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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 249, 5th Waxing of Pyatho 1379 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Friday, 22 December 2017



Tourists on U Bein Bridge in Mandalay. Vice President U Henry Van Thio called for development of new tourist sites. **PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE**

VP U Henry Van Thio calls for sustainable tourism plans

VICE President U Henry Van Thio called for exploring new traditional tourist attractions nationwide while also developing sustainable tourism in Myanmar.

“Apart from creating new tourism routes and new attractions including natural tourist attractions, we need to combine innovation with the natural resources to create more

choices for tourists to visit in Myanmar,” said Vice President U Henry Van Thio yesterday.

He made the remarks as the Chairman of the Central Committee for the Develop-

ment of the National Tourism Industry (CCDNTI), at the coordination meeting of the committee in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

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Anti-trafficking revised law to be instituted

By May Thet Hnin

THE Anti-trafficking in Persons Revised Law is expected to be approved by parliament in early 2018, said U Khin Maung Kywel, police superintendent of the anti-human trafficking police force.

“The amended law has been submitted to Hluttaw and it is likely to be approved in early 2018, he said.

The Anti-trafficking in Persons Law was enacted in September 2015 and was revised after seeing the merits and demerits that were revealed after the original law came into force.

“There is no remarkable amendment regarding crime and actions, but a new chapter was embodied in this law. In the current Anti-trafficking in Persons Law, anti-human trafficking police can firstly only report suspicious situations. According to the new chapter, they will be authorised to follow up, investigate and then take action against traffickers”, said Khin Maung Kywel.

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BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

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Myanmar human rights body releases statement on detained journalists

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission released a statement yesterday regarding the arrest of two journalists. Following is the full text of the statement .

Statement by the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission on the arrest of two journalists

Statement No.(14/ 2017)

1. It was learnt that two Yangon based Reuter journalists, Ko Thet Oo Maung (a) Ko Wa Lone and Ko Kyaw Soe Oo (a) Ko Moe Aung were found in possession of important security documents obtained from members of the police security company who had served in Butheedaung and Maungdaw area of Rakhine State and apprehended on the night of 12 December 2017 in Htauk Kyan, Mingaladone Township. A case has been opened against them at the Htauk Kyan police station under FIR No.1298/2017, Section 3 of the Myanmar Official Secrets Act 1923.
2. The Commission received a complaint that the two journalists had been denied access to family visit, and that there was no information on their whereabouts and no access by lawyer for their defence.
3. In this regard, the Commission would like to urge the authorities concerned to ensure that they enjoy human rights they are entitled to, including non-infliction of torture, provision of health care and allowing access to visits by family and lawyer during detention.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission
Dated: 21 December 2017

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Heads of service organizations confirmed and appointed

1. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of U Myo Myint Maung, Director-General, Minister's Office of the Ministry of Information on the expiry of one-year probationary period.
2. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Saw Win Maung, Chief Engineer, Electricity Supply Enterprise under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy as Managing Director of the same office on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.—Myanmar News Agency ■

U Win Myint receives UNICEF representative to Myanmar



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint meets UNICEF representative Ms. June Kunugi at the hall of the Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw on 21 December. **PHOTO: MNA**

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint received Ms. June Kunugi, UNICEF representative to Myanmar, yesterday at the receiving hall of the Hluttaw

building in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to education, health care, nutrition, water, cleanliness and protection of chil-

dren. Attendees at the meeting were Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myant and officials of the Pyithu Hluttaw. —Myanmar News Agency ■

U Win Myint receives Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) delegation

SPEAKER of the Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint received a delegation led by H.E. Mr. Wang Weiguang, President of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall at the Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to the success of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, bilateral relations between the governments, parliaments and people. Next, they exchanged their views on peaceful co-existence and mutual support.

Attendees at the meeting were Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat, officials of the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar, it was learnt.—MNA ■



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint shakes hands with CASS President Mr. Wang Weiguang at the hall of the Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw on 21 December. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung holds talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Mr. Wang Yi in Beijing on 21 December. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung meets with Foreign Affairs Minister of China

AT the invitation of the government of the People's Republic of China, a delegation led by Union Minister for Border Affairs Lieutenant General Ye Aung travelled to China and met with Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China Mr. Wang Yi

yesterday morning at the hall of Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beijing.

At the meeting, they discussed the matters relating to peace and stability and socio-economic development of residents in border region, hu-

man resources development of the ethnic people in the border region, China's cooperation in reconciliation works of Myanmar and the work of the Myanmar Government on Rakhine State's development, long-term peace and stability.—MNA ■

Vice President U Myint Swe attends traditional medicine practitioners' conference

THE work committees for organizing the 18th Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference met yesterday at the Ministry of Health and Sports, at which organizing committee patron Vice President U Myint Swe urged all to participate.

In his speech to the committee yesterday, U Myint Swe said the conferences had been held successfully for 17 years not only because of the Ministry of Health and Sports but also related ministries who have cooperated.

"As such, all are urged to cooperate as they always have in this 18th conference", Vice President U Myint Swe said.

The 18th traditional medicine practitioners' conference is being held with four aims: all-round development of the

Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners community and increasing the quality of Myanmar traditional medicine; raising the ethics and dignity of Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners; to provide more public health protection through Myanmar traditional medicine; and development of Myanmar traditional medicine to better and improve Myanmar traditional medicine. This year's Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners' conference will be held as in past years on 12 January and will be attended by Hluttaw representatives, representatives of ministries, traditional medicine council members, members of traditional medicine advisory groups, traditional medicine producers association mem-



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the work committees for organizing the 18th Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference on 21 December 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

bers, representatives of local non-governmental organizations, and about 400 states and regions conference delegates. The organizing committee needs to work together with sub-committees systematically for the success of the conference. Although much experience has been gained from the past conferences, all need to strive hard so that nothing is missing, said the Vice President.

Organizing committee chairman and Union Minister

for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe explained about the works conducted so far to achieve good results from the conference.

Organizing committee secretary and Ministry of Health and Sports Permanent Secretary Professor Dr. Thet Khaing Win and joint secretary Department of Traditional Medicine Director General Dr. Daw Yi Yi Myint reported on the status of completed works and attendees provided discussions and suggestions.

The traditional medicine practitioners' conference organizing committee was set up by the President's Office on 7 December 2017 with six members, including the Vice President, who were assigned six duties. In order to conduct the assigned works successfully, a work committee and nine sub-committees were formed. Starting in 2000, the conference has been held six times in Yangon and 11 times in Nay Pyi Taw.—Myanmar News Agency ■

VP U Henry Van Thio calls for sustainable tourism plans

FROM PAGE-1

He said systematic plans should be laid down for development of the country's tourism sector, as it is blessed with abundant tourism resources compared to neighbouring countries.

Despite the abundance of natural scenery and tourist attractions, the number of visitors to Myanmar still remained below expectations, U Henry Van Thio said.

More than 2.9 million foreign visitors visited Myanmar in 2016, and as of the end of October 2017, a total of 3.1 million foreign visitors had visited, an increase of 20 per cent compared to the same period last year.

The slow growth should be increased through retaining current growth momentum, and all need to pitch in and do this, the Vice President said.

The Asian countries of Thailand, the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the United States, and European countries including France, Britain, and Germany are seen to have the highest numbers of visitors to Myanmar. These countries need to be



Vice President U Henry Van Thio addresses the meeting for sustainable development of the country's tourism plans on 21 December 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

targeted especially so that more will come. At the same time, countries from which not many visitors are coming but have the potential to increase need to be selected and promoted with market development works to raise interest in Myanmar so that there'll be increase in the number of foreign visitors.

"While there is a need to promote Myanmar to the world as a place of interesting places to attract tourists, there is also a need to provide convenient

and safe services and safe food to visitors when they visit Myanmar," said U Henry Van Thio.

He also highlighted other important points, including availability of visa-on-arrival at main entry airports, direct flights from international countries, and visa-free entry to nationals of countries that are set as target countries as the way to achieve success and development for a country's tourism industry.

He also called on private

sector to cooperate with governmental departments for promoting the country's tourism industry.

"Those who are concerned with tourism are obliged to refute fake news that can damage the image of the country, as the development of the tourism industry depends upon the image of the country," said U Henry Van Thio.

The Vice President also stressed the need for stability to attract tourists.

Following the address of U Henry Van Thio, U Yi Mon, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, suggested to announce the National Tourism Policy and to take into consideration suggestions of the Hluttaw Tourism Law Drafting Committee to the Draft Tourism Law. He also discussed policies related to the sale of alcohol in the excise law, a tourism tax, issuing special visas to tourists and establishing an e-tourism working group.

Union Ministers U Kyaw Win, U Kyaw Tin, U Thein Swe, Thura U Aung Ko, U Ohn Win and Dr. Myint Htwe, and deputy minister U Kyaw Myo, Permanent Secretary U Tin Myint, the chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council and chief ministers of regions and states, took part in the discussions at the meeting.

President of Myanmar Tourism Federation U Yan Win also suggested that the government supply funds for tourism development, open border entrances and give visa exemptions to visitors from ASEAN countries, China, Japan and South Korea.—Myanmar News Agency ■

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.comPrinted and published at the Global New
Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at
No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan
Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light
of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No.
00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.gnlmdaily@gmail.com
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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.

