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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Wednesday, 13 December 2017



Traders check a large chunk of uncut jade at the Mid-Year Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: KYAW YE SWE**

## Mid-Year Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium commences

THE 2017 Mid-Year Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium was held yesterday morning at Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw, with Vice President U

Henry Van Thio in attendance.

The emporium was also attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint, Union Ministers U Ohn Win and U Thein

Swe, Amyotha Hluttaw natural resources and environmental affairs committee chairman U Kyaw Thiha, Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium Central

Committee and Work Committee members, Myanmar Gems & Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association, local and foreign media and officials. **SEE PAGE-6**

Some restrictions in Bagan's property zone to be relaxed

THREE points submitted by people in the property zone of Bagan will be considered for easing in consideration of their continued cooperation in achieving the goal of listing the archaeological zone on UNESCO's world heritage list.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture received a petition from the local people in the property zone, who appealed to authorities to consider the property zone as a "medium zone", in an attempt to remove some restrictions on their businesses.

They also requested the government amend the three points if the demands would be a hindrance to the government's attempts to add Bagan to World Heritage List.

"The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture would do negotiations with the local people to amend the points," said the statement.

The first amended point the local people demanded was as follows: "Construction can be made for living in, for use as farmland, for running traditional businesses such as producing arts and crafts, for opening of offices, shops, restaurants and lodging houses".

**SEE PAGE-6**

## BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

Awarded by FinanceAsia 2017



## President and First Lady in Tokyo to attend health forum

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Htin Kyaw and the First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin departed for Japan yesterday morning to attend the Universal Health Coverage Forum, which will be held on December 14, 2017.

The President and party were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Union Minister U Kyaw tin, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, the charge d'affaires of the Japanese Embassy and other officials.

The President and wife will be accompanied at the forum by Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe. —Myanmar News Agency ■



President U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su Lwin are seen at Yangon International Airport as they depart for Japan. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko performs religious affairs in Thandwe District

ON December 11, Thura U Aung Ko, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture, visited monasteries in Thandwe Township and Taungup Township, paying his respects to Sayadaws and donating offertories.

In the morning, the Union Minister went to Thiri Mingalar Myo Oo monastery in Thandwe and in the afternoon paid respects to the Sayadaws in Thandwe and Taungup townships, and donated offertories.

In the morning of December 12, the Union Minister and his party arrived at Sasana Bhikman

in Gwa Township, where they offered meals to Sanghas.

At length, the Union Minister explained to the Sayadaws about the performance of the Union Government and the State Counsellor.

The Sayadaws noted, "It was a great delight to hear about the performance of the Union Government."

The Government is required to strictly perform in accord with the law.

The Sayadaws completely agree with the Government's performances." —District IPRD ■

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit concludes

ABOUT 1.1 billion people in Asia live in areas currently experiencing severe water stress, and unless significant action is taken, that number is expected to increase by more than 40 per cent by 2050, according to the Yangon Declaration of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit released yesterday.

The third summit concluded yesterday following several discussions by the leaders of the Asia-Pacific Region.

In his address on the second-day of the summit, Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung called for mutual cooperation among various countries in the Asia-Pacific region to achieve water security at the regional, national, as well as global level.

"In Myanmar, our actions so far with regards to water-related disasters is only halfway, i.e. recovery part. We need to be proactive in the protection part, which includes mitigation measures, that prevent or reduce the impact of water-related disasters", said the Union Minister.

"It is clear that the water resources potential for the realisation of a water-based economy in Myanmar is quite bright. We need to use it sustainably and pass it onto the future generations," said U Thant Sin Maung.

The second day of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit (3<sup>rd</sup>



Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung delivers the concluding speech at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit. **PHOTO: MNA**



APWS) at the Sedona Hotel in Yangon set out a course for the sustainable development of the region with a perspective on water, improve cooperation in safeguarding against disasters related to water, encourage partnership and share knowledge and experience.

Three parallel thematic sessions were held under the titles "Financing the Implementation of Water-Related SDGs (sustainable development goals)," "Working Together: Multi-Stakeholders Partnership for Regional Cooperation" and "Source-to-Sea Opportunities in the Asia-Pacific Region", with local and foreign experts participating in the discussions.

Dr. Amy Khor, Senior Minister of the Environment and Water Resources, Singapore; Mr. Paula Ma'u, Chief Execu-

tive Officer, Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Climate Change and Communications, Tonga; Dr. Swarnim Wagle, Vice Chair of National Planning Commission, Nepal; Mr. Ngoc Linh Nguyen, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Viet Nam; Mr. Park Jaeheyon, Assistant Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Republic of Korea; H.E. Mr. Daniel Zonshine, Ambassador of Israel to Myanmar; H.E. Mr. Kapunan Eco Eduardo, Ambassador of the Philippines to Myanmar; H.E. Mr. Nicholas Coppel, Ambassador of Australia to Myanmar; H.E. Dr. Ito Sumard, Ambassador of Indonesia to Myanmar; Mr. Zhiguang Liu, Director-General, International Cooperation, Science & Technology Dept. of the Ministry of

Water Resources, China; Mr. Michael John Mangawai, Acting Director General, Department of Water, Vanuatu, Ms. Tenzin Wangmo, Chief Environment Officer, National Environment Commission, Bhutan, Mr. Timur Kydyrmyshev, Second Secretary of Department for Analysis and Coordination of Foreign Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kyrgyz Republic; Dr. Nick Scholfield, Chief Executive Officer, Australia Water Partnership; Dr. Toshio Koike, Director, International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM), Public Works Research Institute (PWRI); Dr. David Molden, Director-General, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD); Dr. Claudia Sadoff, Executive Director of International Water Management In-

stitute (IWMI); Ms. Lusua Sefo Leau, Chief Executive Officer, Pacific Water and Wastewater Association (PWWA); Mr. Tom Panella, Chief of Water Sector Group, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Mr. Clausen Joench Torkil, Governor, World Water Council (on behalf of the President of World Water Council) and Prof. Simon Tay, Vice Chair of the APWF Governing Council and Governor Mr. Clausen Joench Torkil Vice Chair of the APWF Governing Council Prof. Simon Tay all gave speeches.

In the afternoon, a recap of the talks that occurred in the 10 thematic sessions of the 3<sup>rd</sup> APWS was made by the discussion leaders.

At the end of the day, the vice chairperson of the National Water Resources Committee and Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung announced the adoption of the Yangon Declaration: The Pathway Forward with the overwhelming approval of the representatives of the Asia-Pacific region countries and international organisations attending the Third Asia-Pacific Water Summit: Water Security for Sustainable Development.

The Yangon Declaration appears on Page 7.—MNA ■



# Message of Greetings sent to the 2017 Literary Conference by State Counsellor, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

## Dear respected literati and guests who love literature,

I send my greetings to all writers, poets, editors, publishers, literary scholars and literature lovers who are present at today's literary conference held under the sponsorship of 11 Myanmar language societies. I send heartfelt prayers that all of you will be blessed with auspiciousness.

Since people love literature, film, music and all kinds of art, they have great influence over human society. Especially, literature has the ability to

change people's hearts, broaden the general knowledge, intellect and visions of every individual. Hence, we firmly believe that the development of the literary sector of a nation is of great help to national development.

Now is the time when we are working hand in hand together with the people for building up a peaceful and developed federal democratic nation as hoped for by all our citizens. Meanwhile, we will have to overcome various kinds of internal and external challenges. At such a time, I would like to say that lit-

erary workers play an important role in producing literature of excellence for the intellectual and spiritual development of our citizens who will work for the emergence of the Union.

At today's literary conference which was attended by over 1000 literary workers, more than 50 titles will be freely discussed in accord with the theme, "Free literature, free voices." I believe and hope that following free discussions, excellent programmes which will help the development of Myanmar literature will emerge and also help in national

development and that good programmes and guidelines will emerge. Here, I wish to remind that "Freedom does not mean speaking and writing without discretion in a callous manner."

Furthermore, I believe that literary workers will not only produce good literature that can develop people's knowledge and intellects but also join in, lead and provide guidance by using the power of their literary art for peace, democracy and national development.

May the literary conference be successful!—Unofficial Translation

## Free Literature, Free Voice – Literary Conference 2017 opening ceremony

THE opening ceremony of Literary Conference 2017, held under the theme "Free Literature, Free Voice", was held yesterday afternoon on a stage set up in front of Yangon City Hall.

Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun, Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, and Literary Conference 2017 organising committee chairman U Aung Soe Oo switched on the LED board for the literary conference placed on city hall. Next, a message sent to Literary Conference 2017 by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was read by writer Daw Khin Thandar.

Afterward, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint delivered a speech, noting that 11 literary organisations came together to hold a literary conference, which never before was held in the country. Because of the open and free period, 11 literary organisations were formed and these different organisations worked together toward the same aim of promoting Myanmar literature, resulting in the Literary Conference of 2017. This is seen as a good example by the people in the literature community of Myanmar, in which there are differing groups who often live separate from each other.

The Union Minister pointed out the theme "Free voice, Free Literature," and remarked that the Literary Conference was attended by people from the literary community individually,



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint delivers the speech at Literary Conference 2017 opening ceremony in Yangon. PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR



rather than as members of the 11 literary organisations. The 11 organisations are of the same opinion in some matters, while having differences in other matters. In some cases, one group might have much interest and enthusiasm, while another may have no interest. But people in the literary circle love freedom and present their own thoughts and ideas freely, while having the patience and understanding to listen to others who present different thoughts and ideas. This literary conference is proof to the country that people of different thoughts and ideas can be in agreement.

The Union Minister then commented on the outcome of the Literary Conference being the development of Myanmar literature. Literature in all subjects is making progress in de-

veloped countries. People then become wise and learned, by knowing more about life and the world through aesthetic literary works. Due to literature, there is progress in political, social and economic sectors, allowing those countries to become the leading countries of the world. The development of Myanmar literature will have the same effect in other sectors.

