went into in-depth discussions about the use and importance of the data.

The workshop for HDI Users was held with a view to making policy makers, project planners and managers well convinced of the importance of HDI in studying the national economic and social affairs with the changing times. The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population is implementing the task of discovering HDI, in consultation with 39 enterprises from its related department and experts from NGOs.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Analysis on poppy cultivation, opium production released

A ceremony for releasing an analysis on poppy cultivation and opium production in 2017 was held at the Kempinski Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the ceremony, Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Union Minister for Home Affairs and Chairman of Central Committee for Prevention from the Dangers of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, said, “The Central Committee for Drug Abuse and the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crimes made a data collection survey in cooperation since 2001 concerning poppy cultivation and opium production under the program ICMP. The ICMP is launching the data collection in cooperation with respective governmental departments, according to the projects laid down by the 53rd Session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs held in March in 2009. Poppy cultivation and opium production in Myanmar decreased, reaching to the lowest level in 2006 — 21500 hectares. But it rose up again during the period — from 2007-2013. And then it dropped to some extent during 2013-2016. In 2017 it decreased



Photo shows pictures of opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

remarkably. Poppy cultivation was mostly done in Shan State, but also within Kachin, Chin and Kayah states. In 1999, a narcotic drugs eradication project — a 15-year plan and 5-year added-plans were drawn up till 2019 and eradication of drugs including opium was launched.”

Also, Union Minister added,

“UNODC Projects — poppy-substituted crops, coffee plantation, timber plantation and forest conservation — were carried out in Hopone and Loilem regions with the assistance of the EU and Germany. The Central Committee for Drug Abuse approved the new policy on national drug control based on various sectors such

as prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, reduction of production and development in substitution, concerning drug control in November, 2017 in cooperation with UNODC and its related partner organisations. Having approved the new policy on narcotic drugs, reduction of poppy cultivation based on the new policy must

be included as the major sector. So as to reduce poppy cultivation, tasks for rural development, which included all-round development, must be prioritised in poppy-growing areas. Substituted crops, livestock breeding, acquisition of market and sources for other income must be brought about for farmers.”

In addition, Mr. Jeremy Douglas, UNODC resident coordinator on Southeast Asia and the Pacific, clarified the facts and figures included in the report with a power point presentation. Afterward, representatives from UNODC and responsible officials from the central committee replied to questions raised by members of the news media. Present at the meeting were Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers, diplomats in Myanmar, members of Central Committee for Prevention from the Dangers of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Directors-General of the Ministries of Home Affairs, representatives from UNODC, high-ranking officials from Myanmar Police Forces, journalists, it was learnt.—Myanmar News Agency ■

State Counsellor receives Executive Director at Rafto Foundation for Human Rights and NBC Director

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Union of Myanmar, received Mr. Jostein Hole Kobbeltvedt, Executive Director at Rafto Foundation for Human Rights and Mr. Audun Aagre, Omsensgt, Director of Norwegian Burma Committee

(NBC Myanmar), on 6 December 2017 at 10:00 am at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During this meeting, they exchanged views on matters pertaining to the peace process in Myanmar and situation in Rakhine State.—Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Executive Director Mr. Jostein Hole Kobbeltvedt in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Statement by Ambassador H.E. Mr. Htin Lynn, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Myanmar at the 27th Special Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

Consideration and action on A/HRC/S-27/L.1
Geneva, 5 December 2017

Mr. President,

Paragraph 117 e (i) of document A/HRC/RES/5/1 on working culture of the Human Rights Council explicitly mentioned the need for minimizing unnecessary duplication of initiatives with the General Assembly/Third Committee. The holding of Special Session today and its intended outcome thereon is a clear departure from this decision.

As a matter of principle and like many is this chamber, Myanmar opposes any country specific resolutions. They are not conducive to meaningful dialogue but give rise also to polarization, division and even confrontation.

The country specific resolution today is no exception. It is regrettable to see that our collective efforts in acting as responsible members of the council for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe are slowly and gradually drifting away from the cardinal principles of impartiality, objectivity, non-selectiveness and balance. Pre-determined politicization and partiality seems to be taking roots in our work.

Myanmar undoubtedly is the one who has the highest concern about challenges in Rakhine State. Myanmar welcomes the assistance and efforts by the international community in addressing the issue. However, it should be part of the solution, not part of the problem. While we share the concern by the international community, any effort by the international community should not be fanning the flame on the ground.

The draft resolution is focusing on a particular group of people belonging to a particular faith. Promoting and Protection of Human Rights should be for all people of the globe irrespective of race, religion and gender. A United Nations forum such as Human Rights Council should not be a platform for such a biased approach, setting a bad precedence for the Council.

Let me turn to the text of draft resolution under consideration.

Some elements in the draft resolution is infringing on the state sovereignty of Myanmar. Some are far from truth and not in line with situation on the ground. Using unverified figures in the draft resolution is also unethical and unprofessional. Allegations without sufficient and concrete body of evidence are also incorporated in the text.

It is also questionable that whether considering Myanmar at all forums of the United Nations is based on a genuine goodwill or otherwise. It is also questionable

that whether we are spending the budget of the United Nations effectively and efficiently.

Mr. President,

- Multiple elements in some of the PPs and OPs are simply copied from the recommendations of Rakhine Advisory Commission led by Dr. Kofi Annan and pasted in the text of the draft resolution. Elements such as freedom of movement, humanitarian access, inter-communal dialogue, economic and social development, citizenship law, national verification in the recommendations of the Rakhine Advisory Commission were pick up selectively and reproduced negatively. As the government is already implementing the Advisory Committee's recommendations, we should ask ourselves what is the value added we could possibly achieve in this exercise.
- The draft resolution fails to condemn the attacks of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army- ARSA against police and military posts on 25 August 2017 which had triggered unprecedented humanitarian situation in Rakhine State. Since their first attack in October 9, 2016, the so-called "ARSA" claimed responsibility in an 18-minute video released very shortly. Shying away to denounce such terrorist attacks by their name is tacitly approving their acts. If it is the cases, these acts will go on wherever these people are.
- We have been dissociating ourselves from an independent, international Fact-Finding Mission to Myanmar as it is not in harmony with the situation on the ground and our national circumstances. As of today, this position remains unchanged.
- In relation to the OP 20, Myanmar has been responding and providing all necessary information as and when requested by all special procedure mandate holders. Like many member states, we are not in a position to invite and receive them all into the country at this juncture.
- By virtue of OP 21 and 22, Myanmar will be on the agenda of almost all forthcoming regular sessions of the Council if we include reporting requirements of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar and Fact-Finding Mission. This undue attention is redundant and excessive for a country which has been facilitating the mandate of successive Special Rapporteurs into the country since 1992.

Mr. President,

For these reasons, my delegation shall dissociate itself from the resolution under consideration.

The complexity of Rakhine issue is gigantic, and thus requires a closer and better understanding of the challenges in Rakhine State by the International Community.

Myanmar is responding the calls made by the international community with progress being made and continue to make on the ground. We shall continue to work relentlessly to address immediate and long term challenges of the Rakhine State, with or without a resolution by the Human Rights Council.—MNA ■

Action taken on resolution related to Myanmar at Special Session of UNHRC

FROM PAGE-1

(The full text of statement is appeared separately.)

The delegation of the People's Republic of China, member of the Human Rights Council, called for a vote on the draft resolution.

The resolution was adopted with 33 vote in favour, 3 against and 9 abstention. Two members of the Human Rights Council did not participate in the voting. Those who voted against the resolution are the People's Republic of China which called for vote, the Republic of the Philippines,

the ASEAN Chair for 2017 and Burundi.

The Government of Myanmar has been exerting its efforts to resolve the issue of Rakhine State internally as well as through cooperation with Bangladesh at bilateral context. The delegation of China has called for vote citing the reason that the resolution would not positively contribute to the situation on the ground, but even further complicate the situation. As 14, out of 47 members Human Rights Council, did not support the resolution

consensus was not reached in adopting the resolution.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar expressed its appreciation to those member states of the Human Rights Council who have shown their understanding towards Myanmar by calling for a vote or by voting against or abstention or by not participating in the voting amid enormous pressure encountered with regard to the issue of Rakhine State, it was learnt.—MNA ■

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edited.

Number of housing savings account holders at CHDB exceeds 20,000

THE number of housing savings deposit account holders at Construction and Housing Development Bank (CHDB) currently reached more than 20,000, according to a report of the Myawady Daily.

The CHDB has been offering housing saving accounts since August 2016. Under the bank's rules and regulations, people wishing to buy an apartment from housing projects need 30 per cent of the home's value in their savings account. The qualified account holders may join the bank's installment payment plan.

