

NATIONAL

President U Htin Kyaw accepts credentials of Ambassadors of Poland and Singapore

PAGE-3**NATIONAL**

MoC refutes allegations of contaminated peas, beans

PAGE-6**NATIONAL**

MNHRC Chairman clarifies situations on the ground in Maungtau

PAGE-2

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 255, 11th Waxing of Pyatho 1379 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Thursday, 28 December 2017



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi pays obeisance to members of the Sangha at her residence in Yangon yesterday as she commemorates the 29th anniversary of her mother Daw Khin Kyi's death. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

29th anniversary of Daw Khin Kyi's death commemorated

TO commemorate the 29th anniversary of the death of Daw Khin Kyi, wife of the national leader General Aung San, a ceremony known as "Soon", a rice meal donation ceremony for monks, was held at the res-

idence of her daughter, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, on University Avenue Road in Yangon yesterday morning.

The State Counsellor offered meals and robes to 15 members of the Sangha in com-

memoration of her late mother before receiving sermons from the monks.

In the afternoon, leaders from different faiths including Hinduism, Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Bahá'í prayed for

Daw Khin Kyi.

Daw Khin Kyi, mother of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, died 29 years ago at the age of 76 after a long illness.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Two Reuters reporters appear in court, remanded for another 14 days

TWO Reuters journalists who have been detained in Myanmar for the past two weeks appeared in court yesterday and were remanded in custody for a further two weeks.

"They will be remanded in custody at the Insein Prison for further probe. The current period is for taking time to probe into the allegations, the step before taking charges," said Judge U Ohn Myint of the Mingaladon Township Court.

The judge granted the 14-day extension in the case of the journalists, Wa Lone, 31, and Kyaw Soe Oo, 27, at the request of the police. Their attorney said the journalists were only performing their duties as reporters.

"The file opened for the two journalists should not be under the official secrets act because they do their job as journalists," U Than Zaw Aung, the lawyer for the Reuters journalists.

The two Reuters journalists were arrested on 12 December in Yangon for illegally obtaining and possessing government documents, according to the Myanmar Police Force (MPF). Two policemen allegedly involved in the case were also arrested, said the MPF.

SEE PAGE-2

BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

Awarded by FinanceAsia 2017

Domestic investment flows into six sectors in November unlike October

DOMESTIC investments of Ks1.41 trillion will be brought into six sectors in November, unlike October, during which the manufacturing sector solely attracted domestic investments.

Manufacturing sector absorbed all domestic investments of Ks392 million in October, with 35 job opportunities.

In November, 20 domestic projects will contribute to real estate development, manufacturing, hotels and tourism, livestock and fisheries, electricity and other service sectors, creating 2,930 job opportunities.

Yangon Region attains the most domestic investments, which also flow into Manda-

lay, Magway, Bago, Taninthayi and Ayeyawady regions and Mon, Kachin, Rakhine and Shan states and Nay Pyi Taw. Far flung states such as Kachin, Kayah and Chin have rare opportunity to attract investments.

Since FY 1988-1989, domestic investments have reached Ks15.7 trillion so far with real estate development sector at the top of the list, according to Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC).

In an attempt to attract investments into hard-to-reach-places, MIC set three different zones in which the entrepreneurs will enjoy tax incentive from three to seven year tax break. —GNLM ■

Two Reuters reporters appear in court, remanded for ...



Journalist Wa Lone also known as Thet Oo Maung Maung appears before the court at the request of the police. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

FROM PAGE-1

“Wa Lone, also known as Thet Oo Maung Maung, and Kyaw Soe Oo, also known as Moe Aung, with the Yangon-based Reuters News Agency, were arrested for possessing important and secret government documents related to Rakhine State and security forces (with the intent) to send them to a foreign news agency,” said the news release from the MPF.

The two journalists obtained the documents by deception from the two policemen, who came back from

Rakhine State after serving security duties in Maungtau and Buthidaung in Rakhine State, said the MPF.

The two journalists have been charged under the Official Secrets Act.

When they appeared at the Mingaladon court for the proceedings, Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo were allowed to meet their families and their lawyers but Wa Lone maintained his innocence.

“We will face it the best we can because we have never done anything wrong,” Wa Lone said after yesterday’s hearing. —Zaw Gyi ■



in
Picture

State Counsellor holds inter-faith prayer

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and leaders of inter-faith group prayed at her home in Yangon yesterday for her late mother Daw Khin Kyi 29 years ago. **(NEWS ON PAGE-1) PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

MNHRC Chairman clarifies situations on the ground in Maungtau

Dr. Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement received MNHRC headed by U Win Mra, Chairman of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission at the May Kha Lar Hall of the Ministry yesterday afternoon.

In the meeting, the commission submitted, “Due to lack of knowledge about the situations found out on the ground during the trip headed by U Yu Lwin, member of the MNHRC and party to Maungtau region in Rakhine State from December 11 to 15 and news and information concerning the performances carried out by the Government, there were anxieties about the displaced people among those from outside the country. At the time when the commission reached there, arrangements for the displaced Islamist families in the country, Rakhine nationals and national ethnic minorities had clearly been found, with the arrangements for accepting those who would arrive back from Bangladesh found to have not yet been ready.

As regards to this, the commission would like to know situations carried out by the government and situations on the development. According to the procedures, the report on the findings of the MNHRC had been reported to the President and in

the report, necessary suggestions had been described.”

The Union Minister replied, “Situations were different between the two periods — the time of the commission’s trip and the present time. Developments had been made as regards the preparations for the resettlement and rehabilitation. For those who will enter by road, the camp for accepting the arrivals to come has been built at Taungpyo-Letwe and the camp for those who will come by waterway built at Ngakhura. They will stay there for one or two days. After that, as for those who already had their own houses, they can go directly to their houses. As for those whose houses were burnt down in the attacks, they must stay temporarily in the 8-room-house barracks. Upon completion, they will be

allowed to move to new houses. During the stay at the temporary camps, the Ministry will arrange for their food. Arrangements are being made to accept them as of 22nd January 2018. Initially a group of 450 Hindus are to be accepted. During the stay the new arrivals can make money by working in construction sites under the plan “Cash for Work.” Co-operations are being made in combination with respective ministries, donor companies and members of regions and states for accepting the arrivals in time.”