The Union Minister added that people in the literature circle are artists, as well as intellectuals. From their artistic ability, they can guide the heart of the nation, as well as provide knowledge for the nation's development. But the people from the literature circle need to have a good heart to guide the nation and be intellectually advanced to lead the nation's development in various sectors. In conclu-

sion, the Union Minister prayed for the success of the 2017 Literary Conference, urging that discussions from the conference would provide ideas and programmes for development of Myanmar literature, and that people from Myanmar literature circle would show their intellectual leadership by setting up processes for the development of Myanmar's literature that contributes towards the country's development.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein then delivered a greeting speech followed by Literary Conference 2017 organising committee chairman U Aung Soe Oo presenting a speech of appreciation.

Next, the Union Ministers, Yangon Region Chief Minister and party, literati and literature enthusiasts released balloons

into the air and viewed the pre-opening ceremony events.

To mark the success of the opening ceremony, the royal drum was sounded and singer Daw Mar Mar Aye sang. Group discussions of Literary Conference 2017 will be held in MCC Hall, Mindhama Road, Yangon from 13 to 16 December. Every evening from 8 to 12 December there will be literary talks, a literary quiz, painting exhibitions, poem recitations, cartoon exhibitions will be held, and book stalls opened between Yangon city hall and Maha Bandoolla Park. Eleven Myanmar literary organisations met in May 2017 and formed the Literary Conference 2017 organising committee, which resulted in the present Literary Conference 2017 being held. — Myanmar News Agency ■



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

# Awareness Center to be opened in Yangon to study gold and gems central market

May Thet Hnin

AWARENESS Centers, to be opened in downtown Yangon in 2018, will allow gold traders, buyers and sellers to learn about the gold and gem markets during a six-month training programme, said U Khin Maung Han, secretary of the Gold and Gems Central Market Implementation Team.

"The market is operating with a new system. Therefore, we are planning to open Awareness Centers in downtown Yangon to provide training courses for buyers, retail and wholesale sellers.

We have already received permission from the Ministry to open the Center. But, we have not decided on a location yet," he added.

To be able to operate the Gold and Gems central market, technologies will be duplicated from those used in Asian coun-

ties, such as China's Shanghai Gold Exchange, which are comparable to conditions in Myanmar's gold market.

"The Ministry of Planning and Finance has chosen three or four places to construct the centers.

Among them, we will select the place which has good transportation, is safe and has a potential to develop in the future," said U Kyaw Win, chairman of the Myanmar Gold Entrepreneur Association.

To being operating the Gold and Gems Central market, Myanmar Gold Development Public Company Limited, which was set up by the gold entrepreneurs association, will be in charge of setting up the exchange.

Discussions with the ministries of Planning and Finance, Commerce, Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Home Affairs and Central Banks of Myan-

mar are also being held to carry out the development of Myanmar's gold and gem markets, along with the Myanmar Gold Development Public Company Limited.

Foreign investors will be invited to participate in the new markets. "We cannot create the market with only our own entrepreneurs.

So, we are introducing foreign investors to officials from the relevant Ministries.

Currently, investors from Japan, Hong Kong, and Singapore have already met.

Then, we will co-operate with investors who are appropriate for our country and take responsibility," said U Kyaw Win, chairman of the Myanmar Gold Entrepreneur Association.

We are also getting ready in the gold mining sector, gold refining sector, gold selling sector and goldsmith sector, which can also support the

market.

"If we can operate the gold central market, we can control monetary inflation. The foreign exchange will also be stabilized.

We can also control money laundering and illegal cash flows, he added.

Currently, the project supervision committee is drawing up standard operating procedures to regulate the market.

In 2012-2013, officials submitted a proposal to the government to establish a central gold market.

But, at that time, there were too few rules and regulations for that market.

In the new government period, laws, rules and procedures were being amended and enacted, while Customs policies were being relaxed. Now all that is needed is to set up the central gold market. ■

## Two injured in mine explosion in Kachin State

TWO people suffered leg injuries in a mine explosion in Kaungton village, Bhamo Township, on the Bhamo-Mandalay Road during the evening of 11<sup>th</sup> December.

The injured were identified as U Yawshu (29), a pri-

mary school teacher, and U Mikhay (39), a vendor.

They received minor injuries in the mine explosion and are now being treated at Bhamo General Hospital.

Students discovered the mine at mile post 268/269 on

the right side of Bhamo-Mandalay Road and contacted a primary school teacher, U Win Naing Shwe, who informed village administrator U Soe Naing.

The police arrived on the scene after being notified by

the village administrator.

This remote-control mine is sized 8-foot square, and included an 8-foot wire to a nearby tree.

It exploded at 3:55 pm, as the area was being cleared by police. —IPRD ■

## Illegal drugs worth more than Ks 130 million seized in Myeik Township

A LOCAL anti-drug squad together with eye witnesses seized 26,600 stimulant tablets worth Ks 130 million and 19.5 grams of crystal meth worth Ks 780,000 during a house search at a village in Myeik Township, Taninthayi Region yesterday evening.

The local police force received information that a suspected drug smuggler identified as Aung Than Soe in Kalwin Village, Myeik Township sold stimulant pills and crystal meth and the drugs were confiscated from him during the house search, said Police Inspector Khin Maung Aye, an official from the district anti-drug



Aung Than Soe seen with drugs worth over Ks 130 million. **PHOTO: MYANMAR DIGITAL NEWS**

squad.

Two mobile handsets and three vehicles were seized along with the drugs. A suit

was filed against the drug smuggler by the Myeik Myoma Police Department.—Myanmar Digital News ■

## Three gold miners injured in an explosion in Hpakant Township

THREE gold miners were injured in a landmine explosion near Warazut Village, Shadizut Village-tract in Hpakant Township, Kachin State on 10 December. The explosion took place at an abandoned goldmine about four miles west of Warazut Village while the three miners were engaged in their work. The three miners sustained minor injuries in the accident.

The injured miners were transported to Myitkyina Hospital thanks to a small local hospital with a vehicle from Namti social organization.—Myanmar Digital News ■



## Bamboo production still not keeping up with domestic, foreign demand

INEFFICIENT methods of bamboo cultivation have resulted in a dwindling supply of bamboo, which cannot meet either domestic or foreign demand, according to the Myawady Daily.

Though South Korea has offered to purchase 100,000 units of quality bamboo every month, Myanmar still cannot fulfill its domestic requirements of bamboo.

Within the country, there remains a lack of supply, despite the demand from South Korea. Additionally, local consumption cannot satisfy the demand of bamboo shoot factories from Nay Pyi Taw, according to U Kyaw Win, chairman of the Myanmar Bamboo Growers Association, in an interview with the Myawady Daily.

To tackle the shortage of demand in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Magway and Yangon regions, and in Shan State, plans call for developing additional land for bamboo cultivation.

Bamboo forests are mostly found in Rakhine Yoma and the Bago Yoma mountain ranges, as well as the Ayeyawady Region.

At present, bamboo from Pinlaung, Shan State, is being exported to Japan. Further, efforts are being made to make available locally manufactured bamboo finished products for



Bamboo plants. PHOTO: WIN KYAW OO

export markets.

More than 73.6 million bamboo plants were harvested in FY 2015-2016, and over 144 million bamboo plants were grown in FY 2016-2017. Plans for this FY call for growing

more than 159 million bamboo plants, while over 78.3 million bamboo plants were harvested, as of the end of October, according to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation. — GNLM ■

## Sino-Myanmar border trade sees small decrease, despite rise in Muse

BORDER trade between China and Myanmar during more than nine months in the current fiscal year still shows a slight decline, compared to the same period in the last FY, in spite of the fact that the weakened Muse trade is again increasing.

Sino-Myanmar border trade, as of 1<sup>st</sup> December, amounted to over US\$4.106 billion. Sino-Myanmar border trade is mainly conducted through points of entry at Muse, Lwejel, Kanpikete, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung land crossings.

The Chinshwehaw gate has seen a decline in its trade value of some \$35 million and, similarly, Kengtung's trade this

FY also slipped a bit against the last FY.

Myanmar's border trade values with China were \$3.56 billion at Muse, \$127 million at Lwejel, nearly \$360 million at Chinshwehaw, about \$62 million at Kanpikete and \$1.27 million at the Kengtung checkpoints.

Myanmar merchants are faced with confiscation of rice, as this grain is considered to be illegitimate trade.

Myanmar's rice, sugar, various pulses, sesame seed, corns, dried tea leaf, fishery products, minerals and animal products are exported to China, while capital goods, intermediate goods and consumer goods flowed into the country. China is the main

buyer of Myanmar rice, and the border trade is a better option for rice merchants.

However, rice is considered to be illegitimate by Chinese authorities if traded at borders, prompting them to frequently confiscate rice. During this year, Myanmar's merchants were battered by the confiscation of rice by China, as well as by price manipulations and a ban on Myanmar merchants' bank accounts in China.

The Commerce Ministry and Myanmar Rice Federation are still negotiating with the Chinese government so that Myanmar can legally export 200,000 tonnes of rice under a government to government (G to G) agreement. — Htet Myat ■

## Myawady trade shows slight decline against last FY

TRADE at Myawady, the largest trade gate between Thailand and Myanmar, saw an estimated trade value of US\$581 million between 1<sup>st</sup> April and 1<sup>st</sup> December of the current fiscal year, which was \$20 million less than during the similar period of the last FY.

Thai-Myanmar trade, as of 1<sup>st</sup> December this FY, reached over \$895 million, flowing in and out of border gates, including Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Maese.

In addition to the Myawady

gate, Htee Khee also saw a slight decline in cross-border trade. The trade value at the Kawthoung checkpoint increased by \$45 million against last FY. The remaining gates also show slight increases in trade.