For the time being, over 20,000 individuals opened housing savings account at the bank. However, there are only a thousand account holders, who are able to pay 30% down payment for the apartment, said a spokesperson of the bank.

Housing demand will be



Over 20,000 individuals opened housing savings account at Construction and Housing Development Bank. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

driven by Myanmar's growing population, which is estimated to rise from its current population of 51 million to 70.56 million by 2040. It is estimated that the commercial city Yangon will require one million new units by 2040. According to the 2014

census, there were 1.58 million housing units in the city.

To fill the housing requirement of people, the Housing Development Department plans to build around 100,000 housing units within next five years.

The city authority will promote cooperation mainly with Japan, China and South Korea for the purpose of filling housing needs of Yangon residents by creating sufficient units of both residential and commercial housings.—GNLM ■

Thilawa road project to start in April 2018

THILAWA Road stretching from Thanutpin, Kayan and Thonegwa to Thilawa Special Economic Zone will be implemented in April, 2018, according to a report in the Myawady Daily.

The project will be implemented with the assistance of Asian Development Bank (ADB). Currently, the officials are discussing the implementation of road project. The

Region Government is planning to construct a detour in Thonegwa with an aim to avoid traffic jam problems.

The Region Government will develop Bago-Thilawa Road project to facilitate the smooth flow of goods to Yangon, said Daw Nilar Kyaw, Yangon Region Minister for Electricity, Industry and Transport.

Currently, only small ve-

hicles are using the road.

The road will be upgraded into one container trucks can use.

Upon completion of the project, townships along the road will see more development. Besides, the road will help the smooth flow of goods, reduce travel times and bring about educational, health and social development of people in nearby regions.—GNLM ■

Three young men killed in single motorcycle crash

THREE young men died in a single motorbike crash on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway road on Monday early morning, according to a police report.

According to witnesses, a speeding motorbike carrying three people en route to Bago Town collided with an iron-framed rail entry gate between mile posts No. 52/6 and 52/7 on Yangon-Mandalay Highway near Kali Village located two miles from the north of Bago Township Police Station at around 3 a.m. on 4 December.

The collision killed two motorcyclists on the spot—Chit Ko, 25, and Ko Wai, 19. The third one named Aung Thiha, 16, also died in the Bago Region General Hospital. Action is being taken by local police under Section 304 (a) and 338 of the Penal Code.

Traffic police say that the majority of motorcycle accidents are caused by speeding or alcohol use and crashes involving speeding or alcohol are much more likely to result in death or serious injury. Traffic police is urging people to follow traffic rules to prevent possible risks of road accident.—Zaw Shin (Ottha) ■

MoNREC plans to extend new offices nationwide under nine-year plan

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MoNREC) said it is working to extend the opening of new offices throughout the nation, aiming to efficiently implement environmental conservation projects, according to the Myawady Daily.

Concerted efforts are being made to draw up plans to recruit and conduct capacity

building trainings to exert efforts into preservation of natural resources, said Daw Khin Thida Tin, director of the Department of Environmental Conservation.

More township-level offices are to be opened in states and regions under a nine-year plan.

Established in 2012, the Department of Environmental Conservation managed to

form district-level offices in Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions as well as Shan State the following year.

The aforesaid department continued to open five more branch offices in other regions and states in 2014. It also established four more in the rest regions in 2015. The last office was opened in the capital Nay Pyi Taw this year.—GNLM ■

Myanmar cement now exporting to India

CEMENT manufactured in Myanmar is starting to be exported to India as a result of strong market conditions, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Although Myanmar manufactures cement, Myanmar has to import cement from abroad to satisfy local demand. The consumption of cement is so high in Myanmar that, until recently, no surplus cement was available for export. Until now.

According to Ministry of Commerce statistics, Myanmar imported cement weighing a total of 21,244 tons worth US\$999,118 via sea routes from 12 to 18 November.

The cement bags were imported 26 tons from Thailand and 21,218 tons from Malaysia. Moreover, Myanmar has also imported cement weighing over 5,600 tons via border trades from 11 to 17 Novem-



Labourers working with cement mixer used in construction site. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH**

ber. According to the Ministry statistics, Myanmar exported the cement weighing 150 tons worth US\$0.010 million via Tamu-Moeyay border trade from 10 to 15 November.

The AAA brand cement made in Myanmar was sold as retail at the Nampharlon mar-

ket in Myanmar-India border trade and other stores in Tamu township. Then, AAA brand cement penetrated the India market because of its good quality. The cement is selling for Ks6000 per bag at the retail market at Tamu Township.—GNLM ■

Low pomelo production cannot satisfy export demand

POMELO production in Mon State is so low that it cannot cope with export demand despite China market's keen interest on pomelo, said local pomelo growers.

Mon State has more than 2,000 acres of pomelo farms but only 11.5 million of pomelo are produced per season, which can keep up with only the local consumer demand. The production cannot meet the export target yet, said U Myo Han, a pomelo grower from Mawlamyine, Mon State.

China show strong interest on Myanmar's pomelo. However, we cannot provide enough supply for it. There is no vacant plot of land to extend the cultivation. Additionally, the growers still cannot determine the pedigree varieties to get quality fruit and fetch good price, he continued.

Having the land problem, pomelo can be placed on export market only if a series of pomelo growers group and the competent authorities decide to set up pomelo zone with a view to boosting the production.

We will make efforts to grow pomelo in line with Good Agriculture Practice (GAP). Our pomelo can penetrate more export markets if it receives GAP certificate, said an official from Trade Department.

Pomelo can be produced twice a year. If there is good weather condition in the rainy season, it produces higher than the summer season, allowing the growers to earn a health profit. If the authorities create a market and the growers get access to government's subsidies, it can make handsome profits, said the pomelo growers.—Zar Lin Thu (AMIA) ■

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Hello Tomorrow



Over 5500 acres of paddies winnowed in Maungtaw

THE Rakhine State government announced yesterday that more than 5,549 acres of paddy fields belonging to farmers who fled to Bangladesh have recently been winnowed.

Authorities formed a committee to winnow the fields using tractors from 26 October to 5 December.

According to the committee, the winnowing process led by Agriculture Mechanization Department, has been being carried out in many villages, such as Myothugyi, Ohntaw,

Kanpu, Kyaungtaung, Ale-tankyaw, Nwaryonetaung, Warcha, Thanda, Myinlut, Kyeekanpyin, Thihokyun, Oodaung, Laungdon, Aungsitpyin, Sabeigone, Thabyetaw, Zawmathet, Doetan, Ywarthitkay, Kyaukpannu, Tatoochaung, Ducheeyartan, Thayaykone-tan, Thawonchaung, and Ngakuya.

Many villages in Sittway Township, totaling 378 acres of rice fields, have been winnowed in Chaungnwe, Partalate, Thinganet, Kweetae, Kantkawkyun,



Harvesting rice in a model plot with the use of machinery in Kyaukpandu village, Maungtaw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Mingan and Naryikan villages.

Using tractors, many villages in Minbya township were winnowed, totalling 238 acres of paddy fields, 330 acres of

paddy fields in Kyauktaw Township, 276 acres of rice fields in Yathaytaung Township, and 276 acres of paddy fields in Buthitaung Township.

Similarly, 96 acres of paddy fields were winnowed in Buthidaung Township from 10 November to 5 December.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Border Affairs Department builds four new villages in Maungtaw District

Houses for four villages of Mro ethnic villagers in Maungtaw District are under construction at a new location.

The new village of Kontaing for Mro ethnic villagers would have 48 single storey buildings each worth Ks 7 million are being built on a 40x60 ft. plot of land and will include a traditional Mro house with bamboo.

Khonhtaing (Mro) village near Dewanali village, northern Maungtaw region and 2 miles from the base of Mayyu Mountain was burnt and destroyed by more than 400 ARSA extremist terrorists on the afternoon of 28 August killing 7 and wounding 5 ethnic Mro nationals.

Remaining villagers had to flee to safe areas.

“The new Khontaing Village project is targeted to complete at the end of this fiscal year. Currently, developers of all housing projects here are facing shortage

of labours and some has hired labours from mainland,” said U Sow Lwin, Deputy Director of the Border Areas and National Races Development Affairs Department.

The department is also developing other four villages including Kyaukpandu and Nanrarkaing in Maungtaw District and Zeton Village in Buthidaung.

Meanwhile, new Khonhtaing village beside Kyeinchaung-Bandoola road and Padaka creek will be on 35 acres of land. 96 single storey buildings each worth Ks 7 million will be built on a 40x60 ft. plot of land and will include a traditional Mro house, 3 multiple use hall, a clinic, a school and a monastery as well.