The Commission Chairman said to the Union Minister to make the government’s performances, especially concerning the arrivals known to the country as well as to the world, transparently, it was learnt. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye and MNHRC members headed by U Win Mra held a meeting concerned with the situations in Maungtau. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**



President U Htin Kyaw meets newly-accredited Ambassador of Poland Mr. Waldemar Dubaniowski in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

President U Htin Kyaw accepts credentials of Ambassador of the Republic of Poland

H.E. Mr. Waldemar Dubaniowski, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, presented his Letter of Credence to U Htin Kyaw, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at Presidential

Palace, Nay Pyi Taw at 2:30 pm yesterday.

Present on the occasion were Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and Director-General U Thant Sin of the Protocol Department.—Myanmar News Agency ■



President U Htin Kyaw meets newly-accredited Singaporean Ambassador Ms. Vanessa Chan Yuen Ying in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

President U Htin Kyaw accepts credentials of Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore

H.E. Ms. Vanessa Chan Yuen Ying, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, presented her Letter of Credence to U Htin Kyaw, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at Presiden-

tial Palace, Nay Pyi Taw at 3:05 pm yesterday.

Present on the occasion were Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and Director-General U Thant Sin of the Protocol Department.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Anti-Corruption Commission receives 4,516 complaint letters as of November 2017

May Thet Hnin

THE Anti-corruption Commission has received 4,516 complaint letters since the opening of their office to 30th November, according to a press release of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

The commission received the complaint letters mostly in Yangon. The number of complaints by states and regions are as follows; 1,162 complaints letters in Yangon Region, 824 complaint letters in Mandalay Region, 500 letters in Ayeyawady Region, 478 letters in Bago Region, 455 letters in Sagaing Region and 8 letters in Kayah State.

Among them, 1,330 letters complained about department action, 933 letters for management and administration error, 688 letters for land management, 684 cases related to the judiciary and the remaining cases are related to land acquisition, abuse,

bribery, willful misconduct and other offences. The commission has investigated 63 complaint letters and took action in only 47 cases. Eight cases are under the investigation process. After scrutinising, 1,126 complaints letter were transferred to the state and regional government for further action, according to the commission. Corruption has negative effects on administration and human rights and also deteriorates the economy, politics and moral ethics. As the global economy is rapidly developing these days, corruption has also grown, in some cases taking form as organised crime.

Myanmar is one of the member countries in United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) and South East Asia Parties Against Corruption (SEA-PAC). Moreover, Myanmar has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Thailand

and Viet Nam to fight against corruption. Myanmar is also planning to sign an MoU with Lao against corruption.

According to the Transparency International Corruption Perception Index (CPI), Myanmar's rank became 136 in 2016 among 176 countries.

The Anti-Corruption Law took effect in September 2013, and the Anti-Corruption Commission was formed in 2014, composed of fifteen members. The Anti-Corruption commission was reformed on 23 November 2017 with twelve members.

When filing complaints, the name, signature, address, telephone number, a copy of the national identification card and evidence should be included. Then, the complaint letter should be sent to the chairman of the commission in Wunna Theikdi Ward, Group 1, Nay Pyi Taw Sports Ground, Nay Pyi Taw. ■

Resource persons invited to “Promote Integrity to Counter Corruption” symposium

THE Anti-Corruption Commission has invited resource persons to read papers at the “Promote Integrity to Counter Corruption” symposium, which is scheduled to be held in Yangon on 22nd and 23rd January 2018.

The symposium is jointly organised by the Myanmar Anti-Corruption Commission and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

The commission has urged those wishing to participate in the symposium to register at the office of the commission in Wunna Theikdi Ward in Nay Pyi Taw, or

contact by email: myanma-racc2014@gmail.com, or phone: 067-8103347; 8103273 not later than 12th January 2018.

A soft copy of papers which would be read at the symposium are to be sent to the commission via the above email address.

More detailed information is available at www.accm.gov.mm.

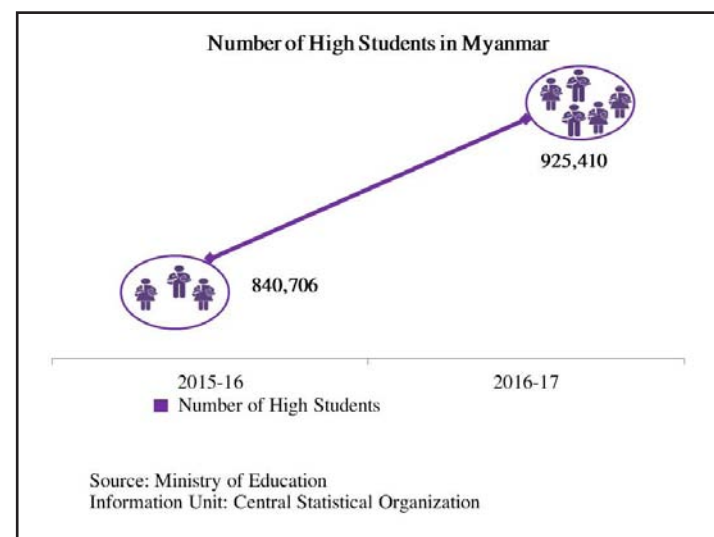
The anti-corruption commission drew up a work plan for 2018 to fight corruption and is currently drawing a strategic plan for future work. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Inspector Kyaw Thet Khaing sentenced to 5 years in prison for soliciting a bribe

POLICE Inspector Kyaw Thet Khaing has been sentenced to five years in prison with penal labour for soliciting a bribe and making a false prosecution in a

case that occurred in Ye Township, Mon State. The case was put up to Mon State High Court on 30 January and it was proved he was guilty of committing the

crime. He was sentenced to five years in prison with penal labour on 20 December, according to the anti-corruption commission.—Myanmar News Agency ■



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

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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.

Civil staff housing project to be implemented in Dagon Seikkan Township next year

AN employee housing and rental housing project will begin in Dagon Seikkan Township in January 2018, according to a report in the Myawady Daily on Tuesday.