Cosmetics, machinery, food products, agricultural equipment, and trucks are imported into Myanmar, while fish, crabs, prawns, squids, eels, other fish, onions, sesame seeds, turmeric, corns and dried tea leaf, along with other products, are exported to Thailand. —Htet Myat ■

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● Market Place by City Mart (Damasidi Road)	● City Mart (Junction Maw Tin)
● Market Place by City Mart (Junction City)	● City Mart (Sule Square)
● City Mart (Aung San Stadium)	● City Mart (Star City - Thanlyin)
● City Mart (47th street)	● City Mart (Waizayandar)
● City Mart (Yankin)	● City Mart (Hledan)
● City Mart (China Town)	● City Mart (Myanmar Plaza)
● City Mart (Myay Ni Gone)	● City Mart (Junction 8)
● City Mart (FMI)	● City Mart (St. John)
	● Ocean North Point (9 mile)
	● Ocean Shwegonedine

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## Mid-Year Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium commences

### FROM PAGE-1

U Henry Van Thio and guests were shown the status of the 2017 Mid-Year Jade and Gems Emporium with a video in Mani Yadana Jade Hall. The Vice President then visited the display and sales booths.

The Myanmar Gem Emporium has been held since 1964 and the 2017 Mid-Year Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium is 92<sup>nd</sup> to be held. In this year's emporium, 190 lots of gems and 6,685 lots of jade will be up for sale. Gem lots will be displayed from 12 to 14 December and will be sold under an open tender system on 15 December. Jade lots will be displayed from 12 to 15 December and will be sold under an open tender system from 16 to 21 December. Base prices for gem lots are set at 500 euros, while uncut jade lots are set at 4,000 euros. Base price for cut jade lots are set at 1,000 euros.

— MNA ■



Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects ruby at Mid-year Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium in Mani Yadana Jade Hall on 12 December 2017. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Some restrictions in Bagan's property zone to...

### FROM PAGE-1

The second amended point the local people demanded was: "The area of the building to be built as lodging for tourists must not be over 2,400 square feet, with the height of houses under 30 feet."

The third amended point was: "In installing TV satellites and other accessories, obtrusive installation must be avoided." In case economic communications towers are to be built, construction can be permitted in accord with the Heritage Impact Assessment so that communication systems will not obstruct scenes of ancient heritage.

The news release requested the local people to help the national cause for designating Bagan region as a cultural heritage zone.— Shin Min ■

## Union Minister Dr Pe Myint addresses Film Conference

A film conference was held under the sponsorship of Myanmar Film Asiayone yesterday at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street in Yangon.

Cutting the ribbon at the opening ceremony were Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint, Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Phyo Min Thein, Pyithu Hluttaw member Daw Phyu Phyu Thin, patrons of Myanmar Film Asiayone, U Sein Tin, U Nyunt Win, Sithu Daw Myint Myint Khin and Daw Wah Wah Win Shwe.

At the opening ceremony, Dr Pe Myint addressed the audience, noting, "We were very pleased that the Myanmar Film Asiayone held the film conference, which had not been held for many years, and we hope today's conference will produce good ideas and suggestions for the development of the film world. Cinematography is a kind of art which can develop people's minds in different ways. Being an art of great strength which can strike the hearts of people, its effect over audiences is extremely large. In the message sent by State Counsellor, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to the ceremony for presenting Myanmar Academy Awards 2016, held on March 18, 2017, it was said that those persons from the film world have a great responsibility, because films greatly influence human society, especially youths. It was also found that in the mes-



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint, Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and officials cut ribbon to open ceremony of film conference in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

sage, the State Counsellor urged the people belonging to the film world to try their best to become artists who can raise the status of Myanmar Human Society."

The Union Minister added, "The State Counsellor's suggestion can be seen as an instruction for those from the film world to abide by, in performing the tasks of the development of Myanmar Film. In the month of October 2020, Myanmar Film will reach its centenary anniversary, hence the chance for people from the film world to celebrate the festival, in commemoration of its centenary

anniversary. The Ministry of Information has cooperated with film artists to assure the continued progress of Myanmar films. Workshops for the advancement of the film world are being held, and arrangements are underway to continually hold workshops. Simultaneously, the emergence of film laws, and creating protection through laws for losses and damages for those in the film community, are being made. Myanmar film has made remarkable progress in production. In 2012, 12 films were produced, with 17 films in 2013, 9 in 2014, 32 in 2015,

98 in 2018 and 149 in 2017, as of the end of November. In the coming years, similar conferences should be held."

Afterwards, film star Khant Sithu read out a message sent by Sithu Bogalay Tint Aung, Patron of the Myanmar Film Asiayone. Following that, U Zin Wine, Chairman of Myanmar Film Asiayone explained, "The conference was held for one day only. But, it was announced one and half months ahead for those who would like to tender suggestions in layers, to submit their suggestions beforehand. Eleven suggestions will

be read out in the morning session, and the points that should be confirmed will be approved by the present conference. The tasks to be carried out by the executive committee of the Film Aasiayone will be put on record, and officially they will be announced here. This is the first initiative held for the centenary anniversary."

Also, Panchi Soe Moe, U Kyi Soe Tun and U Htay Aung, Patron of Myanmar Film Asiayone, presented certificates of honour to those who supported the creation of the Film Conference.—Myanmar News Agency ■





# Third Asia-Pacific Water Summit: Water Security for Sustainable Development

## Yangon Declaration: The Pathway Forward



*The Asia-Pacific region, with the largest and most dynamic economies in the world, is experiencing vigorous growth accompanied by a rapid reduction of poverty. However, approximately 1.1 billion people in Asia alone live in areas currently experiencing severe water stress and, unless significant action is taken, the number of affected population is expected to increase by more than 40% by 2050. Water security is a key component of sustainable development and faces enormous challenges. Achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can only be materialized if water is valued and if water resources are effectively protected and managed for the enhancement of water security in all the countries of the region.*

The Third Asia-Pacific Water Summit (3<sup>rd</sup> APWS) was convened in Yangon, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on 11-12 December 2017, with the aim of promoting cooperation and partnership, as well as sharing knowledge and experiences to enhance water security in the region towards concrete actions and solutions for sustainable development. This marks the beginning of a regional endeavor to take a leading role in the implementation of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028.

We, the Leaders of the Asia-Pacific region,

Celebrating the significant progress made in the past ten years since the First Asia-Pacific Water Summit held in Beppu, Japan, in 2007, and the Second Summit in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in 2013, in which period there have been large contributions to the achievement and improvement of the water-related targets of the Millennium Development Goals across the region, particularly in strengthening water supply to fulfill basic human needs,

Expressing continued concern over the remaining gaps between the ambition to deliver internationally agreed post-2015 water-related goals contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the increasing threats to water security, such as climate change, particularly in the lowest income countries, countries with mountain areas and Pacific Island Countries, as well as the impacts on vulnerable groups, such as women, children and the elderly, in rural areas alongside emerging and rapidly growing urban areas,

Reaffirming shared commitments to achieving the water-related Sustainable Development Goals and targets, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change to enhance resilience and the quality of socio-economic growth,

Being aware that the abovementioned threats will continue to intensify as the world population is expected to reach 10 billion inhabitants in 2050, in which over half of them will be living in the Asia-Pacific region, meaning that the sustainability of the region becomes a key component of our global future,

Hereby express our determination to achieve water security for sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region and declare to:

Provide safe and affordable drinking water and basic sanitation for all in the region by 2025, five years in advance compared to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as agreed at the First Asia-Pacific Water Summit, both in fast-growing urban areas, as well as in rural areas;

Double investment at the regional level in infrastructure and community-based efforts to address

water-related disasters and significantly increase water security;

Advance research and development, as well as education and training, to generate innovative solutions, particularly in water use efficiency and productivity, recycling, risk assessment and reduction, policy and governance, meet growing water demand, reduce disaster damage and improve sanitation and wastewater management;

Recognize that there is no one-size-fits-all solution and apply measures tailored at local conditions of countries and communities through regional knowledge management;

Facilitate the implementation of integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation, as appropriate, and partnerships.

We envision the Pathway Forward to upscale innovation for water security in the Asia-Pacific region and are determined to:

### **Sound water cycle management**

Integrate rainwater, rivers, groundwater, glaciers, oceans and ecosystems, where relevant, into water cycle analysis and related policies at the river basin level;

Undertake efforts to conserve and restore water-related ecosystems, including deltas and estuaries, and promote the inclusion in the development agenda of wastewater management, green infrastructure and nature-based solutions for disaster risk reduction;

Take actions to increase water productivity in irrigation and drainage to achieve food security and sustainable agriculture;

Combine the management of water resources and urban, regional and national land use planning;

### **Governance and inclusive development**

Establish sound regulatory mechanisms and planning at the local and national level to supply safe and sustainable drinking water and to extend and improve sanitation and wastewater management services;

Ensure the protection of vulnerable groups from water-related disasters and engage them in disaster management;

Promote the integration of scientific and engineering approaches with sociologic and economic perspectives, along with local and traditional knowledge, in water-related assessments and activities;

Take measures to build the capacity of all stakeholders, particularly women, youth, disabled and the poor, and create mechanisms for involving them in water-related decision-making processes and multi-stakeholder partnerships at the different levels of governance;

Urge all parties to end open defecation by 2025, as agreed at the First Asia-Pacific Water Summit, ensuring the availability of sanitation facilities, as well as promoting hygiene education for behavioral change;

### **Financing the implementation of water-related Sustainable Development Goals**

Support the development of innovative and sustainable financial instruments that generate low-interest lending mechanisms, long-term cash-flow and attractive returns for high-impact water-related investment at multiple levels and scales;

Adopt innovative financial solutions such as reforming public finance, advancing Public-Public Partnerships, Public-Private Partnerships, structuring blended finance, applying Environment, Governance and Society investment and developing financial tools for long-term investment;

Focus on ex-ante investment for infrastructure and community-based efforts, including disaster preparedness and risk reduction, in addition to post-disaster recovery;

Develop a regional monitoring system on the financing of water-related Sustainable Development Goals and targets, aiming at harmonizing and complementing national and international initiatives and incentivizing collaborative partnerships.