Ethnic Mro nationals lived peacefully with agriculture and new Khonhtaing (Mro) village will soon be developed with the full requisite of a village.— News Team ■



Workers constructing houses for four villages of ethnic Mro villagers in Maungtaw District. **PHOTO: MIN HTET**

Village in-charge killed in Maungtaw

An in-charge of a village in Maungtaw District was killed by two unknown attackers on Tuesday.

Shaw Feik Amen from Dunyaungpingyi Village in the dis-

trict died on the spot with cuts and two bullet wounds at 9 pm.

Following an information on the attack, security forces inspected the place and found two bullet shells. A witness said

three unidentified men intruded the victim's home, gunned down and cut him. One bullet wound is found in his womb with several cuts on his neck and other parts.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Embassy personnel meet locals in Maungtaw

EMBASSY staff led by Mr. David Galbraith, First Secretary of the US Embassy and other diplomats from the embassies of Britain and Australia and from the Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) arrived in Maungtaw to meet with local people.

The first secretary and party went to see first-hand the situation on the ground several months after the 25 August terrorist attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) extremist terrorists. The group saw efforts being carried out by the State in the area — provisions of foods and other commodities needed by those who returned — and tasks of implementation of resettlement, it was learnt. The first secretary and party met with young volunteers from the programme 20 Days Youth for the People in Koetankauk village, Rathedaung township and Inndin village in Maungtaw Township and local nationals, asking about their



First Secretary of the US Embassy Mr. David Galbraith and other diplomats meet with villagers and observe the situation of villages in Maungtaw after the terrorist attacks. **PHOTO: MIN HTET**

health and welfare. In the afternoon, they visited the construction of a new Mro village in Kaigyi along with harvest, winnowing and drying systems.

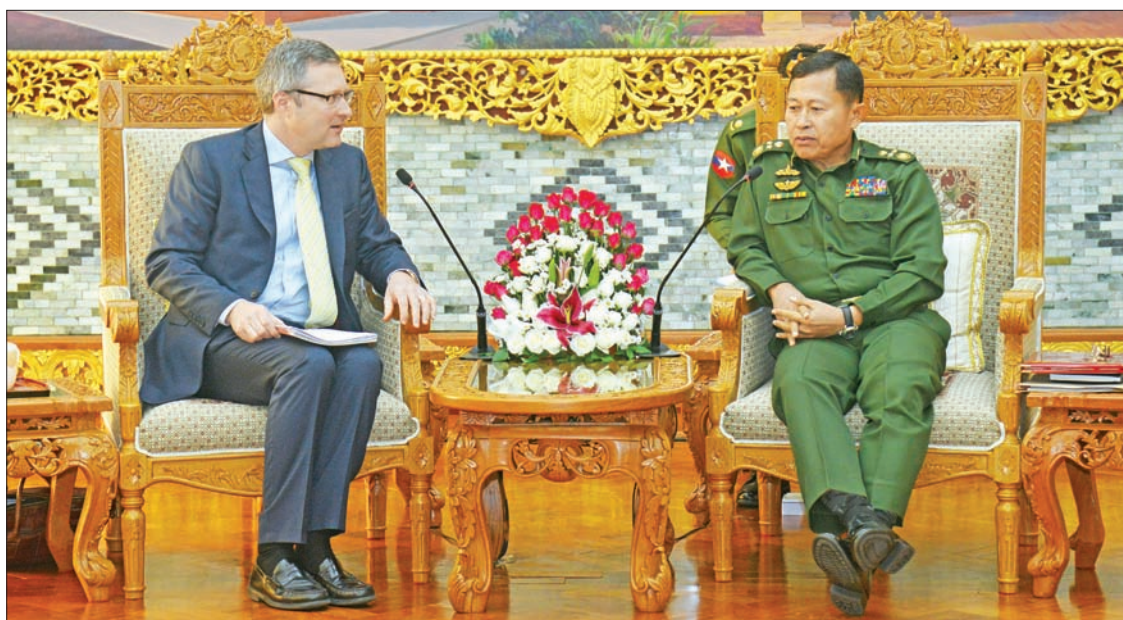
The party will stay for three days to observe responsible officials and regional officers and witness activities being carried out on the ground. — News Team ■

Deputy C-in C-of Defence Services meets Director of DCAF

DEPUTY Commander in Chief of Defence Services Commander in Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win received a delegation led by Director of Geneva Center for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), Ambassador Mr Thomas Guerber at Bayint Naung guest hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, DCAF

to be launched the courses of disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) and security sector reform (SSR) due to Myanmar's peace process, promoting the cooperation of security development sector and conditions on supporting advances and technological data were cordially discussed.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Vice Senior General Soe Win holds talks with Ambassador Mr. Thomas Guerber in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Dinner hosted in honour of officials who contribute to 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' meeting



Officials attend the dinner which is held to appreciate their efforts for 13th ASEM Ministers' Meeting. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

A dinner hosted in honour of the officials from respective Ministries and Sub-Committees who made efforts for success of the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting and other related meetings held at Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

At the ceremony, Union Min-

ister for International Cooperation, U Kyaw Tin delivered an opening speech and Ambassador U Kyaw Zayya also gave a speech.

After that, the Union Minister and officials from respective Ministries and Sub-Committees together had the dinner.—Myanmar News Agency ■

More than 200 foreign students learn Myanmar language in Yangon, Mandalay

MORE THAN 200 foreign students are now attending Myanmar language proficiency courses at the Universities of Foreign Languages (UFL) in Yangon and Mandalay, according to a report of the Myawady Daily.

According to the Ministry of Education, the total number of foreign students learning Myanmar language has reached 243 in total as of November 30.

An official of the YUFL said the majority of foreign students are from China, Japan and Thailand who are attending diploma and certificate courses. Some of them learn Myanmar language through student exchange programme while others from foreign companies chose the course

as they themselves are highly interested in it.

The education ministry signed memorandum of understandings on educational cooperation with 147 international universities and organisations so far.

The Yangon University (YU) also hosts more than 100 international students.

Altogether 1,727 foreign students learned Myanmar language in YUFL from 1974 to 2016-2017 Academic Year. Those students who attended Myanmar Language course include scholarship holders, army officers, diplomats, businessmen and those trying to learn about Theravada Buddhism.—GNLM ■

Grant agreement of US\$ 321.44M for healthcare sector

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe received the delegation of Global Fund led by Dr. Urban Weber at the meeting room of the Ministry yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, matters relating to the draft legislation for using drugs and intoxication, assessment of healthcare project with Office of Inspector General (OIG), RAI2E project which includes elimination of malaria which will cooperate with the regional countries, grant agreement of total US\$



Dr. Myint Htwe receives Global Fund delegation. PHOTO: MNA

321.44 million, including US\$ 94.04 million for TB eradication, US\$ 129.96 million for prevention of HIV/AIDS, and US\$ 97.44 million for Malaria treatment, were discussed.—MNA ■

Sagaing Region tourism up by 14 per cent in seven months

THE rate of local visitors and tourists entering sites in Monywa, Kalay, Sagaing, Katha and Shwebo in Sagaing Region from April to October this year has increased by about 14.7 per cent compared to the similar period of last year, according to a report of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Sagaing Region).

The Sagaing Region government is leading efforts to effectuate the development of Sagaing Region tourism, distributing guide maps and brochures for tourism destination

sites and historical sites and documenting sites of interest. This has caused the visitor rate to Sagaing Region to improve this year, officials said.

This year, the peak season has only just started this month, but the tourist inflow is already higher than last year. Of five tourist zones in Sagaing Region, Monywa has recorded the highest rate. Kalay is the second most popular place to which travelers come. The other three places cannot compete against those two towns. Communi-

ty-based tourism site has been established in Sagaing Region this year. There are plans to create more tourist attraction sites, said U Aung Thu Oo, the head of Sagaing Region Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

Local and foreign visitor rates from April to October this year were recorded 57,666 in Monywa, 12,139 in Kalay, 7,101 in Sagaing, 2,718 in Shwebo and 4,131 in Katha, totaling 83,755. In the similar period of last year, visitor rate was recorded at 73,036.—Win Oo (Zeyar Tine) ■

Feedstuff, drug factory to be built in Thilawa

MYANMAR'S first animal feedstuff and drug factory will be opened in Thilawa Special Economic Zone in January, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

The factory will be an investment by Netherlands-based Trouw Nutrition Company, which

is spending two million euros over an investment period of three years. When the factory is operational, it will distribute its products to local companies in the country. Six months after the start, it will market its products to other countries including the Philippines and Bangladesh.

Moreover, the factory will conduct laboratory tests with the use of Mycomaster. The factory will start its operation with 15 foreign experts and 40 local staff.