Anti-trafficking revised law to be instituted in early 2018

FROM PAGE-1

The amended law was jointly formulated by local and international experts. The Union Attorney General's Office, the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Police Force, the Myanmar Police Force, the International Labour Organization and UNICEF conducted frequent negotiation meetings.

According to trafficking victim statistics released by the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Police Force, there were 102 crimes in 2013, 124 crimes in 2014, 131 crimes in 2015 and 2016 and 290 crimes this year as of November 2017.

The area where the highest number of cases occurred was Yangon Region with 54 cases, followed by Shan State with 52 cases. Twenty-nine trafficking-in-persons cases were reported in Kachin State, while Ayeyawady and Mandalay regions recorded 18 and 14 cases respectively. The Myanmar Police Force has taken action against a total of 609 people suspected of human trafficking.

"Punishment and sentences against human traffickers should be as they deserve. We hope to have more updated law", said Daw Mi Ki Kyaw Myint from the Asia Foundation.

According to the 2016 Trafficking in Persons Report, there



Illegal migrants from Myanmar sit on a bus as they travel to a district court at Tha Sala police station in Nakorn Si Thammarat province in Thailand, on 6 May 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

are seven types of trafficking crimes, with 69.7 per cent of trafficking caused by forced marriage, 13.6 per cent by the sex trade, 10 per cent by labour exploitation and forced labour, 4.8 per cent by child trafficking, 1.4 per cent by slavery, 0.3 per cent by forced fostering and 0.2 per cent by sexual exploitation.

According to reports of transnational human trafficking, 80 per cent of victims are traded to China, 10 per cent to Thailand, and 6 per cent to Malaysia. Domestically, there is 4 per cent occurrence of domestic trafficking in persons. Women account for 85 per cent of trafficking victims, including

minor females. Child trafficking constitutes 4.38 per cent of the crimes.

Myanmar cooperated with China and Thailand to combat trafficking in persons, opening liaison offices. Myanmar is one of the anti-trafficking actors in the region and Great Mekong Sub-region. ■

Coffee plantation zone planned for Kayin State

A plan is underway to set up a coffee plantation zone on 5,000 acres in Kayin State, mainly involving Thandaunggyi Township, according to a report yesterday in the Myawady Daily.

Both highland and lowland coffee varieties will be cultivated in the coming coffee season, officials said.

In addition to Thandaunggyi Township, Leiktho Township is also projected to be involved.

The agriculture department will distribute coffee seeds varieties to growers free of charge. Of the 50,000 acres of coffee plantation across the country, about 40,000 acres are for highland coffee. At present,

more than 9,800 acres of coffee plantation have been developed in Kayin State, Shan State, the main coffee producer, has 27,000 acres of coffee plantation.

Ywangan coffee beans, globally recognized as a specialty coffee, is in high demand. Myanmar's Arabica is exported to ten countries including Thai-

land, Malaysia, China, the US and Taiwan.

Myanmar's coffee is mostly produced in Ywangan, Pyin Oo Lwin, Naungcho and Mogok townships.

This year coffee export volume amounted to 100 tons compare to that of previous years.—GNLM ■

Buddha Pujaniya festival of Kyaik Khauk Pagoda to be celebrated

THE pagoda board of trustees of Kyaik Khauk Pagoda in Thanlyin Township, Yangon Region will organize the nine-day Buddha Pujaniya festival from 24 January to 1 February 2018 on a grand scale.

The pagoda board of trus-

tees is planning to include consecration, Paritta recitation ceremony, golden leaf and lighting offering ceremony, meal offering ceremony, traditional Htamane competition, traditional Chinellone contest, traditional Lethwei competi-

tion and funfairs.

The Kyaik Khauk Pagoda festival is one of the largest festivals in Myanmar, attracting crowds of pilgrims throughout the country. Many stalls exhibiting and selling local products across Myanmar can be seen at

the festival.

Offering of golden leaf to the pagoda will be held during the festival under the guidance of the pagoda board of trustees. Those who wish to donate can call 09-799458009.—Thet Khaing (Thanlyin) ■



Fishes are seen in a net at a fish farm in Htantapin township, outside Yangon. PHOTO: REUTERS

Local freshwater fish supply in Mandalay Region inadequate

By Aung Thant Khaing

THE lack of locally raised freshwater fish in Mandalay is resulting in about 40,000 to 50,000 visses of fish to be sent daily into the Mandalay market from Yangon, as the supply in Mandalay Region cannot meet the demand, said U Hla Win, the director of the Fishery Department.

“We can see a vividly insufficiency of supply in Mandalay, seeing the inflow of fish from Yangon. Fish harvested in Mandalay is sent to Mogok town and Kachin State. Fish production in the region cannot keep up with

that of Ayeyawady and Bago regions, he added. There are over 270 fish ponds and 8,000 fish farming lakes in Mandalay Region. Fish farming lakes produce only 1,500 to 2,000 visses of fish an acre, whereas production in Yangon, Bago and the Ayeyawady delta is 2,500 to 3,000 visses of fish per acre. A viss is equal to 1.6 kg.

“Commercial fish farming lakes are seen as lesser than small-scale farms. The main problem is the lack of advanced technology” U Hla Win said.

Thiri Mingala market is a wholesale and retail market of

fish. More than seven trucks loaded with nearly 30,000 visses of fish are daily entering the market. Mandalay’s daily production is over 20,000 visses. Freshwater fish such as rohu, pomfret, river catfish, etc are sent mainly to Myitkyina market, according to the Kabarkyaw fish and prawn depot.

“Freshwater fish production in Mandalay region is low due to weaknesses in technology. Government subsidies are also required to enhance the fishing sector”, said U Kyaw, owner of the Kabarkyaw fish and prawn depot. ■

Vehicle and auto parts import value down by US\$239 million as of 24th November

IMPORTERS specialising in car parts have had their business volume decrease by about half due to vehicle import policy changes for 2018.

The import value of vehicles and auto parts as of 24th November this FY decreased by US\$239 million from last FY, according to the Commerce Ministry.

According to new policy, model year 2014 is the oldest model limit for most of the vehicle imports in 2018. Also, only

vehicles with left-hand drive are allowed to be imported under the new policy. After easing vehicle import restrictions in 2011, more than 886,200 vehicles with an estimated value of US\$10 billion were imported.

Between 1st April and end of October this FY, the vehicle import value reached \$802 million and auto parts imports fetched \$99 million.

This vehicle import policy affects cars imported with a slip

as a return of deregistration of old vehicles, cars imported under the consignment system, individually imported cars, black-licensed cars, vehicles for religious use, mini-buses, passenger buses, vehicles donated from abroad, fire trucks, ambulances, hearses, state-owned vehicles, and machinery which cannot be legally driven on public roads such as excavators, bulldozers, and asphalt finisher. —HtetMyat ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း: **"Sunday Special"** အချက်အလက် (၈)
မျက်နှာပေါ်သော The Global New Light of Myanmar
နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကို အောက်ပါမြို့များတွင် ဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

"Sunday Special"
အချက်အလက် (၈) မျက်နှာ
ပေါ်သော

နေပြည်တော်
ပြည်ထောင်စုတော်ကြီးများ၊ ရုံးအမှတ် (၇) နေပြည်တော်၊
သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရုံးချုပ်)၊
စီမံခန့်ခွဲမှုဌာန၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၄၁၂၁၀၈

နေပြည်တော်
နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တပ်ကုန်း)
ဇယားသစ်မြို့နယ်၊ ခရိုင်လမ်းမ၊ နေပြည်တော်၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၃၆၁၄၈၊ ၀၆၇၃၆၁၂၉

ရန်ကုန်
The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊
ငါးထပ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ဗဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၉၀၆၀၅၇၃၂၊ ၀၉၀၆၀၅၇၃၂၁၁၁

မန္တလေး
လမ်း (၂၀ x ၂၀) ကြား၊ (၁၂ x ၁၃) လမ်းကြား၊ ပုလဲခွေ
ရောင်းရင်း၊ မန္တလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၂၃၂၇၂၉၊ ၀၂၃၂၇၅၀

တောင်ကြီး
ရုံးကြီးလမ်း၊ သစ်တောရပ်ကွက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့၊
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မကွေး
နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ တပ်မ (၈) တပ်နယ်ဈေးအနီး၊
မကွေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၃၂၃၇၁၂

ကချင်ပြည်
မြို့နယ် (၃-၈) အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းသွယ်၊ မြို့နယ်လမ်း၊
ကချင်ပြည်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၄၂၂၇၉၂

ကလေး
အောင်ဇေယျာရပ်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊
ကလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၂၁၃၃

မြန်မာပြည်
အမှတ် (၄၁)၊ ရေခဲရပ်ကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊
မြန်မာပြည်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄၂၂၄၆၂

စစ်တွေ
ရထားတံလမ်းနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊
မီးခတ်ကြီးအနီး၊ မန်ကျည်မြို့ရပ်ကွက်၊ စစ်တွေမြို့၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃၂၃၀၆၈