The project will be implemented on a 183-acre plot of land on the city's northeastern outskirts and will be funded by the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

The project will be carried out by the Rural Area and Housing Development Department with the cooperation of Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association (MCEA). The project will be managed by the Yangon Region government.

They are planning to construct 12 five-storey buildings and the complex will also include a school, clinic and market near the project area.

To be able to construct civil staff and rental housing building, tenders were invited in the third



Yuzana housing in Dagon Seikkan Township PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

week of October. The tender will be chosen on 3 January 2018. The housing complex will be sold and rented at a low price

to civil staff who do not own a house. People who want to buy the house have to make a down payment of 30 per cent of the

apartment price. The remaining 70 per cent has to be settled by a 15-year installment system.—GNLM ■

Upgrading of signaling system almost complete

THE upgrading of the circular railway route and the Yangon railway station will be completed very soon, according to a report in the Myawady Daily on yesterday.

"Currently, we are upgrading the underground signaling system, which has been used for decades, into the digital sig-

nalizing system", an official said.

Myanma Railways (MR) will upgrade the railway stations with the assistance of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The digital signaling system will be upgraded in every traffic railway point.

"The upgrading of the signaling system is almost complet-

ed. The old underground system wires are damaged because it has been used for many years. Therefore, we are upgrading to a digital system. We plan to upgrade the signaling system in other railway stations, too," said an official from the engineering department of MR.

There are over 80 signaling

system in the Yangon circular railway route.

All signaling systems will soon be controlled through a computer system. Upon upgrading of the Yangon circular railway route, MR will upgrade the circular railway route in Yangon-Mandalay railway stations, it is learnt.—GNLM

About 200 tourists daily flocking to Kawkathaung Cave

HUNDREDS of tourists and local visitors daily visit the historical Kawkathaung Cave in Kayin State, according to a report of Myawady Daily.

The tourists and pilgrims can go to Kawkathaung Cave in all types of weather. The cave

is usually crowded with visitors due to good transportation and its location near Hpa-an town, the capital of Kayin State.

Inside, the cave is enshrined with numerous Buddha images, allowing tourists to explore the nature of arts.

With rich natural attractions and its indigenous culture, Kayin State attracted over 187,660 tourists and over 505,260 local visitors as of September this year.

The inflow of day trippers to Kayin State increased

this year. In the peak season, many tourists visit Hpa-an, Mount Zwegabin, Kyauk Kalap, Paddamya Cave, Saddan Cave, Kawt Gun Cave, Bayit Nyi Naung Cave, Kawkathaung Cave and Hot Spring.—GNLM ■

46th Myanmar Health Research Conference to be held

THE 46th Myanmar Health Research Conference will be held from 8th to 12th January 2018 at the Medical Research Department in Yangon, according to a report in the Myawady Daily.

The 46th Myanmar Health Research Conference is organ-

ised by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The conference will be held with the themes of prevention, early information, effective treatment and cancer patient survival.

Academics and students

from across Myanmar, and some from overseas, will sharing their research into health issues which affect the country. More than 100 papers and 80 posters will be presented on a wide variety of topics.

Papers address common

research topics, such as dengue, malaria, HIV, TB, cancer, childhood illnesses, reproductive health, and tuberculosis, as well as snake bite research, environmental health, public health and traditional medicine.—GNLM ■



Trucks and containers are seen on Strand Road in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Mini trucks and 1300cc cars selling well

STARTING in the third week of November, merchants from towns other than Yangon began to come to the Yangon automobile market to buy mini trucks and 1300cc engine cars, re-energising the sector, according to a recent report of Myawady Daily.

Previously, about 60 vehicles were traded a week, but that number is currently at about 100, even though the prices of the vehicles increased by Ks700,000 to 2 million, depending on the specifications.

Vehicles with non-Yangon licences with a market price of about Ks12 million are selling well, officials said. Cars with 1300cc engines such as Honda Fit, Suzuki Swift, Hijet, and various Nissan models are being sold.

Only vehicles with left-hand drive are allowed to be imported under 2018 vehicle import policy. Additionally, 2014 will be the oldest model for import permit.

Current new vehicle im-

port 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-bus, passenger bus, vehicles donated from abroad, fire truck, ambulance, hearse, state-owned vehicles, and machinery which cannot be driven on public roads such as excavators, bulldozers, and asphalt finishers. —GNLM ■

MIC permitted US\$234.9 million of FDI in November

MYANMAR Investment Commission (MIC) gave a green light to foreign investors to invest US\$234.9 million in November, including an increase in existing investment.

During November, 17 foreign investment projects were permitted by MIC to be engaged in transport and communication, manufacturing, electricity, livestock and fisheries, agriculture, minerals, industrial estate

development and other services sectors. A total of 7,749 job opportunities were created by those permitted enterprises.

Meanwhile, October's foreign capital is recorded at \$105 million with 14 enterprises, creating 7,083 job opportunities.

MIC has granted approval to 163 projects with foreign capital of \$4.47 billion as of November this FY, according to statistics of the MIC.

New Myanmar Investment Law has tax exemption and relief to investors depending on developments of the regions and states. Investors in far-flung areas can enjoy a tax break of seven years. According to new Myanmar Investment Law, region and state DICA offices are authorised to give approval to investment proposals with capital of not more than US\$5 million (Ks6,000 million). —GNLM ■

CBM to sell Treasury bond and notes to cover budget deficit

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) will sell Treasury bonds and notes with estimated worth of Ks300 billion again in order to fill a budget deficit, according to yesterday's report of Myawady Daily.

The state's expenditures exceed income, resulting in a continuing budget deficit. With an attempt to cover the widening budget deficit, 30 per cent of Treasury bonds and 30 per cent

of Treasury notes will be sold and 40 per cent will be taken out from the CBM. The CBM sells Treasury bonds and notes twice a month. Local banks and financial organisations are the main purchasers. The CBM usually borrow the government printing new currency notes. When those notes flow into accumulated money circle, inflation occurs. It can also lead to Kyat depreciation and high consumer price

index, said an economic expert.