We request the Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF), as a leading coordination and facilitation platform for water security solutions in the region to:

### **Water cooperation at all levels**

Present this Yangon Declaration “The Pathway Forward”, accompanied by a supporting document to Call for Action, to relevant regional and global fora;

Provide region-specific inputs to the outcomes of the High-Level Panel on Water (HLPW);

Contribute to the Asian Water Development Outlook as an ongoing analysis to support the improvement of the water security situation in the Asia-Pacific region;

Lead the regional contribution to the Eighth World Water Forum, to be held in March 2018 in Brasilia, Brazil;

Advocate innovation and lead through action at the Singapore International Water Week, to be held in July 2018;

Keep playing its coordination role for the contributions of the Asia-Pacific region to the Stockholm World Water Week.

We collectively express our sincere appreciation to the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for successfully hosting the Third Asia-Pacific Water Summit and for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to all participants.



## Welcoming the MoU between Myanmar and Denmark

ACCORDING to the news bulletin released by the Ministry of Commerce, total export value of the clothing and textile manufacturing industry sector during the first six-month-period of FY 2017-2018 reached more than US\$ one billion, it was learnt. By seeing the figure, the sector of clothing and textile manufacturing industry plays an important role in the national economy. Thus, the clothing and textile manufacturing industry has been included in the National Export Strategy of Myanmar as a priority sector. Another important role of that industry is none other than its ability to create job opportunities for women, being an excellent base for national socio-economic development.

It is a welcome and auspicious initiative for Denmark to have signed the MoU to cooperate for the development of the clothing and textile manufacturing industry in Myanmar.

It is a welcome and auspicious initiative for Denmark to have signed the MoU to cooperate for the development of the clothing and textile manufacturing industry in Myanmar. Under the current MoU, creation of better employment opportunities as well as lifting living conditions of the employers in the industry will be implemented so that social justice and stability can be established. Accordingly, creation of better working environments and

regular negotiations for the social development of workers were included in the MoU between Myanmar and Denmark.

It is assumed that the cooperation offered by Denmark will help the CMP [Cut-Make-Package] system into the system of self-management in production from beginning to end. Provided that Myanmar's clothing and textile manufacturing industries can perform the tasks from the purchase of raw material needed for the industry to the stage of exporting the material, export value of that industry will remarkably increase, helping to reduce the national trade deficit. If so, it will become a driving force for national economic development. To sum it up, we wholeheartedly welcome the MoU between Myanmar and Denmark, designed for the development of Myanmar's clothing and textile sector. ■

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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

## Let us eradicate bribery and corruption for national development!

By Maung Thaug Win  
[Ex-Diplomat]

DECEMBER 9 is the International Anti-Corruption Day. Since the promulgation of United Nations Convention against Corruption on 31st October 2003, it commenced to be held annually, so as to make global people notice the evil effects of corruption and to be well convinced of the role of the convention. Bribery and corruption is the dreadful criminal case which is destroying the process of social, economic and political developments of the democratic institutions and social societies, with its dangers concealed. Though actions were taken against the culprits, some are still committing corruption in many ways. They are to be named to be the ones who are greatly fond of honey dew on the blade of a knife.

### Corruption means----

Corruption means dishonest or illegal behaviour, especially of people in authority, who abuse the authority conferred upon them for their personal benefits. Corruption can be likened to a kind of cancer which will swallow up all the cultural, political and economic process of a social society, destroying all the performances of important factors. Besides, it is a great challenge for the present world. It weakens good governance, destroys public principles fundamentally, divides natural resources unequally, harms private sectors especially ruins public interests. In actuality, abuse of people's power for personal interests must be defined as corruption.

### Causes of corruption

According to the survey made across the world, it was found that the following are causes of corruption.

- (1) Skyrocketing commodity prices and political monopoly
- (2) Lower status of democracy level and weakness in people's cooperation and political transparency
- (3) Growing centralism and weakening administrative mechanism,

- (4) Weakness in freedom of news media,
- (5) Weakness in freedom of economic enterprises,
- (6) Racial difference and giving priority in favor of a group
- (7) Inequality in sexes
- (8) Weakness in cooperation with global economic circles,
- (9) Appointment of Ministers and Deputy Ministers more than necessary.
- (10) Less division of power from the Central to Regional Authorities
- (11) Higher rates of poverty and least acquisition of ownership,
- (12) Political Instability,
- (13) Lower status in education
- (14) Least acquisition of linking with internet website.

### Minor Corruption

Minor corruption is the small amount of money demanded by staff from lower ranks in making contacts with the people, for example immigration offices, offices of the township development committees, police stations and other governmental offices.

### Major Corruption

Major corruption is mostly found to have been involved with high-ranking officials of the government offices. It is exercised for getting influences in legal and economic systems. Dictator-controlled governments and the governments without strict policy on corruption are found to have been involved with major corruption cases. It is necessary to grant the right to freely exercise legislative, executive and judicial powers for alleviation of corruptions.

### Corruption by groups

Due to the weakness of the organization or the process of the implementation, corruptions by groups were found. Every individual or representative serving in a system is committing corruption. Contradictions over benefits, division of power randomly, monopoly of the power, lack of transparency, less amount of salary or wages and failure to enjoy the benefits



achieved from fraudulent corruptions.

### Losses

Across the world, there are nearly US \$ one trillion losses in estimation, every year in bribery cases with US \$ 2.6 trillion annually in corruption. It is said to have reached by over 5 percent of the global GDP According to the UNDP's statistics, amount of lost money in corruption exceeded more than ten times the official development subsidy. What a dreadful amount it is!

### Myanmar and Corruption

According to the Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index, Myanmar stood at no 136 out of 176 countries involved in corruption in the world. There are only 40 countries below Myanmar, 135 countries above Myanmar. The country with the least amount of corruption is Denmark, standing first, with the country standing at 176 be-

lieved from fraudulent corruptions. achieved from fraudulent corruptions. Countries below Myanmar are those in Africa and warring nations in the Middle East including over-populated and very poor nations.

### Anti-Corruption Commission

The President's Office formed the anti-corruption commission under order 30/2017 on 23rd November 2017 with U Aung Kyi as chairman and 12 other dignified retired persons as members. Being comprised by respected persons, the commission was warmly welcomed by the people. Whatever it is, this will be a great threat for the ones who commit corruption.

### Great Challenges

There was also the anti-corruption formed in the reign of the former government. But, it could not manage to get rid of bribery and corruption cases which happened in myriads of spheres of the governmental mechanism, as expected. This may be attributed to many other reasons. Also in the currently reformed anti-cor-

ruption commission there seems to be a whole slew of challenges. Incoming influx of complaints will be added to former ones. To put it simply, we wish the anti-corruption commission will stand for the people.

In brief, corruption is threatening across the world. Especially, it can mostly be found in the countries of abject poverty, dictator-governed nations and the countries with feeble democratic systems. Sorrowfully enough, Myanmar stood at 136 according to CPI. Meanwhile, it was a great relief for us as the President's Office has reformed the anti-corruption commission, believing that it will achieve success to some extent. Had the legislative, executive and judicial powers been permitted to be freely exercised corruption can be reduced to some extent. Would that all government staff including ward and village-tract administrators had loathed corruption, instead to have devoted themselves to the development process of our country. ■

Translated by Khin Maung Oo

## Universal health coverage critical for keeping drugs effective

By Dr. Poonam Khetrpal Singh,  
World Health Organization

ENSURING all people everywhere have access to health services that are affordable, of good quality and within reach is a public health imperative. Whether to drive down maternal and child mortality, to halt rising rates of non-communicable disease, or to prepare for and respond to public health emergencies, strong, accessible health systems are key to achieving the sustainable development agenda and securing health and wellbeing for all ages.

They are also critical for beating back the rapid advance of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), a problem caused by mutations in microorganisms – including bacteria – that then become resistant to even the most powerful antimicrobial and antibiotic drugs. Though the battle against AMR across the WHO South-East Asia Region is being fought on many fronts – from optimising the use of antibiotics in the animal and agricultural sectors to investing in research and the development of new antibiotics – increased health coverage remains a powerful tool to counter AMR's deadly menace and ensure our most precious drugs remain fit for purpose. This is so for a number of reasons.

First, increased access to health services – both prevention and treatment – boosts overall population health and diminishes the spread of infectious bacteria. This is especially important for poor or marginalised populations, many of whom lack adequate sanitation and hygiene and are therefore at greater risk of bacterial infections. Where infections do occur, increased access to quality health services may result in the more rational use of antibiotics – a critical outcome given that unnecessary use of antibiotics accelerates AMR. At present, an estimated two-thirds of antibiotics are consumed without prescription, in many cases inappropriately.

Second, better quality services can decrease healthcare-associated bacterial infections. Infections occurring in health facilities have an estimated prevalence of more than 10 per cent in low and middle-income countries, meaning advances in antibiotic stewardship and infection control – including the provision of adequate water, sanitation and hygiene – have the potential to reduce this burden dramatically. In similar fashion, better quality antimicrobial drugs will help ensure bacteria are destroyed rather than given the chance to mutate, while access to advanced diagnostic tools will help health workers identify and treat infections more effectively.

And third, policies that make healthcare more affordable, including by reducing out-of-pocket expenditure, can help increase access to antimicrobial drugs when they are needed. At present an estimated 70 per cent of out-of-pocket payments across the region are on medicines, including antibiotics. This makes access to effective treatment unnecessarily costly for poorer people, who may then purchase and consume incomplete courses of antibiotics, hastening AMR. If accompanied by more stringent treatment guidelines and revised incentive schemes, cheaper antibiotics have significant potential to advance both the Universal Health Care (UHC) and AMR agendas. One of the best ways to achieve this is via dissemination of high-quality information and advice to health workers and the general public. More and better information on the rational use of antibiotics will help health workers treat ailments more efficiently, while also helping relieve the pressure to prescribe antibiotics where their efficacy may be in doubt. Also, messaging that persuades the public that antibiotics aren't the 'cure-all' they have come to be known as will help ensure they are sought out only when necessary, reducing inappropriate consumption and the resistance it breeds. ■

Dr. Poonam Khetrpal Singh is World Health Organization Regional Director on Universal Health Care and Antimicrobial Resistance





Experts conducted measurements of air pollution in nine locations in six townships of Yangon Region. Kyimyindine has the highest level of air pollution among the townships. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH**

## Air pollution in Yangon exceeds WHO standard

AIR-pollution levels in some townships of Yangon Region exceed World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended levels, according to a report in yesterday's Myawady Daily.