The factory will mainly manufacture animal feed and drugs for chickens, pigs, cows, fish and prawns.—GNLM ■

Restore our national dignity by anti-corruption

COUNTRIES free from corruption, bribery and malpractice are difficult to find these days. Cases of bribery and corruption may be found in many countries, the only difference being that the extent of involvement may be big in some countries and small in others. According to a survey conducted by an overseas institution in 2016, Myanmar stood at 136 out of 176 countries in all. Our country's corruption index is very high. Similarly, a survey conducted by the UN in 2014 also described that the greatest hindrance for foreign countries to come to invest in Myanmar is corruption. It has been learnt that some entrepreneurs from abroad say that it is not easy to overcome the barrier of malpractices for them to set up businesses in Myanmar.

The Anti-Corruption Law was promulgated in 2013 to eradicate corruption and the Anti-Corruption Commission was formed under this law. Corruption is a huge hindrance to national development and prosperity and it has also damaged our national dignity. The Anti-Corruption Commission formed during the tenure of the previous government can be said to have been a welcome improvement for the country.

Corruption is defined as dishonest or illegal behavior, especially of people in authority. Authority and power differ according to the ranks and positions.

to trust that particular government department and later on result in loss of confidence for the government. In the country, there are many people who got involved in malpractices, starting from the rank of a hospital gate watchman who demands a meager amount of pocket money up to the rank of those in authority who let excessive exploitation of national resources to nothingness who take bribes amounting to millions or billions of Kyats. Therefore, the Anti-Corruption Commission has an enormous burden for performing the tasks assigned to it. And, it needs broad and helpful support of the law.

The incumbent Anti-Corruption Commission which was newly-formed on November 23 will successfully accomplish its tasks, taking lessons from experiences and hardships of the preceding commission, according to one of the commission members. It has been learnt that there are 13 sections and 22 points to be amended in the existing law. It has been learnt that the amendment process is now underway.

It must be noted that not only those who take bribes but also the ones who give bribes need to be arrested and punished. With the emergence of a society free from corruption, we firmly believe that all the citizens will enjoy the essence of clean government and good governance, which will guarantee rule of law and transparency. ■

Give Back Pavements to Us!

By Than Phyo Naing
[Kanyingyo]

WITH the changing development of the era, the present day's highways across the nation are being extended and upgraded in accordance with the international standard. Now is the time when the urbanization programs are also being renovated for the betterment.

In our country, the existing Union Road [the former one] is under modernization to link with other roads of other countries in the region by extending the road area on both sides to become 4-way Road, paving nylon-tarmac roads and rebuilding narrow bridges which existed for many years into extended bridges. And, cities and towns along the Union Road started to be implemented with pavements, car stands and parking grounds included according to the designated standards of modernized urbanization system.

Finding pavements in the cities such as Yangon and Mandalay

If asked what people want most in such a time, it is none other than bringing about the comparatively acceptable pavements for the grass-root people. The cause of it can be found on studying Yangon, the economic hub of the country where one-tenth of the national populace is living.

In some major parts of the city there are kinds of road we want, but in many parts people are still losing streets on which they can freely walk. Easily can be seen the situations the public cannot care-freely move on in



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

many places. There can be seen vendors eking out their living on the roads. In some townships conditions are becoming worse. On a glimpse of Mandalay, the cultural city of Myanmar, similar patterns can be seen. There are not any pavements seen in many places.

Occupying more spaces for own sake

On seeing some places with pavements as well, dwelling abodes on roadsides can be seen extending curio shops or stalls in front of their house, placing things or barriers, growing flower plants and building canopies. Not only in Yangon and Mandalay, but also in many towns, same patterns can be seen. Roadside

Not only in Yangon and Mandalay, but also in many towns, same patterns can be seen. Roadside dwellers and sellers are causing obstacles for pedestrians to freely go on pavements. They monopolized these pavements for their own sake only.

dwellers and sellers are causing obstacles for pedestrians to freely go on pavements. They monopolized these pavements for their own sake only.

These incidents are like being neglected by authorities concerned, such as township development committees, internal revenue departments and public construction works. They seem to consider pavements to be their private ones.

Finding solution over current performances

Here, I would like to liken the matter to the actual incident. The Union Road [the former one] is being extended into 4-Way-Road-Nylon-Tarmac Street. In doing so, bridges along the roads are being renovated in accord with the designated standards. Concurrently, houses along the Road were fulfilled with characteristics of a town such as pavements and drainage ditches made in front of

houses. In doing so, with the increasing amounts of vehicles, for trucks, lorries and home-used sedans to safely commute in towns roads are being extended, with pavements made for pedestrians to safely walk, so that road accidents cannot claim lives.

Misunderstanding the falsity as truth & public disobedience of rules

Yet, town dwelling populace does not seem to be well convinced of the fact, returning to previous conditions—attempts to cover ditches of their own accord to open stalls on the pavements. They fail to recognize the pavements are for pedestrians to go on, until now.

In facts, those pavements existed since the olden days when rule of law covered the whole region. But later on, with the changing time rule of law gradually deteriorated more and more, occupying pavements by opening

stalls and building annexes and canopies.

Prescriptions included in the promulgated law for us to study

In actuality, we have a lot to learn, concerning the prescriptions included in the promulgated law. Those are strictly prescribed in township development committee law, which includes beautification and construction of buildings in detail.

It is separately prescribed for administration bodies to perform and for town-dwellers to abide by. For example, town-dwellers must keep rubbish packed in a bag just prior to the arrival of garbage collector, for systematic disposal of garbage. Garbage collectors

must regularly come to collect, with a view to developing habits of caring environmental sanitation.

Also included it is for pedestrians and passers-by to be paid care and for drainage not to be blocked with dirt. It is strictly prohibited not to open stalls on pavement and covered ditches.

For beautifying urbanization system, authorities are required to supervise in accord with all the instructions to inspect places necessary to know as to whether those living in abodes ensure abide by rules and laws. The law includes sectors on giving punishments if rules are violated, and those taking responsibility of the tasks are also to be taken action if they fail to perform duties.

Risks of car accidents

Due to weakness of authorities concerned who are practically implementing, who deal with the law and failure to abide by, as for inhabitants in towns, people had lost pavements for them to freely walk for a long time. In most townships, people had to live on streets as they lost pavements/platforms. Thus, people are becoming prone to accidents. The town itself is gradually becoming untidy and ugly before we recognized.

Collective cooperation for future generation

To sum it up, as for the staff and government service personnel they are required to bring about creation of pavements for pedestrians to freely and safely walk on, which existed since a long time ago, for the sake of the people, as prescribed in the law. ■

Translated by Khin Maung Oo



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR



IFC Supports Good Agricultural Practices Protocol and Guidelines in Myanmar

IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, supported the Department of Agriculture of Myanmar's Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI) to launch Myanmar's Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Protocol and Guidelines recently. The objective of the guidelines is to boost the productivity and profitability of farmers through sustainable farming.

The GAP Protocol and Guidelines for 15 crops including tomatoes, peanuts, rice, and chili, among others, will guide cultivators on how to produce safe and quality products for the local and international markets. It will further aim to improve access to quality agricultural inputs, and help farmers develop the requisite skills for sustainable farming through training and knowledge transfer.

Myanmar's agricultural sector is a key pillar of the economy and provides employment to about 53 percent of the labor force. Additionally, it is a source of livelihood for about 70 percent of the rural population.

The guidelines will support the government's objective of increasing productivity, market access and competitiveness of the agri-

cultural sector by improving the provision of quality inputs to farmers. Additionally, it will help lead to solutions for improved sustainable agricultural practices.

The launch of the guidelines is part of IFC's ongoing advisory support to MoALI to bolster the sector's productivity and competitiveness, delivered in partnership with Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia, the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom and the Government of Japan. Over the next two to three years, IFC will be working with the government to remove legal and regulatory obstacles to increase private sector participation in sustainable agriculture, raise quality standards for key export commodities and local food processing, and develop skills related to agri-input usage and improve quality standards.

"IFC has already been working with MoALI to promote improved usage of agri-inputs on the floating tomato farms, supporting its GAP program in Inle Lake, which involves over 300 tomato farmers, and may affect over 150,000 people depending on the lake for their livelihood.—IFC ■

Dinner hosted in honour of ethnic delegation



Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung meets with 100-member ethnic delegation at the Ministry of Border Affairs on 6 December. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

UNION Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung met cordially with delegation members of ethnic races at the ministry hall yesterday evening.

The 100-member delegation includes youths from southern Shan State, Sagaing Region, the Naga Self-administered Zone, and Taninthayi Region.

At the meeting, the minister said the excursion trip is aimed strengthening friendship, trust and respect among ethnic people.

“The experiences you gained in his trip are to be utilized in development of human resources in border areas when you arrived back,” said the Union Minister. He emphasised the importance of peace and stability of the country.

He also urged all ethnic brethren to participate in eternal peace building process and to understand the menace of drug in the country.