The Central Bank of Myanmar started to sell Treasury bonds in December 1993. It issued Ks10,000, Ks100,000, Ks1 million and Ks10 million public bonds in three-year and five-year maturities. Starting from 1st January 2010, a two-year Government Treasury Bonds with the same denomination have been extensively issued to public. —GNLM ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း: **"Sunday Special"** အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈)
မျက်နှာပေါင်သော The Global New Light of Myanmar
နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကိုအောက်ပါမြို့များတွင်ဖုန်းနံပါတ်ဖြင့်

"Sunday Special"
အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈) မျက်နှာ
ပေါင်သော

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

နေပြည်တော်
နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တပ်ကုန်း)
ဇယားသိမ်းခြွင်းမှု၊ ဓနပိုင်လမ်းခွဲ၊ နေပြည်တော်၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၃၆၁၄၈၊ ၀၆၇၃၆၁၂၉

ရန်ကုန်
The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊
ငါးထပ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ဗဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊
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မန္တလေး
လမ်း (၂၀ x ၂၀) ကြား၊ (၁၂ x ၁၃) လမ်းကြား၊ ပုလဲခွေ
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တောင်ကြီး
ရုံးကြီးလမ်း၊ သစ်တောရပ်ကွက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့၊
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မကွေး
နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ တပ်မ (၈၈) တပ်နယ်ချေးအနီး၊
မကွေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၃၂၃၇၁၂

ကျိုင်းတုံ
မြို့ပေါ် (၃-၁)၊ အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းသွယ်၊ မြို့ပတ်လမ်း၊
ကျိုင်းတုံမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၄၂၂၄၉၂

ကလေး
အောင်ဇေယျာရပ်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊
ကလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၂၁၃၃

မြင်းကြီးများ
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စစ်တွေ
ရဲဘော်လမ်းနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊
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ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃၂၃၀၆၈

လားရှိုး
ဟူးမွန်ကျေးရွာတိုင်း၊ ဟူးမွန်ဆည်ဘယ်ဘက်ခြမ်း၊
(၁၂) ရပ်ကွက်၊ မန်ဆူဘုရားရှေ့၊ အဝေလမ်း၊
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Doubled price for shops puts vendors in chaos

Rental fees for shops at an annual festival marking independence day in Taungoo, Bago Region has doubled, putting vendors in a position to not make profits this year.

"We are not sure to gain profits. Some returned home," said Aung Kyaw Phyto, a seller who is planning to sell products at the annual festival which is scheduled for 1 to 10 January.

More than 600 shops will be set up at the festival.

There will be home appliances shops, traditional clothes-selling shops, amusement programmes for kids, drama plays, a circus show and Myanmar and Thai challenge lethwei show in the festival. "A vendor would get chance to sell products only if he hires five shops at a cost of Ks200,000 per shop for 10 days" said Aung Kyaw Phyto.

"We come and sell here every year. This year the tender price for holding the festival is lower than the previous year. The number of shops also does not fall this year. We have to rent at least five shops with Ks2 Lakh for a shop.

"In my childhood, there were



Traditional thanaka displayed at an annual festival to mark Independence Day in Taungoo, Bago. **PHOTO: THURA (THAUNGGOO)**

many interesting places seen at the departmental police historical museums in Independence Day Festival. As for now, there are no more museums like those. There are also no free drama plays to entertain kids. There were gambling stations seen at the previous year's festival. The current price for renting shops has risen and we are worrying whether our festival might disappear", said Ko Soe Thiha. The tender winner U San Maung also said that the

previous tender price amount is Ks135 million, but this year is just Ks75 million.

The renting price has been fixed at Ks2 lakh for a shop and also sets the price of Ks60,000 for a street vendor.

Independence Day Festivals are major celebrations in Myanmar that allow Myanmar to reflect on their nation's history and independence. The festival in Taungoo has been held for nearly a decade. —Thura (Taungoo) ■

MoC refutes allegations of contaminated peas, beans

The Ministry of Commerce refuted an accusation of the Myanmar Consumer Protection Association that peas which could not exported due to chemical residue are being sold to local consumers.

"It is questionable which laboratory tests they relied on to make this accusation that peas with chemical residue are being sold to consumers," said U Myint Lwin, Deputy Director-General of the Consumer Affairs Department.

The ministry's denial came after the Consumer Protection Association released a statement which urged authorities to stop activities promoting the consumption of peas in the country,

as the peas which were rejected by foreign countries due to chemical residue are unhealthy. U Myint Lwin clarified that India's new policy, which allows the import of 200,000 tons of pigeon peas and 300,000 tons of Mung beans from Myanmar, is not because of residue but because they wish to protect their farmers in India.

The policy has resulted in lower prices of peas and beans.

"The move to promote peas and beans consumption in the country is to raise awareness that people can get rich nutrition from affordable peas and beans. Authorities take responsibility for growers to an extent because they are our major people," said U Myint Lwin. —Shin Min ■

U Moe Kyaw Aung presents credentials to president of India

U Moe Kyaw Aung, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of India, presented his

Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Ram Nath Kovind, President of the Republic of India on 22 December 2017, in New Delhi. —Ministry of Foreign Affairs ■

16th China-Myanmar Border Trade Fair continues in Shweli



Ko Kyaw Thet Khaing.



Khun Saw Thein Oo.



Dr. Htein Lin.



Ms. Lin Su.



Daw Cho Cho Win. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE 2nd day of the 16th China-Myanmar Border Trade Fair 2017 was held yesterday at Shweli (Ruili) in Yunnan Province, China.

The event aims to promote bilateral trade between the two neighbouring countries.

Myanmar has exhibits in 54 stalls from 39 companies and China showcases around 150 booths at this year's China-Myanmar Border Trade Fair.

Myanmar is exhibiting its agricultural produce, marine products, gems, jade, traditional handicrafts, traditional medicine, furniture, and household goods manufactured by domestic industry zones. China mainly ex-

hibits food, garments, household appliances, and medicine.

The trade fair is attracting an average of about 2,000 visitors a day, including Chinese businessmen and local people. They are very interested in seeing edible bird-nests, and other products of Myanmar.