Experts conducted measurements of air pollution in nine locations in six townships of Yangon Region. Nearly all of the sites where measurements were taken showed a high level of air pollution, exceeding the WHO recommended level.

The researchers also conducted air-pollution measurements in Kamayut, Hledan, Myaynigone, Mingaladon Industrial Zone, Sanchaung, Kyauktada, Kyimyindine, Tamway and Hlaing townships in September 2016 and November 2017. The air-pollution measurements were taken in crowded areas, heavy trafficked areas and near industrial zones. Kyimyindine has the highest level of air pollution among the townships in

the Yangon Region.

Yangon's air contains more dust and particles than is recommended. The main sources of air pollution in Yangon are industry and vehicles.

The diseases related to air pollution could be measured by monitoring sickness rates in the population. According to WHO data, upwards of 22,000 deaths per year in Myanmar can be traced to ambient air pollution.—GNLM ■

## Executive members elected for Myanmar Historical Society formed

Executive members were elected for formation of the Myanmar Historical Society on 9 December, 2017, at the Yangon University's History Department.

Dr. Toe Hla, Retired History Professor, delivered the opening speech at the ceremony. Retired Prof. Dr. Margaret Wong was elected as the chair-

person of the society; Prof. Dr. Maung Cho and Retired Prof. Mary Lon Pon as Vice-President (1) and (2) respectively; Prof. Dr. Moh Moh Than and Prof. Dr. Ye Ye Win as General Secretary (1) and (2); U Thiha Ko Ko, Prof. Dr. Oakka Mya, Dr. Zaw Soe Min, Associate Prof. Dr. Ko Ko Naing and Dr. Nay Win as secretaries; Dr. Thin

Thin Aye, Dr. Wai Wai Eain, Dr. Mi Mi Hlaing, and U Ko Ko Toe Lwin Thaw as treasures; Daw Win Win Maw, Daw Shwe Zin, U Tun Tun Nyein, Daw Aye Aye Moe, U San Tun Aung, U Nay Lin Mg Mg, U Tun Myint Aung, and Daw Aye Aye Myint as auditors, and other fifteen executive members were elected at the ceremony.—GNLM ■

## Stimulants worth Ks12,54 million seized in Mohnyin Township

FOUR people were arrested and 13.2 kilos of heroin seized yesterday in Mohnyin Township, Kachin State yesterday.

The arrests and seizure occurred after an anti-narcotics squad from Mohnyin searched two vehicles near the Aye Yeik Mon tea shop on

Mohnyin-Whaykha Road in Mohnyin Township at about 12:30 pm yesterday. Police discovered 1,100 soap boxes containing heroin in five gunny sacks.

The total amount of heroin weighed 13.2 kilos. Police detained Hlaing Myint, 30, Ko

Ko Lin Maung, 18, Zin Min Oo, 22, and Hlaing Han Tun, 21, and seized the drugs and two vehicles.

Police have taken action against them under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanmar Police Force ■

### MYANMAR GAZETTE

#### Appointment as Permanent Secretary

The Union Government has appointed Brigadier-General Aung Kyaw Hoe, from the Ministry of Defence, Union Minister's Office, as Permanent Secretary from the dates he assumes charge of his duties. ■

## Qatar Embassy in Yangon celebrates National Day held

UNION Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe and wife Daw May Yin Tun were welcomed by Qatar Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Hassan Bin Mohamed Rafel Al Emadi at a ceremony to mark Qatar National Day,

which was held at the Novotel Hotel in Yangon yesterday evening.

Also present were Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and invited guests.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe and wife are welcomed by Qatar Ambassador Mr. Hassan Bin Mohamed Rafel Al Emadi. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Myanmar Poverty Assessment Part Two released

A ceremony upon the release of the Myanmar Poverty Assessment Part Two was held on the morning of 12<sup>th</sup> December at Hotel Max in Nay Pyi Taw.

This report was jointly written by the Ministry of Planning and Finance and the World Bank.

The report presents a comprehensive poverty profile with the use of a revised and rebased poverty measure for Myanmar, based upon the Myanmar Poverty Assessment Part One, released on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2017, along with current integrated household expenditure data. The new revised report includes mobile phones ownership.

According to Part One of the report, the poverty rate has significantly declined since

2004. It fell from 48.2 per cent in 2004-2005 to 32.1 per cent in 2015.

Further, data compiled using updated and revised measures, indicated that 15.8 million people in Myanmar are living in a poor state. Of these, 13.8 million are rural residents, whereas 2 million are living in urban areas.

Attending the ceremony were 180 people, including Deputy Minister U Set Aung from the Planning and Finance Ministry, Ms. Victoria Kwakwa, the World Bank's Vice President for the East Asia and Pacific Region, and representatives, development partner organizations and officials from the ministry.—Myanmar News Agency ■



## Plan to make Emerald Green Project in Maungtaw region

THE Emerald Green Project, organized by Department for Rural Development, promotes increased living standards and a heightened socio-economic status for local residents in Maungtaw region.

Initially, the Department for Rural Development was to operate the project in only two villages beginning in the 2014-15 fiscal years, and later the project was to be extended to 29 villages during the 2017-2018 fiscal years. Under the Emerald Green Project, many sub-committees, such as the financial sub-committee and township supervisory committee, were formed to provide and supervise assistance to local people in this region. The committee offers small loans of up to Ks 300 lakhs to residents, in order to raise living standards.

According to interviews with local people, it was learnt that this project has helped the development of social and living standards in a number of ways.

U Aung Tha, a local farmer said, "I can expand my business with the help of cheap loans by farming and raising cattle on a manageable scale in my village." Also, Ma Thuzar, a local woman, said "I received a loan of Ks 500 lakhs, set up a shop in my village, and now can support my family." U Aye Aung Kyaw, from the village, added, "I did odd-jobs before, and could not earn enough money to support my family, but later I could plant beans and peas in the vegetable garden with the help of cheap loans." He added that he has already paid back the loan.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Schools reopened in Maungtaw

Due to the terrorist attacks of 25 August in Maungtaw region, 424 out of 650 basic education high schools, middle-schools and primary schools were closed.

As stability has been restored in the region, 82 schools in Maungtaw Township, 172 schools in Buthidaung

Township and 10 schools in Yathedaung Township, totaling 264 schools, were reopened and students were seen to be attending the schools.

Also, 112 schools in Maungtaw region will soon be opened, though 48 schools remain closed.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Workers harvest rice in Maungtaw with the use of harvestors. PHOTO: MNA

## Monsoon paddies of displaced harvested systematically

Rakhine State Government has formed a supervising committee for harvesting monsoon paddies for displaced people in Maungtaw region, which began harvesting on 26th October. It was learnt that there were a total of 6766 acres of paddy harvested, as of 12 December.

In harvesting monsoon paddies in Maungtaw region, there were 242 acres in Myo Thagyi village tract, 155 acres in Ohndaw village-tract, 360 acres in Kanpu village tract, 479 acres in Kyaung taung village-tract, 480 acres in Alei Than

Kyaw village tract, 203 acres in Nwayontaung village-tract, 144 acres in Wacha village-tract, 209 acres in Thandar village-tract, 339 acres in Myin Lut village-tract, 15 acres in Kyikanpyin village-tract, 29 acres in Thiho kyun village-tract, 110 acres in U-dong village-tract, 182 acres in Longdon village-tract, 332 acres in Aung Sitpyin village-tract, 165 acres in Sabeigone village-tract, 370 acres in Thabyaetaw village-tract, 186 acres in Zaw Matek Village-tract, 521 acres in Doe-tan village-tract, 280 acres in Ywathit-K village-tract,

331 acres in Kyauk Pandu village-tract, 280 acres in Tat Oo Chaung village-tract, 290 acres in Duchiyartan village-tract, 15 acres in Thayay Konetan village-tract, 343 acres in Thawun chaung village-tract, 155 acres in Ngakhura village-tract, 85 acres in Inn-din village-tract, 45 acres in Thinbawgway village-tract, 222 acres in Cheinkharli village-tract of Rathedaung township, 77 acres in Koetangauk village-tract and 96 acres in Thabyuchaung village-tract in Buthidaung township.—MNA ■



## Ownerless 95,000 stimulant tablets seized in Maungtaw

Local police seized stimulant tablets worth Ks1,900 lakh from a house owned by Swe Huak Husein in Maungtaw Township on 10 December. Acting on a tip-off, security forces inspected Ngakhuya village. Police discovered 95,000 WY/R stimulant tablets in an unoccupied house. While Alalthankyaw security forces were patrolling

the entrance of Thanda village on the evening of 9 December, police searched a suspicious looking man named Mammud Juba, 27, of Mawtula village. It was found that he fled while a survey was being taken in 2016. Police have taken action against him under the immigration law.—Myanmar Police Force ■

## Rights commission meets Muslims in Maungtaw

A Myanmar human rights delegation met with Muslim villagers gathering at a beach in Maung-taw to leave for Bangladesh, offering assistance to them for living in peace.

At the meeting, members of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission asked if their rights were violated in Myanmar and their obstacles and reasons why they decided to leave for the neighboring country. The delegation members pledged to provide

assistance to them if they want to live in peace in Myanmar.

Following the meeting, the members of the commission visited Kaingyi Village where Mro ethnic people, who fled from their villagers, are sheltering.

The new village of Kaingyi is under construction for Mro ethnic villagers, with 50 new houses constructed by Yangon Region Government, 64 houses by Bago Region Government and a school by Taninthayi Re-

gion Government.

They also visited the Muslim village of Pantawpyin (Middle) village and inquired the situation including the rule of law, education, health and livelihood of local villagers.