With the aim of enhancing friendship and understanding

among ethnic people, the Ministry of Border Affairs arranged the excursion programme for the ethnic people from remote areas to visit Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw and other regions.

On behalf of the delegation, Ma Khin Than Oo, who is from Sagaing Region, expressed thanks to the minister and all officials concerned. The group was then entertained with traditional dances and songs which showed the essence and special glamour of their culture.—MNA ■

Russian Pacific Fleet to visit Myanmar

A detachment of the Russian Pacific Fleet led by flagship *Admiral Panteleev* under command of Rear Admiral Eduard Mikhailov will pay a friendly visit to the Thilawa Sea Port from December 7 to 10.

The large anti-submarine destroyer *Admiral Panteleev* is *Udaloy*-class destroyer which has been in active service since 1988.

The warship has the length of 163 m, speed of 35 knots, range of 10 500 nautical miles and 293 crew members

aboard. During present voyage the flagship is accompanied by tanker *Boris Butoma*.

Starting from March 29, 2009 *Admiral Panteleev* was deployed as a part of operation to combat piracy off the Somalia coast and since then has regularly participated in the patrol operations of the Russian Naval Task Force in the waters of Horn of Africa. Safeguarding the international navigation routes in this part of the ocean, her crew members and the attached unit of

the Marine Infantry successfully prevented pirate attacks against numerous commercial vessels from different countries.

While in Myanmar, the crew members will visit the Ayeyawady Naval Regional Command and naval facilities, as well as to go for a sight-seeing tour around Yangon. During its anchorage in the Thilawa Port the warship will be opened for public on Saturday, December 9 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.—GNLM ■



Public Peace Movement Week events held in Taninthayi Region

PUBLIC Peace Movement Week events including musical entertainment and peace movement talks were held in Sakhanthit Village, Kyunsu Township and Myeik University in Myeik, Taninthayi Region, on 5 and 6 December.

The event held at Sakhanthit Village, Kyunsu Township where singers Be Wa, Naung Yo, Kar Kar and Bo Bo Htut entertained by singing songs – “Stop wars right now” and “Our Land in Peace” at 6:00 pm on 5 December. Meanwhile cartoonist Maung Maung Fountain discussed and explained about the peace and the essence of peace logo with local peace loving populace. He then drew pictures and images about peace. U Jimmy and U Min Ko Naing of 88 Generation Peace and Open Society then gave speeches on the Public Peace Movement.

Later, attendees to the public peace talk event lighted candles and prayed for



U Min Ko Naing.

eternal peace.

The event held at the theater 1 in Myeik University at 10 am on 6 December was opened by a speech of Pro Rector Dr. Win Win Than from Myeik University and reciting peace poem by poet Mg Yu Pine. U Jimmy and U Min Ko Naing of 88 Generation Peace and Open Society then discussed peace and they were given the presents by Pro Rector Dr. Win Win Than. And then they took documentary photos.—Zaw Myo Naing (District IPRD) ■



Anti-corruption commission Chairman U Aung Kyi receives UNODC delegation

U AUNG KYI, Chairman of Anti-Corruption Commission received a delegation led by Southeast Asia and Pacific representative from United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) at 10 am yesterday at the guest room

of the Office of Anti-Corruption Commission in Nay Pyi Taw.

In the meeting, matters concerning the process of the anti-corruption commission in 2018 were discussed.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Saudi-led coalition intensifies Yemen air strikes after Saleh's death

ADEN — A Saudi-led coalition intensified air strikes on Yemen early on Wednesday as the armed Houthi movement tightened its grip on the capital after it killed former president Ali Abdullah Saleh, who switched sides in the civil war.

Saudi Arabia and its allies struck a day after Saleh's son vowed to lead a campaign against the Houthis.

The intervention by Ahmed Ali, a former leader of the elite Republican Guard once seen as a likely successor to his father, gives the anti-Houthi movement a potential figurehead after a week of fighting that saw the Houthis rout Saleh's supporters in the capital.

Yemen's war, pitting the Iran-allied Houthis who control Sanaa against a Saudi-led military alliance backing a government based in the south,

has brought what the United Nations calls the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

Saleh had helped the Houthis win control of much of the country's north, including Sanaa, and his decision to switch allegiances and abandon the Houthis in the past week was the most dramatic change on the battlefield in years.

But the Houthis swiftly crushed the pro-Saleh uprising in the capital and killed him.

Coalition fighter jets carried out dozens of air strikes, both sides said, bombing Houthi positions inside Sanaa and in other northern provinces.

Yemen's pro-Houthi Al-Masirah television station said the coalition bombed Saleh's residence and other houses of his family members.

Residents told Reuters loud explosions were heard in

downtown Sanaa. Masirah said air strikes also hit northern provinces including Taiz, Haja, Midi and Saada. There was no immediate word on casualties.

In a sign of support and defiance, tens of thousands of Houthi supporters staged a rally in Sanaa on Tuesday to celebrate the death of Saleh. They chanted slogans against Saudi Arabia and its allies.

The proxy war between regional arch-rivals Saudi Arabia and Iran has already killed more than 10,000 people, with more than two million displaced. Nearly a million have been hit by a cholera outbreak and famine threatens much of the country.

The United Nations says millions of people may die in one of the worst famines of modern times, caused by warring parties blocking food supplies.

The UN Secretary-General

Special Envoy for Yemen, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, called on all parties to show restraint in a briefing to the Security Council.

"Increased hostilities will further threaten civilian lives and exacerbate their suffering," he said. The commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), Major General Mohammad Ali Jafari, said Yemen's enemies had been behind Saleh's armed uprising and praised what he called the Houthis' swift quashing of the "coup against the holy warriors", the semi-official Fars news agency reported.

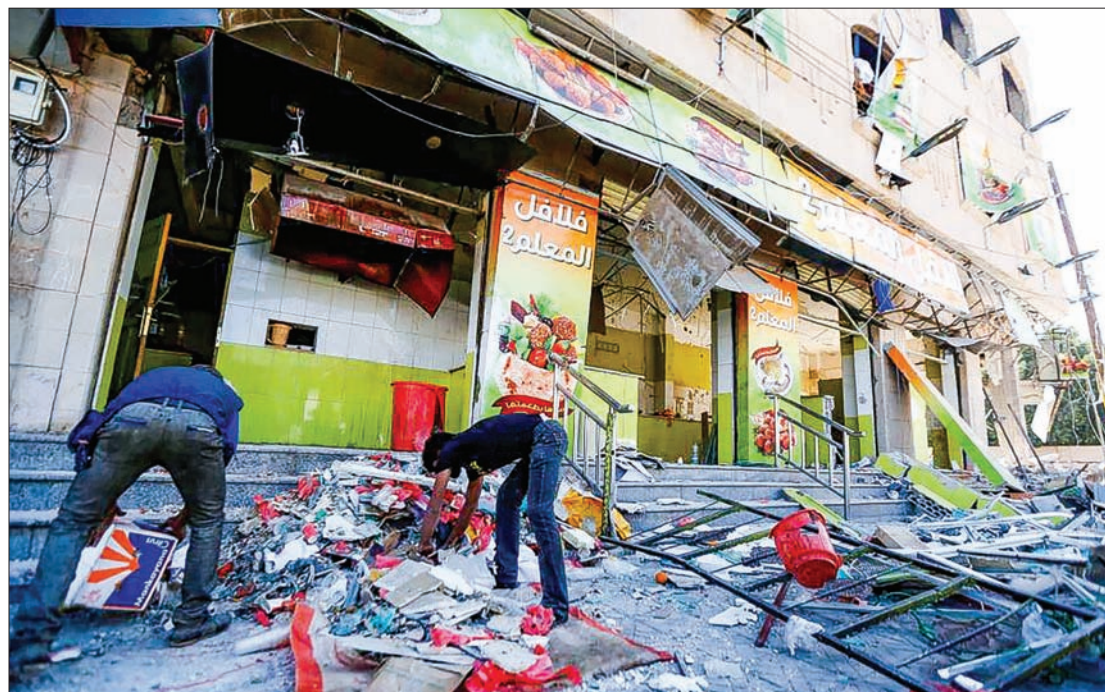
The death of Saleh, who once compared ruling Yemen to dancing on the heads of snakes, deepens the complexity of the multi-sided war.

Much is likely to depend on the future allegiances of his loyalists, who had previously helped the armed Houthi group, which hails from the Zaidi branch of Shi'ite Islam that ruled a thousand-year kingdom in northern Yemen until 1962.

In a statement sent to Reuters by an aide, his son said his father was killed at "the hands of the enemies of God and the country".

Ahmed Ali said he would "confront the enemies of the homeland and humanity, who are trying to obliterate its identity and its gains and to humiliate Yemen and Yemenis".