Ko Kyaw Thet Khaing, Saw Nan Mu Company

We come to exhibit ... in this trade fair, and there are many growers in our country who plant on a manageable scale. As for me, I want to introduce a new market, and I am also glad to join in this trade fair.

Khun Saw Thein Oo, Tha

Moe Out Brothers Group Co.Ltd

For us, this is the first time to exhibit avocados here in this trade fair. We aim at distributing avocados to the world via the China market. Consumers can eat our avocados safely because we don't use any chemical dyes. It can reduce unwanted fat in our body and can grow hair on our heads. We want our avocados to be well-known in the world market.

Dr. Htein Lin, Director of Commerce and Trading

The China-Myanmar Border Trade Fair has been held annually on an alternate basis in My-

anmar and China for 16 years. This is the first time in Shweli. We are going to hold this trade fair for five days, from December 26-30. This trade is of great importance for businessmen in Myanmar and China. China is our main exporter and it can boost our bilateral trade relations. We can make friendly investments and create good investment opportunities.

Ms. Lin Su, an official of Sai Paw Htan Chinese Science and Technology Co.Ltd

We exhibit technological products here. The main thing is that we designed and invented

these robots with the help of scientists from foreign countries. As a result, it is very expensive and we can rarely see them in Shweli and Beijing. I want to advertise our robots to the whole world.

Daw Cho Cho Win, Koe **Kant national who lives in China**

It was very convenient for me to buy it in China. But it will be difficult to carry from the side of Myanmar due to damage and transportation costs. I have come here to buy the bird-nests and household goods such as rice, oil and coffee. In my opinion, it is worth visiting during the trade fair. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Sitagu Sayadaw Dr. Ashin Nyanissara presents an ambulance and K 100 million to Rakha State. **PHOTO: WIN MIN SOE (IPRD)**

Sitagu Buddhist missionary donates ambulances, cash to Rakha State

SITAGU International Buddhist Missionary donated ambulances and cash to Rakha State yesterday to help redevelop the state which saw armed attacks by terrorists.

The missionary representatives led by Sayadaw Dr. Ashin Nyanissara presented an ambulance and K100 million each for Yathedaung, Maungtaung and Buthidaung townships.

The aid is dedicated to the revitalisation of health,

education and resettlement sectors of the conflict areas in the state.

The donors handed over the aid to local authorities in Yathedaung, Maungtaung and Buthidaung townships during their visits.

During the visit to Maungtaung, the missionary representatives led by Sayadaw Dr. Ashin Nyanissara formally inaugurated the operation theatre of Maungtaung People's Hospital.

—Win Min Soe (IPRD) ■

More vocational training courses to open in Maungtaung

AN opening ceremony for vocational training organised by the Department for Rural Development was held in Maungtaung and Buthidaung regions yesterday.

The programme aims to increase living standards and socio-economic status for local residents in the Maungtaung and Buthidaung regions.

“More vocational training courses will be opened very soon in order to create job opportunities for the local youths in these regions”, said U Tun Hlaing, head of district Department of Rural Development.

“As for our Department of Rural Development, we are conducting many vocational training courses such as motorbike repairing, tailoring, food processing and cooking so that the locals can earn extra money

as much as they can. But all the training classes rely on the budgets of the state”, he added.

The Department of Rural Development was formed in 2013, and aims to alleviate poverty and create job opportunities for the locals. It has also laid down eight steps to implement this process effectively.

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

Under this project, many supervisory committees were formed to provide and supervise assistance to local people in this region. The training will last 20 days and there are currently 20 trainees taking courses, it was learnt.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Sitagu Buddhist missionary makes donations in Yathedaung, Maungtaung and Buthidaung



Sayadaw U Pandissa.



U Kyaw Moe Naing.



U Myint Aung.

A donation ceremony organised by the Sitagu Sayadaw, was held in Maungtaung yesterday. The venerable Sitagu Sayadaw is well-known for his teachings and for his philanthropic work in Myanmar.

The Myanmar News Agency interviewed officials who joined in the philanthropic effort.

Sayadaw U Pandissa

Venerable Sitagu Sayadaw called us to help the locals in Rakha State, and accordingly we accumulated cash donations and clothing from my donors who are from South Korea. We received two containers full of clothes suitable for the young and adults. The cash donations come to US\$30,000 (Ks40.88 million), so it is useful for people who are in need. All these donations will be distributed to the locals who are in need of help. As for me, I pray

for them not to meet these kinds of misfortunes again. May they be healthy, wealthy and free from any kinds of dangers.

U Kyaw Moe Naing,
Secretary of Sitagu
Buddhist Missionary

Under the supervision of the Venerable Sitagu Sayadaw, we have come here to donate three ambulances in Yathedaung, Maungtaung and Buthidaung regions. Moreover, we also bring two containers full of clothes for the needy. The donor is Sayadaw U Pandissa, who is from South Korea. We are going to donate 100 million kyat for each region, to promote education, health care and other sectors. As far as I know, Sitagu Sayadaw has enormously contributed aid to Rakha State whenever catastrophes break out. We try our best to maintain peace

and stability under the shade of Sasana (the Buddha's teachings). He makes concerted efforts to develop Sittway, Buthidaung, Maungtaung, Yathedaung, Kyauktaw and Myauk U townships.

U Myint Aung, Secretary
of Sitagu Buddhist
Missionary

Venerable Sitagu Sayadaw aims at peaceful co-existence among all nationals regardless of race, colour and religion. He does his utmost to fulfill the needs of the people. Under his guidance, we have already opened 33 eye hospitals and five Buddhist universities across the country. In addition to these hospitals and universities, we are carrying out the propagation of Buddhism in the US, Germany and Russia. —Zeya, Myint Maung/Photo: Nay Win Tun ■

Monsoon paddy harvested in Rakha State by Agricultural Mechanisation Department

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

A total of 9,136 acres in Myothugyi, Ohntaw, Kanpu, Kyaungtaung, Alethankyaw, Nwayonetaung, Wah Cha, Tandar, Myinloat, Kyikanpyin, Thihokyaung, U Daung, Laungdon, Aung Sit Pyi, Sabaegone, Thapyaytaw, Zawmatat, Dohthan, Yawthitkay, Kyaukpada, Tat U Chaung, Duchiyarton, Thayaygonton, Thawanchaung, Ngkuya, Indin, Thinbawgwe, Kanyinton, Nyaungchaung, Natchaung, Thatkinehnar, Panyaungpingyi, Khamaungseik, Yenautngatha, Thittonnagwasone, Padakar Ywarthit, Kyatyopyin and Pantaungbyin villages in Maungtaung

township were harvested from 26 October to 26 December.