လားရှိုး
ဟူးမွန်ကျေးရွာထိပ်၊ ဟူးမွန်ဆည်ဘယ်ဘက်ခြမ်း၊
(၁၂) ရပ်ကွက်၊ မန်ကျည်ရုံးအရှေ့၊ အဝေးလမ်း၊
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ခြောက်
မေတ္တာလမ်း၊ ရှမ်းချောင်းရပ်၊ ကလေးကျေးရွာအုပ်စု၊
ခြောက်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၉၄၂၁၀၃

မော်လမြိုင်
ကြာအင်းကျေးရွာ၊ မော်လမြိုင်မြို့၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၅၇၂၇၂၅၊ ၀၅၇၂၇၂၆

ပုဏ္ဏား
နန္ဒဝန်ရပ်ကွက်၊ ဆက်သွယ်ရေးတံတိုင်းအနီး၊
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Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint receives US Ambassador to Myanmar

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint received U.S. Ambassador to Myanmar H.E Mr. Scot Marciel yesterday afternoon at the hall of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to the measures of the government to tackle issues in Rakhine State, international points of views, and the condition of two Reuters reporters who have recently been arrested. They also exchanged their views on freedom of press in Myanmar, it was learnt. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint holds talks with US Ambassador Mr. Scot Marciel and delegation in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Republic of the Union of Myanmar President's Office Order 33/2017

4th Waxing of Pyatho, 1379 ME
21 December, 2017

Approval of Judge of the High Court of the Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw

The following persons are appointed Daw Yin Yin Han as Judge of the High Court of the Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw, in accordance with the sub section (b) sub-section (4) under Article 308 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and sub-section (d) under the Section 82 of Union Government Law and Section 45 of Union Judiciary Law and sub-section (d) under the Section 18 of Region or State Government Law.

*Sd/ Htin Kyaw
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar*

Solar street lamps installed in Sapugan Village, Kawhmu Township

A ceremony to install solar street lamps (SSLs) donated by the Chungnam Center for Creative Economy and Innovation under the Myanmar Saemual Undong Project was held Monday in front of the Township Agriculture Department office in Kawhmu Township and in Sapugan Village in Kawhmu Township.

At the event, Department of Agriculture Deputy Director General U Aye Ko Ko delivered an opening speech. Next, Chungnam Center for Creative Economy and

Innovation President and Yangon Region constituency 2 hluttaw representative U Zaw Min Aung delivered speeches and Sapugan Village Myanmar Saemual Undong Project committee member U Myo Min Aung gave a speech of appreciation. Afterward, a sign board announcing the SSL installation was ceremoniously unveiled by Department of Agriculture Deputy Director General U Aye Ko Ko, Yangon Region constituency 2 hluttaw representative U Zaw Min Aung and officials

from Chungnam Center for Creative Economy and Innovation.

The attendees then viewed the laying of concrete roads in Sapugan Village and the installation of SSLs. Sapugan Village is implementing the Myanmar Saemual Undong Project for the second year after being able to accomplish the requirements and was provided with a basic support fund from Korea equivalent to US\$20,000 in 2016-2017 and another US\$20,000 in 2017-2018. — Min Myat Oo (NaPaTa) ■



Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin inspects the construction area of four-storey building for Sittway General Hospital. **PHOTO: MNA**

Sittway General Hospital, Satyokya bridge inspected

DEPUTY Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin inspected the construction sites of the Satyokya bridge project and the 500-bed Sittway General Hospital four-storey building project on Wednesday. Firstly, construction deputy minister inspected around working area of the four-storey, 500-bed Sittway General Hospital. Then, the deputy minister inspected around the working area of Satyokya

Bridge being constructed by bridge department construction 2, bridge special group-8. Afterwards, staff from Building Department, Road Department, Bridge Department and Rural and Housing Department, and Rural Development Department explained about future projects and the deputy minister coordinated on the explanations made. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Merchants are seen at the final day of the 2017 Mid-year Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium. **PHOTO: MNA**

Jade and Gems Emporium concludes

THE tenth and final day of the 2017 Mid-Year Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium was successfully held yesterday at Mani Yandana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Emporium lasted for 10 days starting from 12 December; during which gems and jade worth 439.35 million euros were sold to merchants.

Out of 935 jade lots, 661 lots worth 76.092 million euros were sold to merchants under an open tender system yesterday.

A total of 4,432 local and international gem merchants visited the emporium yesterday.

In the afternoon, a list of the total amount of jade and gems sold was officially released at the registration office in Mani

Yadana Jade Hall, followed by a question-and-answer session between the media and officials.

A total of 32 gem lots worth 767,000 euros and 5,054 jade lots worth 438.583 million euros were sold under the open tender system in the 2017 Mid-Year Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium. — Myanmar News Agency ■

SE Asian librarian's conference to be held

THE 17th Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians (CONSAL XVII), jointly hosted by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and the Myanmar Library Association, will be held from 2 to 5 May 2018 in the Myanmar International Convention Centre-2 (MICC-2).

Those who want to attend and/or participate in the exhibition are to invite to register at www.consalxvii.org/registration or www.consalxvii.org/exhibition. Groups and individuals are also invited to donate money or souvenirs for the successful

holding of the event.

Contact numbers of secretariat members are

U Aung Myint, Director General, Department of Historical Research and National Library, 067-3408383

Daw A Win, Vice Chairman (1), Myanmar Library Association, 09-250354354

Daw Mya Oo, Director, National Library (Nay Pyi Taw), 09-420728446

Dr. Kaythi Aye, Assistant Director, National Library (Nay Pyi Taw), 09-43065266. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Thura U Shwe Mann meets U.S. Ambassador Mr. Scot Marciel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Thura U Shwe Mann receives US Ambassador to Myanmar

CHAIRMAN of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Thura U Shwe Mann received U.S. Ambassador to Myanmar H.E Mr. Scot Marciel yesterday morning at Hluttaw Affairs Building I-11 in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, matters relating to conditions nec-

essary for the democratisation process, stability and development of the state and bilateral relations and cooperation were discussed.

Attendees at the meeting were commission member U Ko Ko Naing, and other officials of the commission. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu discusses programmes for Rakhine State development with First Secretary Mr. Yusuke Matsuoka of Embassy of Japan in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu receives Mr. Yusuke Matsuoka

RAKHINE State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and state cabinet members received First Secretary Mr. Yusuke Matsuoka, Embassy of Japan in Yangon and party yesterday afternoon at the chief minister's hall in State Government Office.

In the meeting, Mr. Yusuke

Matsuoka discussed the status of providing aid for schools, buildings, electricity and transportation requirements and spoke about participating in programmes to be continued for Rakhine State development either directly through the government or via international

organisations. The State Chief Minister and state ministers in return discussed Rakhine State development works.

Eighty schools are planned to be built with the aid of Japan. Sixteen schools have already been built. — Tin Tun (IPRD) ■

Police donate blood at Sittway General Hospital



A policeman donates blood at the Sittway General Hospital in Sittway, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

A collective blood donation ceremony of police personnel in Rakhine State was held yesterday morning at the meeting hall of Sittway General Hospital, Sittway in Rakhine State.

Rakhine State Minister for security and border affairs Colonel Phone Tint delivered an opening speech and Sittway General Hospital's deputy superintendent Dr. Khin Maung Than expressed words of thanks.

State Minister for security and border affairs Colonel Phone Tint then gave presents

and Vice Superintendent Dr. Khin Maung Than presented certificates of honour to the 115 police members who had donated blood.

Present at the ceremony were State Minister for security and border affairs Colonel Phone Tint, acting chief of state police force colonel Min Zaw Oo, police officials and officials from Sittway General Hospital. Food supplements and medicines were distributed to the police personnel who donated blood. — Han Lin Naing (Sittway IPRD) ■

Monsoon paddy harvested in Rakhine State by Agricultural Mechanization Department

AREAS of Rakhine State that were affected by terrorist attacks were facing difficulties in harvesting monsoon rice, prompting the Agricultural Mechanisation Department to deploy harvesters.

A total of 8,043 acres in Myothugyi, Ohntaw, Kanpu, Kyaungtaung, Alethankyaw, Nwayonetaung, Wah Cha, Tandar, Myinloat Kyikanpyin, Thihokyaung, U Daung, Laungdon, Aung Sit Pyi, Sabaegone, Thapayataw, Zawmatat, Dohtan, Yawthitkay, Kyaukpadu, Tat U Chaung, Duchiyarton, Thayaygonton, Thawanchaung, Ngkuya, Indin, Thinbawgwe, Kanyinton, Nyaungchaung, Natchaung, Thatkinehnar, Panyaungpingyi and Pantaungbyin villages in Maungtaung township were harvested from 26 October to 20 December. Rice fields in seven village groups of Sittway such as Chaungnwe, Partalat, Thinganet, Kywitay, Kankawkyoung, Mangan and Naryeekan villages were reaped with machineries and it is learnt from the Department of Mechanized Farming that an estimated 522

acres were finished from 30 October to 20 December.