The Arabian peninsula's poorest country, Yemen is one of the most violent fronts in the proxy war between Saudi Arabia and Iran, which have also backed opposing sides in Syria, Iraq and elsewhere across the Middle East.—Reuters ■



Workers remove debris from a damaged restaurant on a street where Houthis have recently clashed with forces loyal to slain Yemeni former president Ali Abdullah Saleh in Sanaa, Yemen on 6 December, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Israeli forces prepare for clashes ahead of Trump's Jerusalem declaration

JERUSALEM — Israeli security forces were "preparing" for clashes with Palestinians in East Jerusalem and the West Bank ahead of US President Donald Trump's announcement recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

A military official told local media that Israel's army was "preparing for possible escalation," including violent rallies.

In the city of Bethlehem on Tuesday night, posters of Trump were burnt in a rally that started after a senior White House official confirmed Trump will recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital on Wednesday.

Trump is also expected to announce that the US embassy will be moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, but the move will not be carried out immediately, according to the official.

The announcement will mark a change in US policy, which has never recognized the annexed city as part of Israel.

Palestinian officials have warned that the move will "kill" any chance for a peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians, who consider East Jerusalem as the capital of their future state.

East Jerusalem is a predominantly Palestinian territory, which Israel seized from Jordan in the 1967 Middle East war and annexed it shortly later. The annexation was never recognized by the international community.

Trump's announcement is expected to trigger an angry response by the Palestinians as well as by Jordan and other Muslim countries, which have already warned such a move would be unacceptable.

Jerusalem is a site holy to both Muslims and Jews. The Old City in eastern Jerusalem is home to the al-Aqsa mosque compound, a site known to Muslims as Haram al-Sharif ("the Nobel Sanctuary") and to Jews as the Temple Mount. Jordan is the custodian of the compound.—Xinhua ■

Zimbabwe court again postpones former finance minister's bail hearing

ZIMBABWE — A Zimbabwean court has postponed to Thursday the bail hearing of former finance minister Ignatius Chombo, who is facing charges of corruption dating back two decades.

Chombo, who did not appear at the court on Wednesday, was detained after the military seized power in "Operation Restore Legacy" mid-November, which it said was meant to remove "criminals" around former President Robert Mugabe.

The High Court had been due to sit on Wednesday to hear Chombo's appeal against a lower court ruling last week denying him bail pending his trial on 8 December, but the state prosecutor said he needed time to prepare his case.

This is the second time the court has postponed the hearing after an initial sitting on Friday was delayed for the same reasons. His lawyer says Chombo will deny the allegations

at his trial.

Chombo was among members of the G40 political faction allied to 93-year-old Mugabe and his wife, Grace, who were also expelled from the ruling ZANU-PF party.

Ousted ZANU-PF Youth League leader Kudzanai Chipanga's bail hearing was also postponed to Thursday. Chipanga is facing charges of making statements undermining public confidence in the military which

helped end Mugabe's 37-year rule.

Some supporters of new President Emmerson Mnangagwa have called for unspecified action against G40 but the president has urged citizens not to undertake any form of "vengeful retribution".

Mnangagwa, who was sworn in on 24 November, and is under pressure to root out rampant corruption stifling the economy.—Reuters ■



Russia's Su-57 fifth-generation stealth air superiority fighter. PHOTO: TASS

Russia's Su-57 fifth-generation fighter makes first flight with new engine

MOSCOW — Russia's Su-57 fifth-generation stealth air superiority fighter, also known as T-50, had performed its first test flight with a new-generation engine, a source in the Russian Industry and Trade Ministry told reporters on Tuesday.

"Russia's newest fifth generation fighter, T-50, performed its maiden flight with the second stage engine on 5 December, 2017, at the Gromov Flight Research Institute," the source said.

The 17-minute flight test was carried out by Sergei Bogdan, a chief test pilot of the Sukhoi aircraft maker.

"The flight took place in normal regime, in compliance with the flight assignment," the ministry said. Commenting on the report, Russian Industry and Trade Minister Denis Manturov said the successful test of the new engine "will give an additional boost to the fifth-generation fighter jet programme."

"This proves the high po-

tential of the Russian aircraft industry, capable of designing smart and advanced systems — aerodynamic systems, innovative digital components, newest engines," he said.

The Su-57 fifth generation fighter jet (previously known as PAK FA — the Russian acronym for 'perspective front-line aviation complex') performed its maiden flight in 2010. Currently, nine prototypes are undergoing state trials. Its serial production is expected to begin next year.

Sukhoi-57 has a number of unique features of both a strike aircraft and a fighter. Composite materials and cutting-edge technologies as well as its aerodynamic design hinder its radar and infrared identification. Until recently, including during its public display flight at the international air show MAKS-2017, Su-57 was equipped with the first stage engine 117S. Its successor has no name yet and is referred to as "second stage engine." —Tass ■

Britain has not formally assessed impact of Brexit on economy — Brexit minister

LONDON — Britain has not conducted a formal sector-by-sector analysis of the impact that leaving the European Union will have on the economy, Brexit minister David Davis said on Wednesday, arguing they were not necessary at the current time.

The comments are likely to inflame critics of the government's handling of the complex divorce process at a time when talks with Brussels have stalled because of a row over how to manage the Irish border after Brexit.

Davis has become embroiled in a long-running argument with lawmakers from across parliament over what preparatory work the government has undertaken, and how much of it should be made public. "There's no systematic impact assessment I'm aware of," Davis told a parliamentary committee, saying it would be more appropriate to conduct such analysis later in the negotiating process. That drew immediate criticism from lawmakers on the committee, who said Davis was contradicting his previous statement that the government had analyses of the sectoral impact that went into "excruciating detail". —Reuters ■

EU executive to propose deeper euro zone integration to unite EU on Wednesday

BRUSSELS — The European Commission will propose on Wednesday deeper euro zone integration that would help unite the broader European Union rather than just the single currency area.

The Commission, the EU's executive arm, will present a package of ideas aimed at making the 19 countries sharing the euro more resilient to potential future crises and united around the euro currency as Britain leaves the bloc in 2019.

But such plans have sparked concern in eight non-euro countries that deeper integration will make them second-class members of the EU, with less say and less in funds in the future.

To alleviate such fears, the Commission proposals will follow the principles of building EU unity and increasing the democratic accountability of euro zone institutions. But some of the ideas clash with what some euro zone leaders want.

French President Emmanuel Macron has called for creating a large euro zone budget of several hundred billion euros, a euro zone finance minister and a euro zone parliament.

The EU executive, however, is likely to propose creating only a dedicated line for the euro zone within the wider EU budget that, in total, is worth around 100 billion euros.

Instead of a euro zone fi-

nance minister, there should be a pan-European Minister of Economy and Finance, the Commission is likely to say. The European Parliament should be left undivided.

Other euro zone integration ideas, floated by Germany, include transforming the euro zone bailout fund into a European Monetary Fund and setting up a sovereign insolvency mechanism to raise market pressure on government fiscal policy.

But the Commission will call for the bailout fund, which is now owned and run by euro zone governments, to become an EU institution that would be subject to European Parliament's control. This will not fly

with governments, officials said.

The Commission is also likely to say that the European finance minister, a post that would only be set up in 2025, should be in charge of overseeing structural reform efforts and coordinating economic and fiscal policy in the euro area.

Presiding over any kind of euro zone bailout fund, the EU finance minister should also be a senior member of the Commission and responsible before the European Parliament, the Commission is likely to propose.

Under the current arrangement, the chair of the euro zone finance ministers, the closest thing the bloc now has to a single finance minister, often testifies

before the parliament's economic committee, but it has no power over him or her.

There is no appetite among euro zone finance ministers now to allow the Commission, which is only an observer at their monthly meetings, to chair the talks.

The Commission is also likely to call for a swift completion of the EU's banking union by setting up a Europe-wide bank deposit insurance scheme, something that Germany insists can only happen after the bad loans on banks' books fall sharply.

The ideas will be discussed by all of the European Union's leaders except Britain at a special euro summit on 15 December. —Reuters ■

Singapore drone frees your fingers to take photos

SINGAPORE — As more people shoot pictures and videos from consumer drones, researchers in Singapore have found a way round the frustrating task of framing and taking photos while manually piloting the craft.

More than 2.8 million consumer drones are expected to be sold this year, up from 2 million last year, says research firm Gartner. Most carry some kind of camera.

“We want to enable more intuitive and natural interaction with the flying drone to take photos autonomously — even for the novice user who has not used drones before,” said Ziquan Lan, one of four researchers behind the project. Their innovation, called XPose, works in several stages. The user tells the drone to take pho-



A drone takes photos of a robot during a demonstration of Xpose, an interactive drone photo-taking system, at the NUS School of Computing faculty premises in Singapore on 27 November, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

tographs from different angles of the subject, such as a statue. Next, the shot is composed by moving objects on photos from a sample gallery. Then the drone

finds the best position to take the commissioned photo. No manual piloting of the drone is needed.