Rice fields in seven village groups of Sittway including Chaungnwe, Partalat, Thinganet, Kywitay, Kankawgoun, Mangan and Naryeekan villages were reaped with machineries and it is learnt from the AMD that an estimated 550 acres were finished from 30 October to 26 December.

Similarly, 1,046 acres in Pyahla, Hsinyoshae, Myatyeykyoung, Gwasone, Layhnyinthar, Youtchaung, Ahlaezay, Theinnyo and Kanzaung villages from Mrauk U Township were harvested from 5 November to 26 December.

Also, 643 acres in Htaungshae, Kinseik, Mawywa, Pharpyaw, Taungthaik, Ngapukwa, Winzar, Nayan and Ngarpaechaung villages, and U Soe Tint ward from Minbya Township were harvested from 7 November to

26 December, it is learnt.

A further 729 acres in Phonanar, Lanmadaw, Daungtawyo, Kardi, Saphothar, Ahpoukwa and Garpu villages from Kyauktaw Township were harvested from 8 November to 26 December.

A total of 298 acres in Chinkharlein and Khotone villages from Yathittaung Township was harvested from 8 November to 26 December.

Ninety-six acres in Thapyuchaung village from Buthidaung Township was harvested from 10 November to 26 December, while 34 acres in Ngapyauksae village in Phonnagyun Township was harvested from 17 to 26 December. Also, a total of 27 acres in Laungchaung village in Kyaukpyu Township was harvested from 19 to 26 December, it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Four characteristics of the independent nation

At one time I have heard that there are four characteristics in an independent nation. Without these four characteristics the country is not worth calling an independent nation. In other words, it will be a country under the control of another country or a dependent country such as a banana republic, without the said four characteristics.

The four characteristics of the independent nation are as follows:

Every nation must have its territory, that is, the land with known and recognized borders. Every nation must be inhabited, that is, there will be inhabitants who had been living there since the time of their forefathers on that territory. Every nation must have its own government elected from among its citizens. And, every nation must have sovereignty, that is, it must have absolute power within its territory and it must have the ability and right to decide its own policies.

Only if a country is endowed with these four characteristics, will all the citizens living in that country be able to live in safety and security. If so, it will become an independent nation with full

human rights which can guarantee the survival of that country as a nation.

Citizens living in an independent nation have guarantees for their lives and human rights; they also have duties and responsibilities. And, they have their own rights to defend themselves and depredation.

citizens cannot freely decide or do whatever is necessary for the good of the public, that country will no longer be a sovereign and independent country.

Accordingly, a country must protect these four characteristics. Failing that, the country will lose its Independence and the country will vanish from the world atlas. At the risk of many lives, we fought for our Independence. Similarly, we must protect our country to prevent it from losing our Independence or not to destroy the four characteristics.

Citizens living in an independent nation have guarantees for their lives and human rights; they also have duties and responsibilities. And, they have their own rights to defend themselves and depredation. Being citizens in an independent nation is the possession of pleasure and admiration. While living in a country rich in natural resources and fertile land to grow agricultural produce on a large scale, we can profess the religion of our choosing. We can study what we want. We can enjoy ourselves choosing the type of entertainment we like. Therefore I wish to reiterate once again that we are all responsible to protect our country and our Independence collectively. ■

Shwe Taing Lwin

THE present 'the Republic of the Union of Myanmar' did stand tall under the rule of its own kings in the midst of the neighboring countries since the time immemorial. Since the time of Myanmar races such as Pyu, Kanyan and Thet prior to the era of the feudalism the Union of Myanmar existed proudly as the strengthened Myanmar, according to Myanmar literatures.

Myanmar plenty of agricultural produce and rich in natural resources was the apple of the then Imperialists' eyes. In AD 18th century the British Imperialists intentionally created wars against Myanmar with the intention of occupying Myanmar.

In the reign of King Bagyidaw the British Imperialists staged the First Anglo-Burma War on 5th March, 1824, occupying Taninthayi and Rakhine regions. Again in the rule of King Bagan they staged the Second Anglo-Burma War exactly on 5th April 1852, occupying the whole lower Myanmar up to Myay Hte in Central Myanmar. Being unsatisfied with the present situations the British Imperialists waged the Third Anglo-Burma War on 11th November 1885 in the reign of King Thibaw, in Konebaung Era to keep the whole Myanmar under the British colonial rule. According to the conspiracy to occupy Myanmar, the British made their secret plans to rule the country under strict strategy of suppression so that any political and military rebellions could not be launched. Nearly all of the major enterprises of Myanmar such as petrol, rice, teak, jewels and natural resources were monopolized by the British, with most of Myanmar people suffering a lot, it was learnt according to the records.

Kind of education destined for the longevity of the British Administration was created by the British, but due to the efforts of broad-minded Myanmar youths, YMBA [Young Men's Buddhist Association] emerged as a political response in 1906 under the British colonial rule. On 5th December 1920 [10th Waning of Tazaungmone, 1282 ME] Yangon University Boycott took place as



Participants of the Doe Bamar Asiayone.

a demonstration against the then Yangon University Act. Being an unprecedented outbreak of a large boycott, it caused a great threat to the British government and simultaneously a promising result of students' efforts. The day when the boycott started was designated as the National Day, being an epoch-making event in Myanmar history.

Out of great desires of students desirous of liberating from the British Administration and out of voluminous patriotism students managed to proceed to the Independence Goal as expected. At the 6th meeting of YMBA held in Pyay in 1920 it was re-formed into GCBA [General Council of the Burmese Associations] with a view to launching campaigns for political movements broadly more than ever.