Similarly, 881 acres in Pyahla, Hsinyoshae, Myatyekkyoung, Gwasone, LayHnyinthar, Youtchaung, Ahlaezay, Theinnyo and Kanzaung villages from Mrauk U Township were harvested from 5 November to 20 December. Also, 506 acres in Htaungshae, Kinseik, Mawya, Pharypyaw, Taung Thaik, Ngapukwa, Winzar, Nayan and Ngarpaechaung villages, and U Soe Tint ward from Minbya Township were harvested from 7 November to 20 December, it is learnt. A further 610 acres in Phonenar, Lanmadaw, Daungtawyo, Kardi, Saphothar, Ah-

poukwa and Garpu villages from Kyauktaw Township were harvested from 8 November to 20 December while 298 acres in Chinkharlein and Khotone villages from Yathittaung Township were harvested from 8 November to 6 December. And 96 acres in Thapyuchaung village from Buthidaung township was harvested from 10 November to 20 December. While 20 acres in Ngapyauksae village in Phonarkyoun Township, from 17 to 20 December. Also, a total of 8 acres in Laungchaung village in Kyaukpyu Township was harvested from 19 to 20 December, it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Harvesting paddy in the field in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

Thousand-year-long unity of glamour and prestige

THE State Counsellor and the Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw gave respective addresses on December 18 at the Kayin New Year Day celebrations which falls on Kayin Era 2757 1st Waxing of Pyatho, held at the Myanmar International Convention Center 2 in Nay Pyi Taw. Similar celebrations were held in festive mood across the nation, it was learnt.

Kayin New Year Day has been celebrated annually in Myanmar for 79 years. The Kayin New Year Day held since prior to gaining Myanmar's Independence while living under the colonial rule shows strength of unity of Kayin nationals living in the Union of Myanmar.

Over one hundred national ethnic races have been living in harmony and understanding in the Union of Myanmar since many years ago. Though being different in names such as Shan, Chin, Kachin, Mon, Bamar, Rakhine, Kayin and Kayah, we are all family members belonging to the Unique Family—the Union of Myanmar.

Traditional ceremonies of national ethnic races, their cultural festivals and festive events show that we never stand alone in separation, instead we coexist sharing throes, woes and happiness throughout our history, with family spirit like members of the same family. Since time immemorial, these national ethnic races had settled down here in the country. We all can be said to be family members living in the unique family, “the Union.”

With the strength of our unity and determination, our Union can stand tall amongst all other nations.

By nature, human beings go about far and wise for greener pastures, so now our nationals as well have been in many parts of the world. So, our planet is now being called the Global Village. Though living far apart from each other, we are all family members of the same Union, hence the need to live in unity and with family spirit. Mortals have different souls and minds, thus sometimes they may have different views and attitudes. Sometimes they may be disintegrated by ill-willed outsiders.

Whatever it is, we must preserve our cultural heritages handed down to us by our ancestors—simplicity, loyalty and open-mindedness. It is our historical obligations to preserve our ancestral cultural heritage of specific characteristics of similar national ethnic races including Kayin nationals, so that they will remain intact for generations to come.

With the strength of our unity and determination, our Union can stand tall amongst all other nations. It will be a grand grace and honour for us. Simultaneously, we must take lessons from the events when we were disunited by subversions of evil-minded outsiders, so that we will be able to co-exist eternally on this planet.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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



Hilly region of Chin nationals beginning to brighten from darkness

By Min La Pyae

S NOW-CAPPED mountains were overwhelmed with cool atmospheres. Ranges of mountains are situated as high walls from north to south. Eucalyptus, cherry and tree rhododendrons are growing in mosaic, on a vast land. Colorfully decorated houses made of bricks and corrugated iron sheets cannot be seen any longer in the dark whereas abodes with colorful electric bulbs are brightening on tops of the mountains. This is a scene on Chin hilly regions which are beginning to enjoy the nascent progress in the inhabitants' social life due to the availability of electricity.

Chin State consists of 9 town-



A Chin ethnic girl returns home carrying basket. PHOTO: TIN WIN

ships—Haka, Htantalan, Phalan, Titein, Matupi, Mindat, Kanpetlet, Paletwa and Tonzan and other 6 towns. Until now, electricity had been supplied to Haka, Phalan, Htantalan, Mindat, Kanpetlet and Khaing Kam town from the National Power Grid Line, using 9.5 megawatt.

On October 19, 2017 U Min Naing, director of department of power supply and control, project for power distribution [Northern] explained to responsible officials of Chin State Government, “Mindat and Matupi are 220 miles far by road, but so as to save national finance and to distribute power to the public in the shortest power grid line we unavoidably to send it, passing Nat Ma Taung National Garden of 26.5 miles in length. Nat Ma Taung forest reserve from milestone 50 to 68 must be passed. For distribution of power not only in urban areas but also in rural areas, arrangement and necessary calculation should be made for acquisition of hydro power supply, because local villagers are feeling unhappy as they have no access to use electricity, though they are seeing gridlines passing their villages.”

To the great delight of the local populace, 51.9 mile long 66 KVA gridline and 66/11 KV 5 MVA Matupi transformer started to be implemented, starting from FY 2017-2018. Gridlines are to be installed with great difficulties, even at the risk of lives at the places of cliffs, summits of the hills and some slopes, especially nearby 15 villages in Mindat township, namely—Dautdwe, Sheinparo, Shi, Ayetharyar, 40 mile village, Yaunglaung, 51 mile village, Twidein, Layshi, Hintone,

Yantein-A, Yantein-B, Chanpyan-B and across two creeks-Mone Chaung and Lei Myo Chaung.

And, surveys are underway for construction of 16.3 mile long 66 KVA Thaingngin-Titein power gridline to be sent from National Power Gridline system and Titein transformer, starting from FY 2017-2018.

Though Titein transformer was targeted to be built on the flat ground between football playground of Titein SHS-2 and Office of Meteorology and Hydrology, it must be transferred to another as it is very close to MPT Fiber Cable. But, along the 66 KVA Thaingngin-Titein power gridline there are no forest area, hence no need to perform the tasks of land process.

Sulin, Thaingngin, Fort White, Arlwei, Sozem, Saungpee, Deinlo, Sezen and Titein villagers are situated near the gridline. Suitable route will be 16.3 miles only long to rebuild Thaingngin-Titein gridline. In FY 2018-2019 suitable route will be found to go round twice via Kalay to Chin State, without depending upon power gridline coming from Gantgaw in future. But surveys have not been done yet. It will be a great pleasure for local people and town dwellers.

As of FY 2018-2019, 37-mile-long

66 KV power gridline from Kyauktaw in Rakhine to Paletwa in Chin State, extension of Kyauktaw transformer and construction of Paletwa transformers will be implemented. Surveys had started since FY 2017-2018.

While building up Kyauktaw-Paletwa power gridline, it was learnt that the line had passed 4.41 miles within Kaladan reserve forests no. 5 and 4. It will go through Wagin, Winsu and Shwepyi villages in Kyauktaw township.

In installing 66 KV gridlines, the Ministry of Electrical Power and Energy will carry out the tasks—to choose the shortest route as much as possible, to choose the nearest place to roads so that maintenance work can be easily done, to choose suitable routes for potential loading in future, to abide by rules and regulations concerning farmers' possession and farming land, to avoid going near to hills and mountains, bridges, swamps and cliffs, religious edifices, schools, airport and military bases. It is difficult to find suitable routes as the work is generally done on hilly regions.

In installing 66 KV gridlines, suitable routes had been chosen to avoid villages, towns and civilian areas as much as possible from beginning to end, so as not to destruct social environment. Construction of TV Masts,



A Chin woman with hand-made traditional ear-plugs and beads. PHOTO: TIN WIN



POEM

In My Little Garden

In my poor, little garden grew colonies of weeds
while in theirs were sown little flower seeds.

Here, in my garden, I'd been busy weeding
while in theirs sprouted up delicate seedlings.

I've been weeding, weeding, for how long?
till the sweat from my brow touches the ground.

Red, red roses, already blooming in their garden!
Poor me, I haven't finished unloading this weeding burden.

Zaw Tun



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

South East Asia is one of the richest biogeographically and biodiverse parts of the world. Myanmar being located at the heart of South East Asia is one of the most significant biodiverse nation rich with virgin forests and spectacular wildlife. Unfortunately though in spite of the best efforts by the government agencies and non-government organizations, poaching is still continuing in various parts of the country unrestricted and unmonitored. The rich wildlife as well as major and minor forest products are being exploited and looted at an alarming rate depleting the precious natural resources. The silent and unseen presence of highly organized international poaching and wildlife trafficking groups both inside the country as well as highly sensitive and porous international border regions backed by illegal wildlife markets operating in different pockets of Asia is responsible for this serious depletion of wildlife and natural forests in addition to other anthropogenic factors like infringement into forested areas, illegal settlements around forest belts, infrastructural developments in forested areas without paying much attention to ecological sensitivity of the region as well as pollution and related reasons. Stringent monitoring and surveillance along with coordination between various departments will be essential in curbing poaching. The socio-economic conditions of the people living around fringe forest areas, forest inhabitants, tribal communities and remote settlements in sensitive border areas need to be improved for finding sustainable success in the conservation of natural resources.