At the beginning of the trip yesterday, the delegation led by U Yu Lwin Aung and Dr. Myint Kyi, members of the commission, camps in Maungtaw where Hindu people are sheltering.—Myint Maung, Zeyar ■

## Two men held for Taka notes possession

TWO men were charged for allegedly possessing of ninety 500-notes of Bangladeshi Taka yesterday in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State. Police discovered the Taka notes in a car which was driven by Mau Ju Ahlu from Maungtaw Township. Another man namely Shawphi Armout, who was on board, was also arrested by the police.—Myanmar News agency ■





## Senior General calls on Nepal President, Nepal Prime Minister and Defence Minister

TATMADAW Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing who was in the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal called on President of Nepal H.E. Mrs. Bidhya Devi Bhandari at Presidential Hall, Kathmandu on the evening of 11 December.

Earlier in the day, the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief met separately with Nepal Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Sher Bahadur and Defence Minister Mr. Bhimsen Das Pradhan.

Later in the day, the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief and party attended a dinner hosted by Chief of Army Staff of the Nepali

Army Gen. Rajendra Chhetri and wife at the general's residence.

Yesterday morning, Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party visited Lumbini Garden, Lumbini where the Lord Buddha was born and donated cash for the maintenance of Lumbini Garden. They then went to Panditarama Lumbini International Sasana Beikman and viewed the places where devotees practiced meditation.

Next, the Senior General and party pay homage to Lawka Manisula Pagoda and then arrived to Myanmar Shwekyauung monas-



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends a dinner hosted by Chief of Army Staff of the Nepal Army Gen. Rajendra Chhetri at the general's residence. **PHOTO: MNA**

tery where homage was paid to chief monk Ashin Wateza Nanda and offerings made. From there, the Senior General and party

went to Kapilvastu District where the ancient city of Kapilavastu (Kapilavit) existed and viewed the area. The Senior General and

party then went on to Pokhara, the second biggest city of Nepal and toured the city. — Myanmar News Agency ■

## 23 developmental projects to be carried out in Maungtaw Township

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has allocated Ks 100 million of the developmental funds for each township across the country to be carried out the developmental tasks. "The allotted fund will be spent on implementation of 23 developmental projects throughout the township" said Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Kyaw Kyaw Win for Maungtaw Constituency.

Construction of 11 roads and 7 bridges, two water supply projects and other three developmental projects totaling 23 developmental projects will be implemented with the use of the allotted fund, he added.

The decision was made at the meeting between Maungtaw Township Administrator U Myint Khaing and the Hluttaw representatives at Maungtaw General Administration Department this morning.

The MP went on to say that the developmental fund was allocated in 2017-2018 fiscal year. Maungtaw area needs to be promoted the developmental works and respective department is striving for the rehabilitation in the area.

Likewise, the Hluttaw also makes efforts to implement the development works yearly. — Myanmar Digital News ■

## Japan, Myanmar groups band together to develop affordable housing

Construction industry associations from Japan and Myanmar are joining forces to develop affordable housing in the Southeast Asian country.

A pilot project will start in Myanmar's commercial capital Yangon as early as next month to build apartments designed for a family of four, showcasing Japan-made building materials.

The Japan-Myanmar Association for Industry of Housing and Urban Development recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association to carry out the pilot project.

The Japan-Myanmar group, formed in 2014 by construction firms, building materials makers and housing and property developers to contribute to Myanmar's construction and housing industries, will finance the project and provide necessary materials.

Construction will begin next month in the northern part of Yangon and a total of six units of two types — apartments and duplexes — for low- and middle-class families, are scheduled for completion in autumn.

The two industry groups plan to introduce Japan's construction expertise as well as

building materials and components for construction of modern apartments at affordable prices in one of the fastest growing economies in Southeast Asia.

Myanmar's population is expected to grow from the current 60 million to 90 million by 2040. The government is in the throes of providing affordable houses ranging in prices from 20 million kyat to 35 million kyat (\$14,700 to \$25,750) for low- and middle-income families while enhancing urbanization in major cities, the Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association says. — Kyodo News ■

## Distribution of postcards marking the 43<sup>th</sup> Rakhine State Day begins

THE postcards marking the 43<sup>th</sup> Rakhine State Day that will fall on 15 December are being distributed to the local people in the townships of Rakhine State as of today.

Under the guidance of the Information and Public Relations Department, the townships and districts IPRD staff

are distributing the postcards to the local people. The postcards were being distributed at Myoma market, bus station, jetties, airport and public areas. Moreover, the posters are erected at the public areas and the motorway intersections. — Myanmar Digital News ■

## 69 bailey bridges on Myanmar-Indian highway to be upgraded

SIXTY nine bailey bridges on the Kalewa-Kyigone-Tamu section, along with a new friendship bridge over Parhe Creek, Tamu Township, will be upgraded, using reinforced-concrete bridges, according to the Sagaing Region Road Transport Administration Department.

The Kalewa-Kyigone-Tamu section is located on the Myanmar-Indian friendship Highway in Sagaing Region.

The Myanmar-Indian friendship Highway is also a

part of Asian Highway (AH 1), connecting India, Myanmar and Thailand.

The work on reconstruction of bridges began on 1 December and is targeted to be completed in three years. The bailey bridges on Kalewa-Kyigone-Tamu section of Asian Highway (AH 1) will be upgraded using reinforced-concrete bridges, with the aid of India.

"All the bridges to be rebuilt are located in the Kalewa-Kyigone-Tamu section in Kalewa, Kalay and Tamu town-

ships, and will be carried out with the aid of India, including a new bridge over the Parhe Creek, which flows through Tamu Township as a friendship program. Ground measurements have been carried out since 1 December and will be completed in three years", said an official from Sagaing Region Road Transport Administration Department.

The new bridge is located 93.6 miles (milepost) from Kalewa Township. — Win Oo (Zayar Taing) ■



# South Korea's Moon, China's Xi to talk North Korea, trade in Beijing summit

SEOUL/BEIJING—Curb-ing North Korea's nuclear ambitions will top South Korean President Moon Jae-in's agenda in Beijing during a visit this week aimed at breaking the ice after a furious row over Seoul's deployment of a US anti-missile system.

While both South Korea and China share the goal of getting North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons and stop testing increasingly sophisticated long-range missiles, the two have not seen eye-to-eye on how to achieve this.

China has been particularly angered at the deployment of US-made Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) anti-missile system in South Korea, saying its powerful radar can see far into China and will do nothing to ease tension with North Korea.

At his third meeting



South Korean President Moon Jae-in. PHOTO: REUTERS

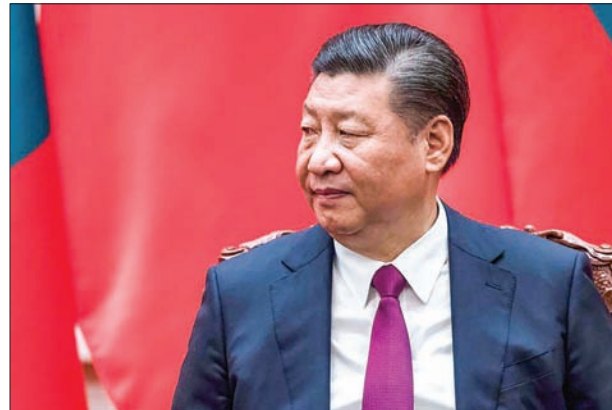
this year with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday in Beijing, Moon is expected to reaffirm South Korea's agreement with China in late October that they would normalise exchanges and move past the dispute over THAAD, which froze trade and business exchanges between the two.

The THAAD disagreement had dented South Korea's economic growth, especially its tourism in-

dustry, as group tours from China came to a halt while charter flights from South Korea were cancelled.

While China still objects to THAAD, it has said it understands South Korea's decision to deploy it.

In an interview with Chinese state television shown late on Monday, Moon said THAAD's presence was inevitable due to the looming North Korean threat but assured it would not be used against China.



China's President Xi Jinping. PHOTO: REUTERS

"South Korea will be extremely careful from here on out that the THAAD system is not invasive of China's security. South Korea has received promises from the United States multiple times regarding this," Moon said.

Joint efforts by China and South Korea could have "good results" if they work together to bring North Korea to the negotiating table, he added.

North Korea has

shown little sign it wants to engage in formal talks, with its state media citing leader Kim Jong Un as saying on Tuesday North Korea should develop and manufacture more diverse weapons to "completely overpower the enemy".

Kim was addressing a rare munitions conference on Monday to laud the North's latest intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).

North Korea last

month test-launched what it called its most advanced ICBM in defiance of international sanctions and condemnation as it presses on with its mission to create a nuclear-tipped missile that can hit the United States.

Speaking over the weekend, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Moon had chosen to have "friendly cooperation" with China, and China was willing to work with South Korea to bring peace and stability to the Korean peninsula. During his first visit to China since taking office in May this year, Moon is expected to get bilateral economic exchanges back on track. According to South Korean media, Moon will be accompanied by the biggest business entourage ever with more than 220 businesses taking part in the four-day visit.—Reuters ■

## Big investors press major companies to step up climate action

OSLO — More than 200 institutional investors with \$26 trillion in assets under management said on Tuesday they would step up pressure on the world's biggest corporate greenhouse gas emitters to combat climate change.

Two years to the day since 195 governments adopted the Paris climate agreement, investors including Pacific Investment Management Co, Amundi, Legal & General Investment Management, Northern Trust and Aegon said they aimed to work with the 100 biggest polluting companies to curb emissions under a five-year plan.

That, they said, would be more effective than threatening to pull the plug on their investments in such companies, which include Coal India, Gazprom, Exxon Mobil

and China Petroleum & Chemical Corp.

"We will be asking companies ... to curb emissions and bring them down in line with the Paris goals," said Anne Simpson, investment director of sustainability at the California Public Employees' Retirement System. That would mean roughly an 80 per cent cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, she told reporters on a teleconference, beyond the ambition of most companies.

The investors said they were also calling on companies to improve disclosure of greenhouse gas emissions, including those from the use of their products, and to step up governance of climate risks and opportunities.