The British Colonial Government included Myanmar in Diarchy destined for longevity of its colonial administration and for increasing its administrative influences in 1922. But, Myanmar patriotic revolutionaries rejected it, instead demanding for Home Rule. Concurrently, they unanimously decided to boycott elections for legislative council.

Throughout the history of movements for liberating from the

British Colonial Rule, Myanmar patriots made concerted efforts to achieve nationwide freedom as an equality of all the national races, assuming that a country's sovereignty—that is, ownership of the country's natural resources was possible only if the country is totally independent.

In doing so, Thakin youth students led by Thakin Aung San, the general-secretary of the Doe Bamar Asiayone effectively launched campaigns for national liberation movements by taking lessons that Myanmar plunged under the British Colonial Rule due to various weak points.

In making efforts for gaining Independence, various kinds of organizations launched campaigns separately such as Yangon University Boycott, 1938 [1300 ME] Yenanchaung Workers' Boycott and the Peasants' Boycott led by Galon Sayar San. Assuming that making revolution in separate ways was not effective, Thakin students formed a modernized army, Tatmadaw. On 3rd September 1939 when the Second World War broke out, Thakin Mya and Thakin Aung San formed the Burma Revolutionary Party with a view to totally remove the British Colonial Government, in accordance with the catchphrase, "My-

Safeguarding Independence is the Entire National Populace's Duty



anmar gets an outlet when British finds hardships." In the same year "Bamar Htwet Yat Gai" made up of multi-parties was also established. Thence, thirty comrades led by Thakin Aung San [Boh Tayza] got military trainings in Hainan and Taiwan islands with the assistance of the Japanese General Suzuki. On December 26 in 1941 Burma Independence Army [BIA] was formed in Thailand, Bangkok.

On 8th March 1942, BIA Forces occupied Yangon. At the time

when the Upper Myanmar was left to be occupied BIA was abolished, instead it was formed into BDA. Fascist Japanese included in BDA as aligned forces declared Myanmar Independence [falsity] on 15th September 1943. Due to breaking promises concerning the Independence and atrocities of Fascist Japanese forces, the Tatmadaw led by Bogoyoke Aung San formed AFPFL [Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League] in combination with the people, managed to

totally get rid of Fascist Japanese Forces on 27th March 1945.

Though fascists were eradicated, Myanmar's Independence was not successfully implemented. It did not reach a successful conclusion with the British Allies. Though being allies, the British planned to give Independence to the Mainland only, leaving Hilly regions. Being well convinced that genuine nationwide independence depended upon entire national unity and mutual respect among national brethren, Bogoyoke Aung San and 22 national leaders managed the Panglong Agreement on 12th February 1947, as a sign of oneness between mainland and hilly regions. On 24th September 1947, the State Constitution was unanimously approved by the Parliament, hence the accomplishment to sign "Nu-Attlee Burma Independence Agreement was signed by U Nu, Myanmar Prime Minister and the British Prime Minister Mr. Clement Richard Attlee.

Accordingly, 4th January 1948 [9th Waning of Pyatho 1309 ME] was globally recognized as Myanmar Independence Day. Now that the time when Myanmar Independence was gained at the risks of lots of lives reached for 70 years exactly on 4th January 2018, we firmly believe that the entire national populace is responsible for safeguarding our Independence to eternally survive as long as the planet exists. ■

(Translated by Khin Maung Oo)



The Burmese Independence Army (BIA) enters Rangoon

Brainstorming Organic Tourism

A CAMPAIGN to promote so-called 'Organic Tourism' across Thailand and the Greater Mekong Subregion was under scrutiny at a recent workshop designed to brainstorm ideas.

The campaign aims to motivate hotels, restaurants, catering companies, supermarkets and other food outlets to wean farmers away from unhealthy and environmentally destructive pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers.

After taking root in Thailand, the campaign is slated for expansion across Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos and Guangxi and Yunnan provinces of Southern China.

But do the organisers recognise the size of the challenge? Thailand happens to be one of the world's biggest users of destructive pesticides and exports them to neighbouring countries in the Mekong Region.

Over 40 participants including hoteliers, tour operators, academics, environmentalists, NGO and media representatives attended the workshop, last week, organised by Sampran Riverside and the Mekong Tourism Coordinating Office (MTCO).

It had the backing of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), Sustainable Food Lab Thailand and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). TAT governor Yuthasak Supasorn said 'Organic Tourism' fitted in perfectly with the TAT's marketing campaign to promote gastronomy tourism, noting that sustainable living through the adoption of natural and healthy farming methods was raised by His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej as part of his "Sufficiency Economy" philosophy.

More recently organic farming was included in the 17-point global agenda known as the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The TAT governor noted that the Thai Government was supporting the links between the two bedrock economic pillars, agriculture and tourism, as part of its national 2017-2012 development under the vision of Thailand 4.0.

But the reality is that ministries that govern, or monitor, the distribution of chemical fertilisers are at odds with the Ministry of Public Health. The latter has highlighted the dangers of pesticide and the contamination of the food chain from water to harvest of staple foods such as rice. They threaten to public health.

But a consensus on what brands or chemicals should be banned has not been reached and in the meantime "Organic Tourism" remains beyond reach, except for a few exceptions such as the Royal Projects.

Of course, the Mekong Tourism Coordinating Office executive director, Jens Thraenhart, expressed excitement at the introduction of the 'Organic Tourism' concept to the Mekong Subregion with Thailand as the lead country, without recognising that very little food produced in the Mekong Region is clear of chemical or hormone pollution. The solution lies with governments that need to ban harmful chemicals.

He rightly pointed out that consumers are looking for clean and healthy food, but a more detailed investigation of what restaurants and supermarkets offer would show the food residents and tourists consume is chemically tainted. It will take decades to rid the soil of pollutants.

The brainstorming session was light on the stark facts relating to the level of pollution that has infiltrated our food chain from the water source that flows into paddy fields to the chemicals sprayed, almost weekly, on food crops or the artificial colour additives used to brighten the appearance of fruit delivered to supermarket shelves.