Thanking you
Sincerely yours
Saikat Kumar Basu

Translated by Khin Maung Oo

“Nationalism should not be ‘racialism’ or ‘chauvinism’, it must not be a narrow-minded racial doctrine based on the concept that only one’s own race should rule the world. Loving one’s own race should not mean hatred and disdain for other races, it should be a nationalism that makes countries across the world work for mutual prosperity in friendship and amity.”

(Excerpt from the address delivered by General Aung San at the Fourth Meeting of the State Leaders held in August, 1945)

The Beauty of Myanmar's Traditional Dance



Photo: Min Min Tun

Third batch of youth volunteers in Sittway to conduct humanitarian assistance

THE third batch of youth volunteers arrived at Sittway, Rakhine State yesterday morning to help with the humanitarian assistance, resettlement and development projects of Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD).

The third batch of 46 youth

volunteers, with 30 men and 16 women, will leave for Maungdaw this morning by Shwe Pyi Tan Express boat.

The young volunteers will meet with local ethnic people and conduct humanitarian aid to the people in the villages and towns in Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships, Rakhine State.—Win Min Soe (IPRD) ■



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents the best cadet award to cadet Khin La Pyae at the 4th Intake Women Graduation of the Defence Services Army Officer Training School in Hmawbi. **PHOTO. MNA**

SG Min Aung Hlaing at fourth graduation of female army cadets

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing attended and addressed the 4th Intake Women Graduation of the Defence Services Army Officer Training School in Hmawbi, Yangon yesterday.

The Commander-in-Chief was saluted by the graduating cadets, who then stood for an inspection by the Commander-in-Chief. The cadet company then conducted a quick march and slow march past the Commander-in-Chief.

Next, the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief presented the

best cadet award to cadet No. 21, Khin La Pyae.

In his speech to the women cadets, the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief said the Officer Training School is taking in graduate females with an aim for women to participate in national defence duties and to train and produce female officers. Those who passed are now serving in the Tatmadaw army, navy, and air as female officers as well as in support forces. Some female officers have already passed the special forces (female) courses, while some female air force

officers are starting to train as female pilots. The cadets who are graduating now need to take on assigned duties based on the training provided said the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief.

Later in the evening, Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the dinner honouring female officers who graduated from the 4th Intake. The Senior General greeted each graduating female officer and then shared dinner with them and their families.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Ministers, Rakhine State Chief Minister tour Maungdaw relief camp

UNION Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu inspected Taung Pyo Letwei Relief Camp in Maungdaw yesterday afternoon. They met the locals and coordinated plans to be carried out in the region.

The Union Ministers and Rakhine State Chief Minister then proceeded to Thit Ton Nar Gwa Sone and Oh Htein villages, where houses are be-

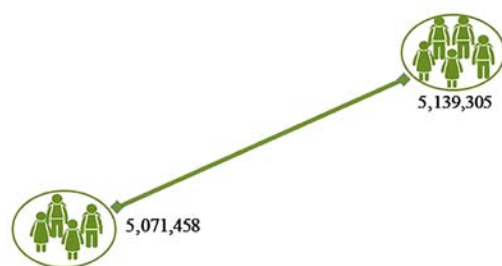
ing built for local Myo races and Hindus. They asked the officials concerned how the process was proceeding and coordinated for them to attend to their requirements. The Union Ministers also inspected the houses or those who fled to Bangladesh. They inspected Hla Poe Khaung Village, where repatriated residents could stay temporarily after returning to their native villages.

During the inspection tour, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung, Permanent Secre-

tary for Labour, Immigration and Population U Myint Kyaing, Police Brig-Gen Mya Win and UNHCR Assistant Representative Ms Cacile Srado were accompanied by the ministers and parties.

According to the pact between the Myanmar and Bangladeshi governments, efforts are being made in order to scrutinise and accept the people who fled to other countries and the process of resettlement will be resumed in the last week of January, 2018, it was learnt.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Number of Primary School Students in Myanmar



Source: Ministry of Education
Information Unit: Central Statistical Organization

1,150 tablets of WY/R brand drugs caught in Maungtaw



SECURITY forces seized 1,150 psychotropic drug tablets in Myoma Taung Ward, Maungtaw Township yesterday afternoon.

According to information received, security forces searched Aminur and Zafaw Ahmet of Maung Ni Village on Mi Set Gyi East Road, Myoma Taung Ward, Maungtaw Town-

ship and found 1,150 psychotropic drug tablets inscribed with the WY/R logo in a white sack. The tablets were in 23 packets, with each packet containing 50 tablets, for a total of 1,150 tablets worth about Ks2.3 million. A case has been opened while the investigation continues.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Electro-fishing blamed for dead dolphin in Sagaing

By Aung Thant Khine

A dolphin was found dead with its belly slit open on Sunday in Kyaukpone Village, Sagaing region, according to Htee Gye-in township Fisheries Department. The female dolphin was found buried near the village, officials said.

“We assume that it was killed because of electric fishing. We will take the bones of dolphin after 3 months later. The dead dolphin has a circumference of 4 feet 8 inches and 7 feet in length. The weight of the dolphin is over 50 viss,” said the official. According to Wildlife Conservation Societies (WCS), the number of Ayeyawady dolphins found in the protection zone was 72 in 2008. That number declined to 65 in 2016. Four



dolphins died in 2011, 5 in 2012, 5 in 2013, 3 in 2014 and 3 in 2016.

The Ayeyawady River, from Mingum to Kyauk Myaung in Sagaing Region, was designated as a wildlife protection zone in 2005.

To protect the Ayeyawady dolphin, an endangered species, the Fisheries Department conducts a survey every year with the assistance of WCS. They also conduct awareness campaigns to the villagers. ■

700,000 visitors to Kyaiktiyo pagoda within two months

More than 700,000 people visited Kyaiktiyo pagoda from October to December this year, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

A total of 773,685 visitors travelled to Kyaiktiyo pagoda during those two months, including 36,317 tourists and 737,368 local visitors, said U Soe Naung Oo, a Kyaiktiyo pagoda board of trustee.

In fiscal year 2016-2017, the Kyaiktiyo pagoda hosted a total of 705,725 visitors, including 24,212 international travellers

and 681,513 local travellers.

This year, the number of people visiting Kyaiktiyo pagoda has significantly increased when compared to the same period of last year.

According to statistics provided by pagoda trustees, Thailand topped the list of origin countries for tourist arrivals to the pagoda, followed by China. In addition, the pagoda saw an increase in the number of visitors from South Korea, Japan, the US, France and Germany.

Previously, the pagoda site

charged a Ks6,000 entrance fee for each tourist. Beginning from 5 October 2017, the authorities will increase the entrance fee to Ks10,000 per person, it is learnt.

According to trustee statistics, the numbers of tourists visiting the pagoda were: 14,743 in January, 13,787 in February, 12,725 in March, 7,397 in April, 7,658 in May, 5,128 in June, 5,651 in July, 4,666 in August, 5,302 in September, 10,858 in October and 17,114 in November.

—GNLM ■

ADVERTORIAL

CAMPANA .mythic



The latest Internet content to Myanmar at greater speed than ever

YANGON, MYANMAR – 15th December 2017 9:00 a.m. Campana MYTHIC Co. Ltd., a joint venture company with Singaporean based Campana Group Pte. Ltd., today announced the commercial availability of International Gateway Services via its Trans-ASEAN Network, connecting Myanmar to Singapore via Thailand over terrestrial and submarine fibre-optic cables. The Campana Network will bring the latest Internet content to Myanmar at greater speed than ever before with unprecedented guaranteed service levels. Commenting on the commercial availability, Campana Group's CEO, Dr. Myo Ohn, said, “This is a proud moment for Campana and for Myanmar as the first truly independent international gateway operator with its own end-to-end OTN redundant network goes into service, offering IP Transit service in Yangon. However, this is just the

start. In the coming months, we plan to use this extremely resilient network to roll out additional services including IP-VPN, IP-Sec, and PaaS.”

The project to build the Campana Network has been supported by Campana's main shareholders, U Thein Htwe from Myanmar, and AIT and Loxley from Thailand. At a Press Conference held today in Yangon at the Melia Hotel, U Thein Htwe, Executive Director of Campana MYTHIC, said, “I have been involved in supporting Campana from an early stage and was instrumental in defining the unique route of the Campana Network which crosses the border between Myanmar and Thailand at Htee Khee and Phunamron respectively. We believe that this unique route diversity gives Campana a major competitive advantage in the increasingly competitive market for wholesale and B2B telecom services.” About Campana Campana Group Pte. Ltd., a Singapore-registered company, is the owner and operator of an international terrestrial and submarine telecommunications network connecting Campana PoPs in Myanmar, Thailand, and Singapore. Campana MYTHIC Co. Ltd. (Campana) is a joint venture company of Campana (Myanmar) Co. Ltd. and Singapore-based Campana Group, with its operating office in Yangon, Myanmar, registered under the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC). <http://www.campanaworks.com>

Stronger winds loom as crews make progress on California wildfire

LOS ANGELES — Crews battling Southern California's sprawling wildfire made incremental progress in containing the two-week-old blaze but faced forecasts for stronger winds on Wednesday that threatened to make it the biggest in state history.

Firefighters halted the spread of the so-called Thomas fire at 272,000 acres (110,100 hectares) as of Tuesday and carved containment lines around 60 per cent of its perimeter, up from 55 per cent, a coalition of fire and law enforcement agencies said.