French President Emmanuel Macron will hold a summit in Paris

on Tuesday to build on the 2015 climate accord, which has been weakened by President Donald Trump's plan to pull the United States out and instead bolster the US fossil fuel industry.

Under the investors' plan, divestment would only be a last resort. If big emitters refuse to cooperate with them, shareholders could ratchet up pressure with public statements, resolutions and votes.

Such measures can work, they said. In May, for instance, 62 per cent of shareholders in Exxon Mobil voted for greater transparency about climate risks of oil and gas despite opposition from the board.

"To talk about this as 'if you don't do what we want we're selling' in a way lets the companies

off the hook," said Stephanie Maier, director of responsible investment at HSBC Global Asset Management.

She said it was better to cooperate with major emitters because they contributed to droughts, mudslides, heatwaves and rising sea levels that threatened investors' other holdings. In the past, some big investors have divested from high polluting coal or from companies they judge to be out of line with the Paris agreement's goals.

Stephanie Pfeifer, chief executive of the Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change which is among those coordinating the five-year plan, said investors were increasingly looking for ways to align their portfolios with the Paris goals.—Reuters ■

### အိတ်ဖွင့်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

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## Female directors snubbed, Plummer surprises at Golden Globe nominations

LOS ANGELES — Women were shut out of the directors race at the 2018 Golden Globe nominations on Monday, while Ridley Scott's scramble to re-shoot "All the Money in the World" led to a surprise nod for actor Christopher Plummer, who replaced Kevin Spacey.

Greta Gerwig, who made her solo directorial debut with the warmly reviewed coming-of-age tale "Lady Bird," was snubbed in a category in which Scott, Guillermo del Toro, Martin McDonagh, Christopher Nolan and Steven Spielberg were nominated. Patty Jenkins, who delivered box office superhero smash "Wonder Woman," was also left out, along with directors Dee Rees, of Netflix Inc's racial period drama "Mudbound," and Kathryn Bigelow, of the racially charged drama "Detroit."

"It's a terrible shame, to be honest," said McDonagh, who wrote and directed small-town drama "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri." "I know there have been great screen-

plays by women recognized this year but not directing, and maybe that will change in the Oscars."

Gerwig, 34, was nominated for best screenplay for writing "Lady Bird," which also landed two acting nods for its star, Saoirse Ronan, and supporting actress, Laurie Metcalf.

Metcalf told Reuters that Gerwig's "Lady Bird" set was collaborative and stress-free.

"I'm spoiled rotten," Metcalf said. "She just made it a beautiful and personal experience for the entire cast and crew."

Scott's "All the Money in the World" received nominations for supporting actor Plummer and lead actress Michelle Williams in the drama about the 1973 kidnapping of oil heir John Paul Getty III. Plummer replaced Spacey last month in the role of Jean Paul Getty after Spacey was cut because of multiple sexual misconduct allegations against him. Spacey issued an apology for the first reported incident,

involving actor Anthony Rapp. Reuters could not independently confirm the allegations.

Scott did last-minute re-shoots to have the Sony Pictures film completed in time for its 25 December release.

"I am especially proud that the beautiful performances of Michelle and Chris were celebrated today," Scott said in an emailed statement. "Despite the unexpected challenges we encountered after shooting was completed, we were determined that audiences around the world would be able to see our film."

Other surprises included Vietnamese-American actress Hong Chau for her breakout role in the best supporting actress race for futuristic comedy "Downsizing." Other key snubs included Amazon's interracial romantic comedy "The Big Sick," which failed to land any nominations, especially for its star Kumail Nanjiani, who wrote the film with his real-life wife on the circumstances that brought them together. — Reuters ■



Nominees for the 75<sup>th</sup> Golden Globe Awards, Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture, Musical or Comedy category, (L-R) Steve Carell, Ansel Elgort, James Franco, Hugh Jackman, and Daniel Kaluuya are seen in a combination of file photos. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

## South Korean boy band EXO's "Ko Ko Bop" music video tops 100 mln views

SEOUL — South Korean boy band EXO's "Ko Ko Bop" music video topped 100 million views in the global video-sharing platform, the band's management company said on Tuesday.

The "Ko Ko Bop", a lead song from EXO's fourth full-length album "The War" released in July, surpassed 100 million views on YouTube about five months after its release, ac-

cording to SM Entertainment.

It sent the number of EXO's music videos topping the 100-million view to six, including "Overdose", "Growl", "CALL ME BABY", "Monster" and "Wolf".

The fourth album of the K-pop behemoth recorded a sale of 1,086,307 copies by the end of November, including the Chinese and Korean versions.

The sale of its reissued album titled "The War: The Power of Music" posted 506,485 copies by the end of last month.

The combined sales of original and reissued albums totaled 1,592,792 copies, becoming the best-selling album for the South Korea boy band.

The EXO was scheduled to release its special winter album on 21 December.—Xinhua ■



Celebrity chef Mario Batali talks during an interview with Reuters at his latest restaurant, Del Posto, in New York, US on 11 April, 2006. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

## Chef Batali exits company, TV show after sex harassment accusations

NEW YORK — Celebrity chef Mario Batali said on Monday that he has stepped away from his restaurant company and ABC said it asked him to step aside as co-host of a daytime food and talk show after he was accused of sexual harassment in a report by an online food trade publication.

Eater New York reported that four women, who were not identified, accused Batali of touching them inappropriately in a pattern of behaviour that spanned at least two decades. Three worked for the chef during their careers, according to Eater New York.

Batali said in a statement emailed by his representative Risa Heller, "I apologize to the people I have mistreated and hurt. Although the identities of most of the individuals mentioned in these stories have not been revealed to me, much of the behaviour described does, in fact, match up with ways I have acted."

"That behaviour was wrong and there are no excuses," he said. "I take full responsibility and am deeply sorry for any pain, humiliation or discomfort I have caused."

Reuters could not independently confirm the accusations.

Batali said in the statement that he was stepping away from day-to-day operations of his businesses as he works to regain people's trust and respect.

Batali's reputation as a master of seasonal Italian food turned him into a restaurant executive, television star, cookbook author and one of the world's

most recognizable chefs. He premiered on Food Network in 1997 on the show "Molto Mario" and in 2011 helped launch "The Chew" on ABC.

B&B Hospitality Group, which services about 24 restaurants owned by Batali and other chefs, said in an emailed statement that it takes such accusations seriously.

"We have had systematic policies and training about sexual harassment for over 10 years, including a detailed procedure for employees to report complaints to senior management," B&B Hospitality Group said. "All members of management have participated in these trainings, including Mr. Batali."

"Mr. Batali and we have agreed that he will step away from the company's operations, including the restaurants, and he has already done so," the company said in the statement.

The ABC Television Network, a unit of Walt Disney Co, said in a statement, "We have asked Mario Batali to step away from The Chew while we review the allegations that have just recently come to our attention."

"ABC takes matters like this very seriously as we are committed to a safe work environment. While we are unaware of any type of inappropriate behaviour involving him and anyone affiliated with the show, we will swiftly address any alleged violations of our standards of conduct."

Food Network said in an emailed statement that it was suspending plans to relaunch "Molto Mario" in light of the accusations. — Reuters ■





Seihan Mori, chief Buddhist priest of Kiyomizu Temple in Japan's ancient city of Kyoto, writes the kanji character "kita" meaning north with a calligraphy brush on 12 December, 2017. The character was selected as the single best kanji to symbolize the national mood for the year, referencing North Korea's missile launches among other things. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

## Kanji meaning north picked to symbolize 2017 amid N Korea threat

KYOTO — The kanji "kita" meaning north has been selected as the Chinese character best describing this year's social atmosphere in Japan, amid heightened nuclear and missile threats posed by North Korea, a Kyoto-based kanji promotion organization said on Tuesday.

Chief Buddhist priest Seihan Mori of the Kiyomizu Temple wrote the character 1.5 metres in length and 1.3 metres in width with a giant calligraphy brush on "washi," or Japanese paper, in the annual year-end event at the famous temple in Kyoto where the kanji of the

year was announced.

North Korea continued to demonstrate its intention to pursue nuclear and missile development programmes this year, conducting its sixth nuclear test and launching many ballistic missiles, including some that flew over Hokkaido in northern Japan.

Last year, the Japan Kanji Aptitude Testing Foundation picked the kanji "kin" meaning gold or money after Japan won 12 gold medals at the Rio Olympics and former Tokyo Governor Yoichi Masuzoe resigned over a political funds scandal. —Kyodo News ■

## Egypt reveals artefacts, mummy from tombs in ancient city of Luxor

LUXOR, Egypt — Egypt's authorities on Saturday revealed artefacts and a linen-wrapped mummified body, possibly that of a top official, from two tombs that were discovered two decades ago in the Nile city of Luxor but had not been fully unexplored.

The Ministry of Antiquities said the tombs, located in the Draa Abul Naga necropolis on Luxor's west bank, had been noted by German archaeologist Frederica Kampp in 1990s and were either unexcavated or had never been entered.

Along with the mummy, archaeologists found painted wooden funeral masks and sev-

eral hundred carved statues, likely dating around the end of Egypt's 17<sup>th</sup> Dynasty or the start of the 18<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, the ministry said.

Egypt's relics are a draw for foreign visitors and authorities hope new finds can help attract more as a way to help revive tourism hit by unrest that followed the ouster of former President Hosni Mubarak in 2011.

In September, Egyptian archaeologists announced the discovery of a tomb of a prominent goldsmith who lived more than 3,000 years ago, unearthing statues, mummies and jewellery in the latest major find near Luxor. —Reuters ■

## Time-honoured Japanese inn rebuilds business using modern technology

TOKYO — A century-old Japanese-style inn southwest of Tokyo that nearly went bust amid outdated management practices has successfully rebuilt its business, thanks to an injection of modern technology.

Jinya is a 20-room hot-spring inn in the Tsurumaki spa resort in Hadano, Kanagawa Prefecture, about an hour by train from Tokyo's Shinjuku Station. Established in 1918, it is known among Japanese "shogi" chess enthusiasts as the venue of countless title matches.