The researchers from the National University of

Singapore say their prototype, based on a Parrot Bebop quadcopter, relies mainly on a single monocular camera and works reliably even when there

is no GPS signal.

Some remotely controlled drones take their cue from global positioning system satellites, or GPS, which requires the drone pilot to know where the image is in respect to the drone, adding another layer of complexity to the process.

But XPose does away with that. The researchers said it had a higher success rate in photo-taking tasks than the usual touchscreen joystick interface. “Drones will be even smaller (than they are now) so we can carry them around as a smartphone camera, throw it in the air and take photos for us,” Lan said, as he outlined his vision of the future. But the problem is a thorny one, he said, adding that he and fellow researchers Mohit Shridhar, David Hsu and Shengdong

Zhao went through dozens of methods and environments to evolve a working prototype. Several companies are working to simplify how users take airborne pictures and videos.

A US-based startup, Skydio, which aims for “flying cameras without the complexity”, is working on a drone that follows its operator using onboard cameras to capture a 360-degree view of its environs. Another firm, Squadrone System, offers an “autonomous flying camera” called HexoPlus for \$1,000. A user can program it via a smartphone app with simple instructions, such as “follow” or “hover close”.

For \$700, the Mota Group offers the Lily Next-Gen camera drone that flies itself and hovers above the user, taking photos and video.—Reuters ■

Chinese state media tells readers how to survive a nuclear attack

BEIJING — A state-run newspaper in northeastern China’s Jilin city, near the border with North Korea, on Wednesday published a page of “common sense” advice on how readers can protect themselves from a nuclear weapons attack or explosion. China has voiced grave concern over North Korea’s nuclear and missiles programme, as well as calling on the United States and South Korea to stop provoking Pyongyang. US bombers will fly over the Korean peninsula on Wednesday as part of a large-scale joint military drills with South Korea. The North has warned the drills would push the Korean Peninsula to the “brink of war”.

The full page article in the Jilin Daily, which does not mention possible attacks by North Korea or any other country, explains how nuclear weapons differ from traditional arms and instructs people

how to protect themselves in the event of an attack. Nuclear weapons have five means of causing destruction: light radiation, blast waves, early-stage nuclear radiation, nuclear electro-magnetic pulses and radioactive pollution, the article explained. It said the first four kill instantly. People who find themselves outside during a nuclear attack should try to lie in a ditch, cover exposed skin in light coloured clothing or dive into a river or lake to try and minimise the possibility of instantaneous death, it said. Cartoon illustrations of ways to dispel radioactive contamination were also provided, such as using water to wash off shoes and using cotton buds to clean ears, as well as a picture of a vomiting child to show how medical help can be sought to speed the expulsion of radiation through stomach pumping and induced urination.—Reuters ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BATAM VOY. NO (030)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BATAM VOY. NO (030) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.12.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.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 INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BANDA VOY. NO (073)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BANDA VOY. NO (073) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.12.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RESTU VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RESTU VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.12.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/HPT where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CAUTIONARY NOTICE

Lightning Protection International Pty Ltd, a company registered under the laws of Australia, which is located at 49 Patriarch Drive, Huntingfield, Tasmania, 7055 Australia, is the sole owner and proprietor of the following patent entitled:

“Surge Protection Device Monitoring”

Australian Application No. 2016901375

Myanmar Registration No. 6801/2017

Lightning Protection International Pty Ltd claims the patent rights and other relevant intellectual property rights for the patent as mentioned above. Lightning Protection International Pty Ltd reserves the rights to take legal measures against any infringer who violates its intellectual property or other legal rights in accordance with the concerned laws of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Daw May Thwe Hlaing, LL.B., LL.M., (H.G.P.)

For **Lightning Protection International Pty Ltd**

Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd, No. 1608, 16th Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar

Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com

Dated: 7th December 2017.

China becomes focus of Istanbul film festival

ISTANBUL — China drew the attention as the focus country on Monday evening as the Rendezvous Istanbul International Film Festival marked its 20th anniversary in the most populous Turkish city.

A selection of 11 newly released Chinese films are being screened during the Chinese films' week, as part of the efforts to boost exchanges and cooperation between China and Turkey on film and television production.

Qian Bo, the Chinese consul general, spoke of growing cooperation and exchanges with Turkey in the field of film and television making in the context of enhancing strategic cooperative relationship between the two countries.

The Chinese films being shown in Istanbul theatres offer a new perspective and open a window into great changes taking place in China over the past decade and the Chinese people's lives, emotions and dreams, said Qian.

Selcuk Yavuzkanat, deputy general director of cinema with Turkey's Ministry of Culture and Tourism, was hopeful about bilateral cooperation on more key projects in related to filmmaking, as Turkey and China are both advancing fast in this field.

More than 200 guests were present at the event, including directors, producers and screenwriters from Turkey and China as well as representatives from the press.

China Radio International, cohost of the film festival with the Turkish Foundation of Cinema and Audiovisual Culture, was presented on the occasion an Outstanding Contribution Award for its efforts to promote cultural cooperation and exchanges. During the film festival that runs from 1 December until 7 December, a series of panels were held on Chinese and Turkish films and the current situation facing the film industry.

Being screened during the festival are some 50 films from other parts of the world.

Magic Moment, the first film being jointly produced by Turkey and China, was introduced during the festival.—Xinhua ■



Oprah Winfrey smiles at the premiere of "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" in New York, US on 18 April, 2017.
PHOTO: REUTERS REUTERS

Discovery raises stake in Oprah Winfrey Network

LOS ANGELES — Discovery Communications Inc (DISCAO) said on Monday it had raised its stake in its joint venture with TV mogul Oprah Winfrey to more than 70 per cent.

Discovery paid \$70 million (£52 million) to acquire an additional 24.5 per cent stake in the Oprah Winfrey Network from Harpo Inc, founded by Winfrey. Winfrey, who will retain a minority interest and continue in her role as chief executive of OWN, has extended her commitment to the network through 2025, Discovery said. OWN, launched in 2011 as a joint venture between Discovery and Harpo, focuses on African-American viewers, mostly women, and includes hit series such as "Queen Sugar" and "Greenleaf". Discovery was advised by Allen & Co LLC and Grubman Shire Meiselas & Sacks, while Harpo was advised by Moelis & Co LLC and Loeb & Loeb LLP.—Reuters ■

Stood no chance with men like Shashi Kapoor around: Bachchan

MUMBAI — As brothers-in-arms or partners-in-crime, megastar Amitabh Bachchan has shared fond memories of spending his life — both onscreen and offscreen — with veteran actor Shashi Kapoor, the "incredibly handsome" star, who passed away yesterday.

The actor breathed his last at the Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital here at 5.20pm last evening.

Having worked in around 14 films, including hits such as "Deewaar", "Kaala Patthar", "Trishul", "Suhaag", "Shaan", among others, the duo also collaborated in "Ajooba" (1991) with Shashi directing Bachchan for the first and only time.

The megastar, in his personal blog, remembered feeling a little uncertain as an aspiring actor about his future in the film industry with the likes of charming actor like Shashi around.

"I said to myself, as very uncertain thoughts raced through my mind of wanting to become a film actor; that, with men like him around, I stood no chance at all..."



Amitabh Bachchan **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Bachchan recalled coming face-to-face with Shashi in a glitzy magazine, which announced his debut in films.

"Standing elegantly without a care in the world, I saw him standing by a Mercedes Sports car, a convertible, a smart trimmed beard and moustache, adorning involuntarily, the face of this incredibly handsome man..." he wrote.

The actor, who was fondly

called babbua by Shashi, said he knew the veteran actor had been ailing for a long time but he avoided visiting him.

"I had visited him on occasion in Hospital during some of the times he had been hospitalised earlier... But I never went to see him again... I would never have... I never ever wanted to see this beautiful friend and samdhi in the state I saw him in hospital..."

"... and I did not today, when they informed me that he had gone," he wrote.

Bachchan also recounted couple of incidents with Shashi at the centre — where he always ended up receiving something from the generous actor.

The "Pink" star said he learnt the "self-introduction habit" from Shashi, which he uses till date.

He said the "Waqt" actor would extend a "warm soft hand out" in his first acquaintance with someone, disarming people with the "twinkle in his eyes" and "mischievous, gentle, yodel in his voice".

And it was Shashi who inspired Bachchan to cover his ears with hair in the era that thrived with leading men in thick sideburns.