With progress being made against the blaze - which has scorched the dry coastal mountains, foothills and canyons of Ventura and Santa Barbara counties northwest



Emergency crews block a roadway as flames spread from a Santa Ana wind-driven brush fire called the Thomas Fire near Ventura. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

of Los Angeles — officials said they had cut the number of firefighters to 6,500 from a peak of 8,500 over the past few days.

However, wind gusts from the north were ex-

pected to accelerate to 50 miles per hour (80 km per hour) at sunset on Wednesday and continue into Thursday, creating extreme fire danger conditions for Santa Bar-

bara County, the National Weather Service said.

Ventura County, which has taken the brunt of the fire, is likely to experience 40 to 50 mph (64 to 80 kph) winds on Thurs-

day and Friday, it said.

Fire managers were cautiously optimistic that they could protect populated areas against the predicted return of stronger winds, but were not letting their guard down.

"We are not out of the woods yet on this fire," Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown told reporters on Tuesday. "As we are all aware, this fire has proven to be very stubborn and very unpredictable."

Brown said some 2,000 of the county's evacuees were allowed to return to their homes on Tuesday.

The Thomas blaze, which became California's second largest wildfire on Tuesday, is nearly as large as the 2003

Cedar fire in San Diego County, which consumed a record 273,246 acres (110,579 hectares) and killed 15 people.

More than 1,000 homes and other buildings have gone up in flames, and about 18,000 structures remained listed as threatened since the fire started on 4 December. The cause has not been determined.

One firefighter died last Thursday near the town of Fillmore in Ventura County.

The Thomas fire was initially stoked by hot, dry Santa Ana winds blowing with rare hurricane force from the eastern desert, spreading flames across miles of drought-parched chaparral and brush in California's rugged coastal terrain.—Reuters ■

Borussia Dortmund bomb suspect to stand trial for attempted murder

FRANKFURT — A German-Russian man suspected of detonating three bombs targeting the Borussia Dortmund soccer team bus in April is due to appear in a German court on Thursday, charged with 28 counts of attempted murder.

The team was heading to the club's stadium for a Champions League match against AS Monaco on 11 April when the explosions went off, wounding Spanish defender Marc Bartra and delaying the match by a day.

Letters left at the scene had initially suggested Islamist militants were behind the bomb attack, but prosecutors later said the 28-year old suspect, a

dual German and Russian national identified as Sergei V., was motivated by greed.

The attack near the Signal Iduna Park stadium, the largest in Germany, holding more than 80,000 fans, had nonetheless revived memories at the time of the November 2015 attacks in Paris that targeted entertainment venues including the Stade de France where France were playing Germany in a soccer friendly.

The start of the trial also comes only days after the anniversary of a deadly truck attack at a Berlin Christmas market, which killed 12 people and put the issue of security at the heart of political debate

in Germany.

Prosecutors have alleged that the suspect in the Borussia bus bombing had hoped the attack would force down the club's share price, reaping him a profit on an investment.

He had bought options on the day of the attack entitling him to sell shares in Borussia Dortmund at a pre-determined price. But shares in BVB actually rose after the attack and are up 18 per cent so far this year.

In addition to the attempted murder charges, the Dortmund prosecutor's office also accuses the suspect of inflicting grievous bodily harm and of causing an explosion.—Reuters ■

Plastic found in mussels from Arctic to China — enters human food

OSLO — Tiny bits of plastic are contaminating mussels from the European Arctic to China in a sign of the global spread of ocean pollution that can end up on people's dinner plates.

Mussels in apparently pristine Arctic waters had most plastic of any tested along the Norwegian coast, according to a study this month by the Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA).

Plastics may be getting swept north by ocean currents and winds from Europe and America, ending up swirling around the Arctic Ocean, NIVA researcher Amy Lusher told Reuters.

"Microplastics have been found in mussels everywhere scientists have looked," she said.

Past surveys have found microplastics off nations including China, Chile, Canada, Britain and Belgium. Off Norway, the molluscs contained on average 1.8 bits of microplastic — defined as smaller than 5 mm long (0.2 inch) — with 4.3 in the Arctic.

Last year, Chinese researchers suggested that mussels could be a global "bioindicator of microplastic pollution" because the molluscs live on the seabed where many plastics end up and, unlike fish, stay in the same place.

The impact of microplastics' on marine life or humans when eaten is unclear. Scientists suspect you would have to eat vast amounts of shellfish to be at risk, straining even Belgian diets where mussels and French fries are a favorite dish.

"It's a warning signal that we need to do something about reducing the input of plastic to the ocean," Richard Thompson, a professor at Plymouth University and an expert on microplastics, told Reuters of the worldwide finds.

"It's a cause for concern at the moment rather than an alarm story for human consumption," he said. Almost 200 nations signed a UN resolution this month to eliminate plastic pollution in the

seas, ranging from bottles to supermarket bags and food packaging, estimated at 8 million tonnes a year.

Thompson's research has shown that extremely high levels of plastics in the seabed can harm animals such as lugworms living in the seabed and build up in their tissues.

Most bits of plastic, however, simply pass through the guts of creatures from shellfish to humans. Thompson said human exposure to microplastics in seafood was likely to be below that from everyday plastics ranging from toys to fleece jackets.

China and the European Union are the top producers of farmed mussels in a global business worth \$3 billion. And scientists want to find out if microplastics might cause mussels or oysters to make pearls - in nature often produced to combat natural irritants like sand.

Pearls might raise the value of some shellfish but also break the teeth of unlucky diners, Lusher said.—Reuters ■

Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 25th (Monday)
December 2017 "CHRISTMAS DAY",
under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

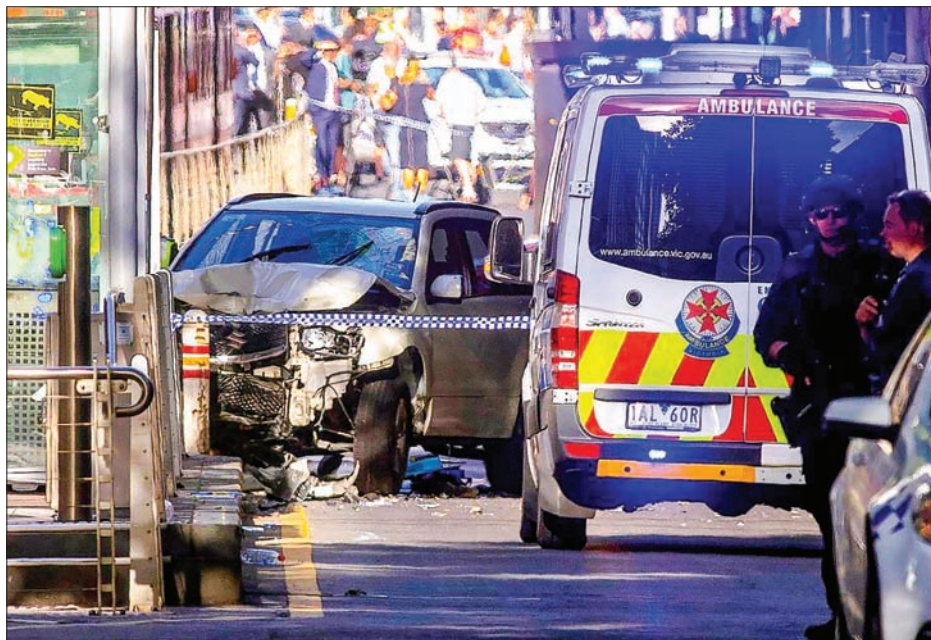
Australia police say don't suspect terrorism after car ploughs into pedestrians

MELBOURNE — An Australian man of Afghan descent with a history of mental health issues drove a car into Christmas shoppers in the city of Melbourne on Thursday, injuring 19 people, but police said they did not believe the attack was terror-related.

In January, four people were killed and more than 20 injured when a man drove into pedestrians just a few hundred metres away from Thursday's attack. That too was not a terror attack. Jim Stoupas, the owner of a donut shop at the scene, told Reuters the vehicle was travelling up to 100 kph (62 mph) when it drove into the intersection packed with people, hitting one person after another.

"All you could hear was just 'bang bang bang bang bang' and screams," Stoupas said in a telephone interview, adding the car came to rest by a tram stop.

Police said they detained the 32-year-old driver, an Australian of Afghan descent with a history of



Australian police stand near a crashed vehicle after they arrested the driver of a vehicle that had ploughed into pedestrians at a crowded intersection near the Flinders Street train station in central Melbourne, Australia, on 21 December 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

assault, drug use and mental health issues.

"At this time, we don't have any evidence or intelligence to indicate a connection with terrorism," said the acting chief commissioner of Victoria State, Shane Patton. Four of the injured were in critical condition, including a pre-school aged boy who

suffered a head injury. Police also detained a 24-year-old man at the scene who was filming the incident and had a bag with knives. Patton said it was "quite probable" the 24-year-old was not involved. The men had not been charged and their names have not been released by police. The attack took place on Flinders

Street, a major road that runs alongside the Yarra River, in the central business district of Australia's second-biggest city.