"Jinya had a debt of 1 billion yen (\$8.9 million) and was on the brink of bankruptcy when my husband took over as the fourth president in 2009," said Tomoko Miyazaki, 40, who succeeded her husband Tomio, 40, in June as the current president.

Although born into the family-owned business, her husband had no intention of carrying on the company. After completing his studies at Keio University graduate school, he worked as a fuel cell researcher at a major automaker. But he took over the business when his father died around the time his second child was born and his mother fell ill, effectively making Tomoko the proprietress of the Japanese inn.

"The management was super-analogue at that time," she recalled. "When we took reservations, we wrote them down in a big ledger book. So when someone else was using the book, we couldn't write down new reservations."

A message board was located near the kitchen, but it was

hard for the working staff, who were dispersed over a wide area in the spacious inn, to check on a regular basis.

"A customer once requested that the futon in the room not be taken up but since the message was never conveyed to the staff we ended up with a complaint from the guest," she said.

The inn suffered a serious slump when corporate group tours fell sharply in the wake of the global financial crisis triggered by the collapse of US investment bank Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc in 2008.

Jinya saw its revenue plunge to 290 million yen in fiscal 2009 from around 500 million yen in previous years. The inn had 20 full-time employees and 100 part-time workers and their work hours were recorded in a notebook. "We thought they were working too much overtime, but we didn't really have a handle on their working hours and were burdened with labour costs," Miyazaki said.

Tomio, who was president at the time, later formulated a system called "Jinya Connect" in 2010 to introduce fundamental improvements with everything from customer data and reservations to food price management, accounting and an email bulletin board. Nowadays, all workers wear earphones and carry smartphones or tablets to communicate the arrival of guests or the times to serve meals, for example.

Not only can all staff members immediately hear what is being said but the conversations are automatically converted to

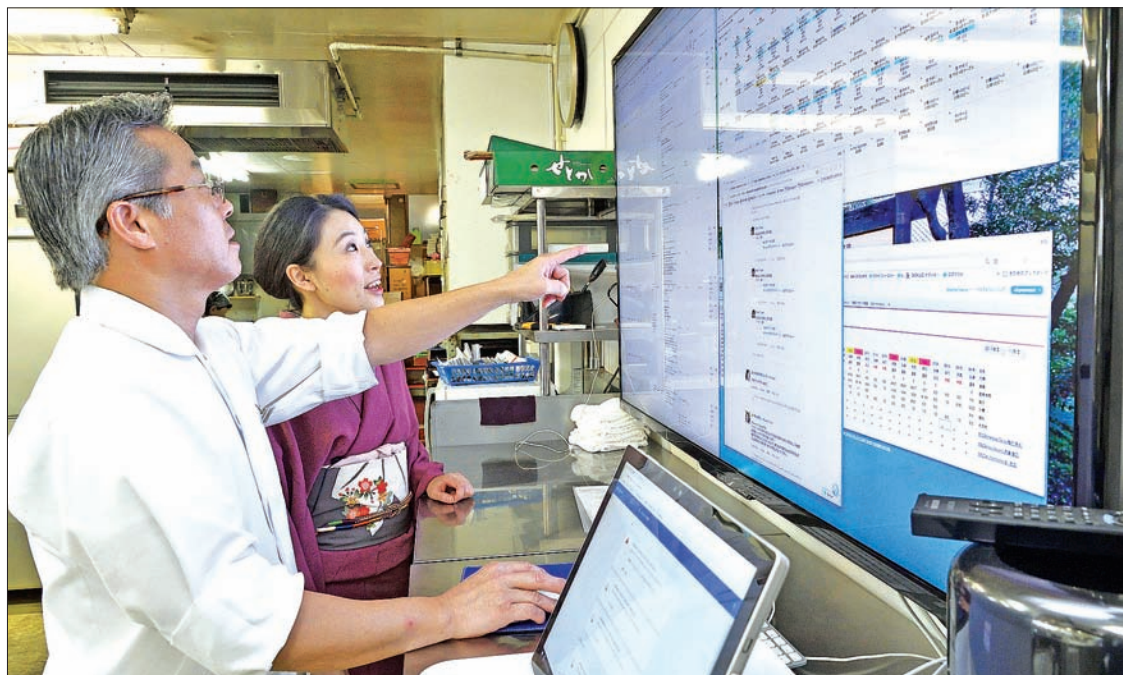
text format on their respective devices — allowing them to check previous conversations and eliminate the chance of missed communications. "At first it took 15 minutes for part-time employees in their 70s to log in. But everybody made great efforts to learn the system because they have to log their work hours by smartphone or tablet in order to get paid," Miyazaki said.

The inn was also able to do away with time-consuming staff meetings since all messages are conveyed by company chat, and the use of computers for automatic computations eliminated the need for an accounting section.

Streamlining enabled Jinya to cut its workforce to 40, 25 of whom are full-time employees. The inn says the quality of service has improved due to the increased proportion of regular staff. To streamline even further Jinya stopped accepting guests on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, when it has a relatively small number of guests — a rare move for a Japanese inn. This became a major reason for young people applying for jobs there.

Jinya Connect has been sold as a cloud-based management system for hotels and inns and has been adopted by 230 facilities in Japan for an initial installation fee of 100,000 yen and a monthly charge of 3,500 yen per employee.

"We once had reduced the lodging expenses, but we have reinforced the bridal business and shifted to prime services now, including high-quality meals," Miyazaki said. —Kyodo News ■



The staff of Jinya, a Japanese-style inn in Hadano, Kanagawa Prefecture, neighboring Tokyo, check a screen in the kitchen displaying guest information on 10 November, 2017. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**





Mina Tanaka (L) of Japan breaks free of China's defence to score during the first half of a women's match in the E-1 Football Championship at Fukuda Denshi Arena in Chiba on 11 December, 2017. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

CHIBA, Japan — Former women's world champions Japan edged China 1-0 on Monday to make it two wins out of two at the E-1 Football Championship.

Mina Tanaka scored her second goal of the four-team East Asian tournament in the first half to settle the contest at Chiba's Fukuda Denshi Arena.

North Korea also have six points thanks to a 1-0 win over South Korea at the same venue in an earlier match and lead the standings on goal difference ahead of Japan.

"It was a really tough game but I am glad we could come through with a win," said Japan

coach Asako Takakura.

Japan can clinch their first championship title in three editions of the tournament with victory over North Korea in the final match on Friday.

"That is not going to be an easy match to win and we have to go in there feeling we are challengers and give it everything we have," said Takakura.

Japan started brightly and Mizuho Sakaguchi forced China goalkeeper Zhao Lina into a smart save on three minutes.

The home side took the lead midway through the first half, Tanaka netting from 12 metres after racing onto Emi Nakaji-

ma's through ball.

"It was a great ball from Emi and all I had to do was put it away," said Tanaka, on target in Japan's 3-2 opening win over South Korea. "There are a lot of things we have to work on looking at today's performance but it is huge that we were able to come through a lot of tight spots to see out the game."

China almost hit back in the 62nd minute, but Japan goalkeeper Sakiko Ikeda got down to push away a low shot from Wang Shuang.

Substitute Mana Iwabuchi should have added a second goal for the Japanese but scuffed her

shot wide after breaking through on goal in the closing stages.

Earlier, a glancing 18th-minute header from Kim Yun Mi was enough to earn North Korea victory over South Korea.

"The players battled well," said North Korea coach Kim Kwang Min.

"The win came through mental toughness and teamwork (but) I think the players are not satisfied at having only scored one goal."

On Tuesday in the men's tournament at Tokyo's Ajinomoto Stadium, North Korea play South Korea and Japan face China.—Kyodo News ■

## Myanmar in Group C at 2018 AFC Futsal Championship

Kyaw Zin Tun

MYANMAR national futsal will compete in Group C at the 2018 AFC Futsal Championship, which will be held in Chinese Taipei, Taiwan from 1 to 11 February, 2018.

This will be the 15th edition of the AFC Futsal Championship, the biennial international futsal championship organized by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) for the men's national teams of Asia.

Sixteen teams will play in the tournament. Group A includes Chinese Taipei, Viet Nam, Malaysia and Bahrain, while Group B will be made up of Uzbekistan, Japan, Tajikistan and South Korea. Iran, Iraq, China and Myanmar are in Group C, while Thailand, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon and Jordan are in Group D.

Each team must register a squad of 14 players, with a minimum of two members who can play as goalkeepers. The group stage matches will be played from 1 to 6 February. The quarter-finals matches will be played on 8 February, semi-finals matches will be played on 9 February and the final match will be on 11 February.

All matches will be played in two venues in two cities, including at the University of Taipei Gymnasium, Taipei and Xinzhuang Gymnasium, New Taipei City. ■

## Myanmar U-21 draws with Viet Nam at U21 International Football tournament 2017

Kyaw Zin Tun

THE Myanmar U-21 football team drew with Viet Nam U-19 football team at the U21 International Football tournament 2017 at Can Tho Stadium, Viet Nam, yesterday evening.

The Myanmar U-21 football team was largely composed of U-19 players. The Myanmar U-21 football team line up included

goalkeeper Phone Thitsar Min and players Kyaw Thu Tun, Ye Yint Aung, Win Moe Kyaw, Than Htike Zin, Myat Kaung Khant, Zayar Naing, Kyaw Myint Win, Aee Soe, Zwe Thet Paing and Zin Min Tun.

In the game, the goal for Myanmar was scored by Aee Soe at 48 minutes, while the equalizer for Viet Nam was scored by Nguyen Khac Khiem at 80 min-

utes. After that, the two teams worked to score the winning goal, but the game concluded in a draw.

"The Myanmar team was only recently formed. Therefore, they lacked a training period. My footballers played very well in today's game. We will try during the next game to have better results than today", said Myanmar chief coach U Kyi Lwin at a press conference held after the match. ■



Myanmar footballer (red) in action with Viet Nam players (white) at Can Tho Stadium, Viet Nam on 12 December. **PHOTO: MFF**