"Hey! maybe you should think of covering your ears as well... and off I went to Hakim the hairdresser at Taj Hotel with my plan... and executed, it remained till date..." Shashi passed away due to kidney ailment. His funeral will be held today in the afternoon.—PTI ■

Lubaina Himid awarded Britain's Turner Prize, oldest artist ever to win

LONDON — Lubaina Himid, a 63-year-old artist whose creations include dinner plates painted with vomiting aristocrats, became the oldest person ever and the first black woman to win Britain's most prestigious art award — the Turner Prize — on Thursday.

Tanzanian-born Himid beat other short-listed artists including British painter Hurvin Anderson, German painter Andrea Büttner and British filmmaker Rosalind Nashashibi.

The judges praised Himid for her “uncompromising tackling of issues including colonial history and how racism persists today,” Alex Farquharson, director of



Artist Lubaina Himid speaks after being announced as the winner of the Turner Prize in Hull, Britain on 5 December, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

organizers Tate Britain, said in a statement. In her acceptance speech, Himid thanked the critics and curators who had supported her during what she described as “the wilderness years.”

In the past, the prize has been viewed as a vehicle for younger artists, but it has moved in a new direction this year, with two nominees over 40 and the other two short-listed artists in their 50s and 60s.

The organizers have now scrapped a rule introduced in 1991 that required nominated artists to be under the age of 50.

The annual award for contemporary art was presented to

Himid by electronic music star Goldie, in a televised ceremony held in Hull Minster church in the northeastern English city of Hull.

The Turner Prize award money is 40,000 pounds (\$54,000), with 25,000 pounds going to the winner and 5,000 pounds each for the other short-listed artists.

Founded in 1984 and named after English 19th-century landscape painter JMW Turner, the prize is the UK's most high-profile visual arts award. During the 1990s, it helped to launch the careers of some of the stars of the Young British Artists movement such as Damien Hirst and Tracey Emin.—Reuters ■

Dream come true': Brigitte Macron names French baby Panda

BEAUVAL, (France) — French First Lady Brigitte Macron revealed on Monday that the first panda born in France, to whom she is “Godmother”, will go by the name of Yuan Meng.

The names means “Dream come true” and was chosen by China, the country of origin of the cub's parents.

The small male cub, survivor of two babies born on Aug. 4 at Beauval zoo about 250 km south of Paris, until now went by the name of Mini Yuan Zi after his father Yuan Zi, whose names translates as Podgy.

Brigitte Macron, wife of President Emmanuel Macron, announced the creature's official name at an event attended by

China's vice foreign minister, Zhang Yesui.

The cub lost his twin sibling barely two hours after their August births, which were firsts in France. The arrival of the panda parents in France back in 2012 was billed in official circles as a sign of warming bilateral ties.

Mother Huan Huan and her partner Yuan Zi are due to return to China in 2022 while the young panda is expected to stay in France until the age of two or three.

The cub, weighing in at 142.4 grams at birth, opened his eyes for the first time in mid-September and weighed 7.903 kilos as of 4 December, the Beauval zoo said on its website. While an

adult female panda can weigh up to 125 kilograms (275 pounds), a baby panda often weighs as little as 120 grams (4 ounces) at birth — or 143 grams in this case. In the wild, pandas typically give birth to a single infant, born tiny, blind, pink and almost hairless.

France's dealings with pandas — vegetarians but nonetheless burly bears with big claws — have not always been easy.

Former leader Valéry Giscard d'Estaing admitted decades after his 1970s presidency that a panda jumped on him when he entered its pen against zookeeper advice during a presidential visit to Vincennes zoo, on the eastern edge of Paris.—Reuters ■



PHOTO: SUPPLY

GAC Motor Myanmar — Flagship 8-series launch

GAC Flagship 8-series was launched recently in GAC Myanmar's Showroom.

The GAC Flagship 8-Series comprises of three models: the GS8, GA8 and the soon to be released, much anticipated GM8 MPV.

The Flagship 8-Series epitomizes the highest range of GAC models built with luxury, quality and performance in mind. With this launch, GAC Motor hopes to gain more market share in Myanmar's highly competitive luxury automobile market.

The GS8 4WD SUV is a

new addition to GAC Motor's highly successful GS7 2WD. Both vehicles are equipped with the highest level of options and are targeted at buyers of high end luxurious 7-seat SUVs.

As the flagship sedan of GAC Motor, the GA8 targets customers looking for a high-end luxurious sedan with tremendous value for money. The outstanding exterior design of the GA8 together with its excellent interior ergonomics offers the driver and passengers a luxury motoring experience.

—GNLM



Brigitte Macron, wife of President Emmanuel Macron, China's Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Zhang Yesui and Rodolphe Delord, director of the zoo, attend a naming ceremony of the panda born at the Beauval Zoo in Saint-Algnan-sur-Cher, France on 4 December, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Myanmar U-21 ties MNL All-Stars 1-1 in football friendly

In preparation for the International U-21 Thanh Niên Newspaper Cup that will be held in Vietnam, the Myanmar U-21 national football team played to a draw against the Myanmar National League (MNL) All-Star team at Thuwunna Stadium yesterday evening.

The match ended with a score of 1-1.

Both teams played equally well from the start, but the opening goal was made by the MNL All-star team. The goal was scored by its star player Emmanuel at the 32-minute mark.

The early goal seemed to have an effect on the Myanmar U-21 team, which began to attack more willingly than before.

The efforts of the Myanmar U-21 team were rewarded with the equalising goal seven minutes later.

The equaliser was scored by Myanmar's stellar player Zin Min Tun.

Both teams played in a more controlled style in the second half.

Yesterday's match could be described as a hard fought, but clean match.

Perhaps the Myanmar



Players from MNL All-star and Myanmar U-21 vie for the ball at yesterday's match in Thuwunna Stadium. **PHOTO: MNL**

U-21 team benefited the most, because they had much to learn from playing an experienced,

senior team like the MNL All-Stars. The Myanmar U-21 team now goes on to compete in the

International U-21 Thanh Niên Newspaper Cup in Vietnam.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Shan United in Group F of 2018 AFC Cup

The 2018 AFC Cup draw was completed at the headquarters of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia yesterday, resulting in Myanmar National League Champions Shan United FC being part of Group (F) with a Singapore's Home United FC, a club from the Philippines, and a play-off winner from the ASEAN Zone.

Football clubs from the Philippines were not included in the draw that determines group assignments because league competition is still ongoing in the Philippines.

The winners will be included in the draw chart after concluding their competition.

The play-off matches will be held from 22 to 29 January and play-off winners will directly enter the ACL or group stage qualifier, according to AFC.

In the interim, Yangon United FC, the second runner up of the Myanmar National League 2017, is in Group G together with an Indonesian club (Bali United or Madura United), a 2nd Rank Club from the Philippines and FLC Than Hoa or Hanoi FC from Vietnam.

Shan United FC has to play the ACL qualifiers stages first and Yadanarbon FC, a third runner up of Myanmar National League 2017 is also on standby with Shan United in the same group.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Perotti heads Roma into Champions League last-16

ROME — AS Roma reached the Champions League last 16 with a 1-0 home win over Azeri side Qarabag as Diego Perotti's second-half header settled a tight encounter to put the Italians top of Group C on Tuesday.

Roma, who reached the knockouts for the second time in three years, looked the more likely to break the deadlock in a first half that lacked genuine chances but had to wait until the 53rd minute to take the lead. The move was

started and finished by Perotti, who drove forward and exchanged a couple of neat passes before the ball found its way to Edin Dzeko, whose shot was parried by the keeper into the path of the Argentine, who headed in from close

range. Roma, who had needed to win to guarantee their progress, leapfrogged already-qualified Chelsea to finish top of the group after the Premier League club were held to a 1-1 draw by Atletico Madrid.—Reuters ■

Tanaka returns WBO light flyweight belt to move up to flyweight

NAGOYA — Japan's Kosei Tanaka announced on Wednesday he has returned his World Boxing Organization light flyweight champion's belt and will move up to the flyweight division.

"I want to do my best on a new note in the flyweight class," Tanaka told a press conference in

Nagoya. "There is no way I could keep weight off anymore for light flyweight."

Tanaka will take aim at a third WBO title by moving to the flyweight class after capturing the minimumweight title in 2015 and the flyweight belt last December. His is schedule to fight

in his first bout in his new weight class next spring. Tanaka tied the record among Japanese boxers for the fewest fights needed to hold titles in two weight classes when he won his flyweight belt in his eighth career match.

However, he fractured both of his eye sockets during his

second flyweight title defense in September, dashing his hopes of taking on compatriot and World Boxing Association light flyweight champ Ryoichi Taguchi in a unification bout.

Tanaka has won all 10 of his career bouts, six of them by knockout.—Kyodo News ■



Japanese boxer Kosei Tanaka. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**