Melbourne has installed about 140 concrete bollards in the city centre to stop vehicle attacks by militants similar to recent attacks in Europe and the United States. —Reuters ■

Japan cybersecurity survey finds 20,000 fake shopping sites

TOKYO — A cybersecurity survey has found that around 20,000 fake shopping sites were in operation in the second half of this year, Japan's National Police Agency said Thursday, warning that the sites are designed to swindle money from unsuspecting shop-

pers. Most of the websites use a hyperlink with a fake ad to lead victims to a scam site, the NPA said, based on the survey by the Japan Cybercrime Control Center involving information security and online service providers.

Typically, victims are

led to the fake sites after using a search engine to look for information about a product they want to buy and clicking on a hyperlink including words such as "brand wristwatch, high quality." Products featured on malicious sites include not only luxury bags and

watches but also general items and sporting goods. The websites tend to be written in unnatural Japanese, according to the center. In the period from July to earlier this month, there were 19,834 scam sites, the survey found. —Kyodo News ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V PATHEIN STAR VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PATHEIN STAR VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-12-2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV LE CHANG VOY. NO (138)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV LE CHANG VOY. NO (138) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.12.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-4 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING
SPECIALIZED CARRIERS CO LTD**

Phone No: 2301928

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 25th DECEMBER 2017(Christmas day), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Loscam Asia Private Limited, a company incorporated in Singapore and having its registered office at 8 Marina Boulevard, #05-02 Marina Bay Financial Centre, Singapore 018981 is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademark:



Reg. No. 4/7908/2017 (21.7.2017)

In respect of "Goods made of wood in this class including timber crates, boxes and pallets; containers made of plastics for packaging; packaging boxes in flat form (plastic and wood); packaging containers made of wood" all included in **Class 20** and "Transportation and storage services; hire of pallets" all included in **Class 39**.

Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the Mark shall be dealt with according to law.

Daw Htoo Htoo, H.G.P
For **Loscam Asia Private Limited**,
C/o **Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.**,
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road & Thein Phyu Road,
Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Dated **22 December 2017** hh@kcyangon.com

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (044)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (044) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-12-2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV JIN SHENG VOY. NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV JIN SHENG VOY. NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.12.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-5 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CA SHIPPING PTE LTD.**

Phone No: 2301928

Aim is to create awareness, not earn money: Akshay on 'Padman'

MUMBAI — Actor Akshay Kumar today said with “Padman”, about a man who develops a low cost sanitary pads, they are trying to reach out to a wider audience without looking at the commercial aspects of the movie.

“With ‘Toilet: Ek Prem Katha’ we had shown it (film) on Doordarshan channel, the government is also doing a good job by taking the film in a pen-drive and showing it in villages so that more people can see the film and understand it.

“We will do something similar for this film (‘Padman’).

Our aim is not to earn money through the film but it should reach more people, more places

where it is needed. We will also take the help of the government,” Akshay told reporters here at the song launch of “Padman”.

Akshay’s wife Twinkle, who is one of the producers of the film, said the team got in touch with various ministries about showing the film in schools in smaller towns and cities, to make more people aware about menstrual hygiene. “We would want the film to be shown to school girls and principals, so it penetrates where it has to. At least we are hoping a conversation starts where the same girls, who can’t afford a sanitary pad, would say to their parents that we don’t need fairness creams, we need sanitary pads so

that we can go to schools.”

The makers today launched the song ‘Aaj Se Teri’ featuring Akshay and his on-screen wife Radhika Apte. The national award winning actor has been doing films like “Toilet: Ek Prem Katha” and “Padman”, focusing on social issues, and he said it is a deliberate move to be associated with such kind of cinema. “I do this (referring to social-real issue films) but at the same time I am also enjoying doing commercial cinema. I am also doing a film like ‘Houseful’. I have done all kinds of film, I love doing films. This (social issue) kind of cinema attracts me, it gives me satisfaction as an actor and as a human being.”

Akshay is happy that people especially men have today openly started talking about sanitary pads, and hoped that post the release of “Padman”, things would only get better. “Three-four days back, I was sitting in a vanity van and while I was coming out, I saw seven-eight guys talking about sanitary pads. I was amazed. I am hopeful people will understand the importance of this subject.

He hoped the movie will help stop superstitions like not touching the pickle or entering the kitchen during one’s period.

“Padman” is directed by R Balki and it also stars Sonam Kapoor in a pivotal role. It will open in cinema houses on 26 January.

Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates took to social media to praise “Toilet: Ek Prem Katha” for promoting sanitation.

On this, the “Airlift” actor said, “I was on stage when I saw the name of Bill Gates. It is amazing. I feel more change... improvement is needed.

A year back, there were 54 per cent cases of open defecation and now not it has come down to 34 per cent, things are moving. “With this subject (menstrual hygiene) we got to know that 82 per cent women don’t use sanitary pads and with the help of everyone including the government, we hope the numbers come down.—PTI ■

Culture will be richer when ‘white dudes’ not in power: Bale

LOS ANGELES — Actor Christian Bale feels that “culture will be richer” when white men are not the only ones in charge of everything.

The “Dark Knight Rises” actor battled for a more inclusive Hollywood which can benefit everyone during a panel discussion with AOL Build to discuss his new film “Hostiles”.

“Our culture will be so much richer the day that we stop saying, ‘Hey, it’s all white dudes who are running things,’” Bale said.

“Whether that be Hollywood, whether that be Washington, you know. We’re going to get, in Hollywood, so much better films and so much more

interesting stories being told and America will become the America that the rest of the world sees it as, that makes it unique,” he added.

The British-born actor also talked about his love for America, which he called “such a beautiful, brilliant country”, and moving his family there.

“It’s the reason I moved here, it’s the reason my kids have American accents. It’s because it is that, it’s a country of inclusion and invitation,” Bale said. Directed by Scott Cooper, “Hostiles” also features Rosamund Pike, Wes Studi, Jesse Plemons, Adam Beach, Rory Cochrane and Ben Foster.—PTI ■

Disney announces Ferdia Shaw as its lead in ‘Artemis Fowl’

LOS ANGELES — Irish newcomer Ferdia Shaw will play the titular role in Disney’s “Artemis Fowl”.

The live-action film will be helmed by director Kenneth Branagh with Irish playwright Conor McPherson penning the script. Shaw was chosen out of 1200 candidates for the role in the film, which will also mark his acting debut, reported Oh My Disney. Written by Eoin Colfer, the “Artemis Fowl” books follow 12-year-old Artemis, who finds himself in a battle of strength and cunning

against a powerful, hidden race of fairies who may be behind his father’s disappearance.

Disney also announced that the film will feature actors Josh Gad, Judi Dench, Lara McDonnell, and Nonso Anozie in supporting roles. Gad will play Mulch Diggums, a kleptomaniacal dwarf who works for the fairies and himself; Dench will play Commander Root, the steely leader of the fairy police force; McDonnell as Captain Holly Short, the elf hero; and Anozie will play Butler; Artemis formidable bodyguard.—PTI ■



Fans of Kim Jong-hyun, the lead singer of top South Korean boy band SHINee, react as a hearse carrying his coffin leaves during his funeral at a hospital in Seoul, South Korea, on 21 December, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Wailing fans bid farewell to lead singer of South Korean boy band SHINee

SEOUL — Grief-stricken fans braved Seoul’s winter cold on Thursday to bid farewell to Kim Jong-hyun, the lead singer of top South Korean boy band SHINee, who died in hospital in a suspected suicide.

Weeping, wailing and embracing one another, young men and women dressed in grey and black lined the road as the hearse carrying Kim’s coffin left the hospital.

“I am so sad that I cannot even cry. My heart aches so

much”, 18-year-old Chinese fan Chen Jialin said.

Fellow singers, including SHINee’s Minho and members of bands Super Junior and Girls’ Generation, joined the funeral procession.

Kim, 27, was found unconscious next to burning briquettes on a frying pan inside a serviced residence in Seoul on Monday, police told Reuters.

Yonhap news agency had reported that the singer sent a final message to his sister asking her

to “let me go”.

Kim spent nearly a decade as one of five members of SHINee, one of the most popular bands in the country, as well as a solo artist. His death was a massive blow to the worldwide fan base that Korea’s K-pop music has attracted in recent years.

K-pop is the rage in Asia and other continents, with a song by the group BTS maintaining a spot on the Billboard 200 for seven weeks as of the end of November.—Reuters ■

Romans decry 'Mangy', city's threadbare Christmas tree, as symbol of decline

ROME — Oh Christmas Tree, Oh Christmas Tree. How mangy are your branches! That could be Rome's version of the classic Christmas carol, which speaks instead of branches, lovely and steadfast.

Romans are up in arms over the tree that has been dubbed "Spelacchio". Roughly translated as mangy or baldy, the name given to the tree in the capital's Piazza Venezia has become a symbol of what many see as the eternal city's eternal decay.

"It's a disgrace. It hurts even to look at this Christmas tree," one Roman resident told Reuters Television, using an Italian term suggesting that it looked like a plucked chicken.

"How can they have put it in Rome, a capital city like Rome," said the woman, who declined to give her name.

Some have even likened "Spelacchio" to a toilet brush.

Many Romans on social media have pointed a finger at Mayor Virginia Raggi, a leading light in the anti-establishment 5-Star



A Christmas tree is seen in downtown Rome, Italy on 19 December 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Movement, who has been getting negative seasons greetings because of the dire state of the city.

Raggi has tried to shrug off the uproar, saying the tree had been decorated in a "simple and

refined" fashion.

Rome has fallen into disrepair and degradation in recent years, with streets full of pot holes, piles of garbage and unkempt public gardens where

weeds grow as tall as a person.

Even Pope Francis has decried the decay.

Any hope that this year's 20-metre (65-ft)-high tree could bring some Christmas cheer faded quickly.

"It is clearly dead and it represents a shameful spectacle for citizens and tourists," said the consumers' group Codacons.

Codacons called for investigation into why nearly 50,000 euros (\$60,000) was spent to transport the sickly tree to Rome from a forest near the Austrian border 700 km (430 miles) away.

"The one at the Vatican is much better. They should swap them," said Francois Mallet, a tourist from France.

Romans pointedly enviously to the fine Christmas tree put up in the heart of the northern city of Milan, seeing it as another sign of how the Italian financial capital has overtaken the nation's official capital in terms of wealth and prestige.

The saga of "Spelacchio" has taken off on social media, with its own hashtag and handle on Twitter. "Farewell @spelacchio," tweeted Duccio Zanaboni. "It was nice while it lasted. It's a shame it didn't last long. RIP" —Reuters ■

Retiro park: Madrid's green lung

MADRID — On a cold winter morning, Madrid's Retiro park is filled with joggers and dog walkers enjoying the fresh air and manicured flowerbeds of one of the city's most visited attractions.

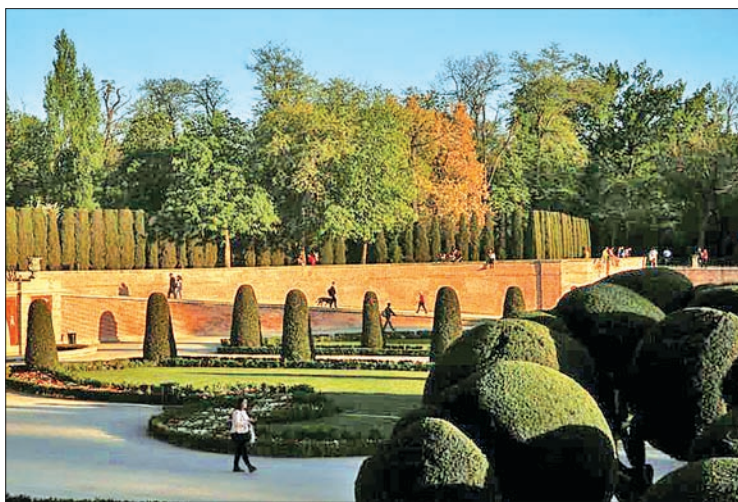
El Retiro ("The Retreat") was originally a palace and gardens built for the personal enjoyment of King Felipe IV in the 17th Century, where courtiers sometimes carried out recreations of naval battles on the boating lake.

Nearly 400 years later, the 1.4-square kilometer (350-acre) park is used for boat rides, an annual book fair and road races.

It has a garden with over 4,000 rosebushes which fill the air with scent when the flowers bloom in May and June, and the "Palacio de Cristal" built in 1887, a glass and iron structure inspired by London's Crystal Palace.

The park is enjoyed by "madrilenos" and tourists alike.

"This is a beautiful park, particularly for couples, it's very romantic," said Flora Werner,



People stroll in Retiro park in Madrid, Spain, on 7 April 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

a 28-year-old Londoner visiting with her boyfriend.

"I like it better than (London's) Hyde Park because it's less hectic, people here seem to be more relaxed," she said as she took selfies of herself kissing her partner beside the boating lake.

The Retiro is also a place of work for many. Nicolas Perez has worked for four years dress-

ing as cartoon characters like Kermit the Frog and getting his picture taken with visitors for money.

Business is best over the weekend, says the 45-year-old Ecuadorean.

"From Monday to Thursday I make enough to pay for food. But on Friday and the weekend I get extra to pay for my utilities," he said.—Reuters ■

Australia finds wreck of first Allied submarine to sink in World War One

SYDNEY — Australia has discovered the wreck of its first submarine off the coast of Papua New Guinea, authorities said on Thursday, resolving one of the country's oldest naval mysteries after more than a century.

The submarine, AE-1, was the first Allied vessel to sink during World War One, while patrolling for German warships in 1914, in circumstances that have never been established.

The Australian Navy and several private bodies found the final resting place of the vessel's 35 crew on their 13th attempt, Defence Minister Marise Payne told media. The submarine's disappearance "was a tragedy for our then fledgling nation,"

Payne said, adding that a small commemorative service was held aboard the survey ship that found the wreck and authorities were trying to contact the crew's descendants.

"It is my hope that what we have done in the last couple of days will now provide relief to the family and descendants of all of those members," said navy chief Vice Admiral Timmy Barrett, adding that the crew had come from Australia, Britain and New Zealand. The authorities did not disclose the wreck's location, except to say it was found off the Duke of York Islands. The governments of Australia and Papua New Guinea said they planned to preserve the site.—Reuters ■



Myanmar football star Aye Aye Win carries the ball by passing Thai's defenders in the previous match against Thailand on 14 December at Can Tho Stadium in Viet Nam. **PHOTO:MFF**

Myanmar to fight for third place against Thailand today in Viet Nam's Thanh Nien Cup

THE Myanmar U-21 national football team will be competing against ASEAN football tiger Thailand for third place in the Thanh Nien Newspaper Cup in Can Tho Stadium in Can Tho, Viet Nam today.

Myanmar will likely to line up with goalkeeper Phone Thitsar Min, Kyaw Thu Tun, Ye

Yint Aung, Win Moe Kyaw, Than Htike Zin, U-21 star Aye Aye Win, Min Tun and Zayya Naing.

As a result of the Thailand U-21 team playing to a draw against Viet Nam with 3-3 goal result on Wednesday, Thailand earned the chance to play for third place today against Myanmar. The Viet Nam team will

play for the tourney championship against the Yokohama team.

After playing four matches, Thailand and Myanmar have finished their group play with one win, one draw and two losses, both earning 4 points. Yokohama gained 3 wins, one draw and earning 10 points. Viet Nam

earned 7 points with 2 wins, one draw and one loss.

The Viet Nam U-21 and U-19 teams are host teams for the tourney. The Viet Nam U-19 team has finished its play in the tourney, ending up with two draws and two losses. There are a total of five teams competing.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Hanthawaddy United keeps eye on GFA FC's Mark Sekyi

HANTHAWADDY United is attempting to recruit Mark Sekyi from GFA FC.

An agreement has been reached between Mark Sekyi and Hanthawaddy United for a transfer from his former club GFA FC to the Bago Region-based football club. Sekyi, a midfielder from Ghana, showed brilliant play in scoring three goals for GFA FC in the 2017 season of the Myanmar National League (MNL). Hanthawaddy United Football Club is based in Taungtha and represents the Bago Region.

The club was a founding member of the MNL in 2009. It finished in sixth place in the league's inaugural cup competition, the MNL Cup, in 2009.

In 2012, the club changed its name from Okktha United to Hanthawaddy United. As Okktha United, the club won their first-ever major trophy by winning the 2010 MFF Cup.

Sekyi will be the first player recruitment for Hanthawaddy for the upcoming MPT MNL 2018 season. The team is scheduled to make two recruitments for the 2018 season, according to the Myanmar National League website.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Man United knocked out by Bristol City in League Cup shock

LONDON — Bristol City, from English football's second-tier, pulled off a sensation in the League Cup quarter-finals as they knocked out the holders Manchester United 2-1 amid late and wholly improbable drama at their Ashton Gate home on Wednesday.

On one of the great nights in the Championship club's 123-year history, City despatched the Premier League giants amid ecstatic scenes with a winner three minutes into stoppage time from Korey Smith. English champions Chelsea also defeated Bournemouth 2-1 in a dramatic finish at Stamford Bridge to join Arsenal and Manchester City in a high-quality semi-final lineup.

Jose Mourinho's much-changed United, even with big guns Zlatan Ibrahimovic and

Paul Pogba back in their starting lineup, found it a trying night and had their work cut out after Joe Bryan had put City ahead with a superb 51st-minute strike.

Ibrahimovic, who hit the woodwork in the first half, thundered home a low freekick to restore parity seven minutes later but City kept believing and made United the fourth Premier League victims of their marvellous Cup run when Smith turned to fire home their last-gasp goal in the final seconds.

Chelsea looked set to be comfortable winners over struggling Premier League opposition when Willian finished off a fine team move after just 13 minutes but Bournemouth rallied after the break. Dan Gosling smashed home a deserved equaliser in the final minute but Chelsea



Manchester United's Marcus Rashford appeals for a foul to referee Mike Dean at Ashton Gate Stadium, Bristol, Britain, on 20 December 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

launched an attack of their own almost straight from the restart

with substitute Alvaro Morata snatching the winner within

40 seconds of Bournemouth's goal.—Reuters ■