"Led by the private sector, the movement aims to build a more sustainable food system. It strives to empower everyone in the organic value chain to become collective leaders for change," he explained.

"Organic Tourism is far more than just tourists visiting organic farms. It involves hotels, restaurants, and supermarkets, buying organic produce from local farmers and communicating to their customers its importance and benefits. Farm visits can be considered as additional activities to help guests better understand the farming experience." ? Don Ross/ TR Weekly ■

Russia accuses US of training former Islamic State fighters in Syria

MOSCOW — The chief of the Russian General Staff has accused the United States of training former Islamic State fighters in Syria to try to destabilize the country.

General Valery Gerasimov's allegations, made in a newspaper interview, center on a US military base at Tanf, a strategic Syrian highway border crossing with Iraq in the south of the country.

Russia says the US base is illegal and that it and the area around it have become "a black hole" where militants operate unhindered.

Islamic State has this year lost almost all the territory it held in Syria and Iraq. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Wednesday the main part of the battle with Islamic State in Syria was over, according to the state-run RIA news agency.

The United States says the Tanf facility is a temporary base used to train partner forces to fight Islamic State. It has rejected similar Russian allegations in the past, saying Washington remains committed to killing off Islamic State and denying it safe havens.

But Gerasimov told the daily Komsomolskaya Pravda newspaper on Wednesday that



Chief of the General Staff of Russian Armed Forces Valery Gerasimov arrives for the opening ceremony of the International Army Games 2017 in Alabino, outside Moscow, Russia on 29 July, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

the United States was training up fighters who were former Islamic State militants but who now call themselves the New Syrian Army or use other names.

He said Russia satellites and drones had spotted militant brigades at the US base.

"They are in reality being

trained there," Gerasimov said, saying there were also a large number of militants and former Islamic State fighters at Shadadi, where he said there was also a US base.

"They are practically Islamic State," he said. "But after they are worked with, they change their spots and take on another

name. Their task is to destabilize the situation."

Russia has partially withdrawn from Syria, but Gerasimov said the fact that Moscow was keeping an air base and naval facility there meant it was well placed to deal with pockets of instability if and when they arose.—Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Japan's key bond yield rises amid higher oil prices

TOKYO — The yield on the bellwether 10-year Japanese government bond ended higher Wednesday as investors sold the safe-haven asset amid a risk-on mood after oil prices climbed sharply overnight.

The yield on the No 349, 0.1 per cent issue, the main yardstick of long-term interest rates, ended interdealer trading at 0.050 per cent, up 0.010 percentage point from Tuesday's close. The price of the March futures contract for 10-year bonds declined 0.11 point to 150.69 on the Osaka Exchange.—Kyodo News ■

Russia's election commission accepts Putin's documents as presidency candidate

MOSCOW — Russia's central election commission on Wednesday accepted documents from Vladimir Putin needed to register him as a candidate in next March's presidential ballot. Putin submitted the documents in person, Reuters TV showed. The central election commission is due to say whether he is registered as a candidate during the next couple of days.—Reuters ■

Support slides for Merkel serving full term as coalition talks beckon

BERLIN — If Angela Merkel becomes German chancellor again, nearly half of voters would want her to quit her term early, according to a poll offering a rare sign that domestic support for Europe's most influential leader may be waning.

Merkel's conservatives won a national election in September, setting her up for a fourth stint in office.

But they bled support to the far right, and talks on a three-way coalition with the Greens and the pro-business Free Democrats collapsed in November.

Merkel is now pinning her hopes on cutting a deal with the center-left Social Democrats (SPD), who finished second in the election but have so far given



Angela Merkel.
PHOTO: REUTERS

a lukewarm response to the idea of renewing the 'grand coalition' that governed Germany between 2013 and 2017.

The YouGov survey, commissioned by Germany's DPA agency and published in Wednesday's Die Welt newspaper, showed 47 per cent of respondents wanted

Merkel to step aside before 2021, when her fourth term would end-up from 36 percent in a poll taken at the beginning of October.

By contrast, 36 per cent want her to serve a full four years, compared to 44 per cent three months ago.

The SPD, which lost ground

among voters after the coalition with Merkel, has been reluctant to commit to a re-run as it looks to keep a skeptical rank and file on board.

SPD Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel, a former leader of the party, adopted a tough tone on Wednesday in top-selling daily Bild.

"If the chancellery continues to reject all the proposals for EU reform, there will be no coalition with the SPD," he told the paper.

The SPD's current leader, Martin Schulz, has championed deeper euro zone reform, calling for a United States of Europe by 2025.

Gabriel also said the conservatives needed to reform the health system to close the gap

between private and state care.

An INSA poll in Bild put Merkel's conservatives up 2 points at 33 per cent and the SPD down 0.5 per cent at 20.5 per cent.

The far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) which, capitalizing on voters' fears about growing inequality and the impact on Germany of Europe's migrant crisis, entered parliament for the first time in September, was down 1 point at 13 per cent.

Many commentators have suggested the AfD would make gains if new elections were held due to a failure on Merkel's part to form a government.

Merkel's conservatives and the SPD have said they will start exploratory coalition talks on 7 January.—Reuters ■

Egypt wants outside experts to help settle Nile dispute

ADDIS ABABA — Egypt said on Tuesday it had suggested to Ethiopia and Sudan that they all call in international experts to help settle a dispute on an Ethiopian dam project on the river Nile.

Egypt fears the hydro-electric scheme will restrict the waters flowing down from Ethiopia's highlands, through the deserts of Sudan to its fields and reservoirs. Ethiopia, which wants to become Africa's biggest power exporter, says it will have no such impact.

Ministers from Ethiopia and Egypt met on Tuesday to try to resolve a disagreement over the wording of a report on the environmental impact of the \$4-billion Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, which is still being built.

But Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry said they had not managed to reach a breakthrough since the three nations last met in November.

"From a practical perspective, we have to recognize that technical deliberations ... have not (yielded) sufficient results to enable the process to move forward," Shoukry told journalists after the meeting in Addis Ababa.

He suggested the countries call in outside experts, without going into details. Officials who took part in the sessions said Egypt had suggested involving an international body such as the World Bank.

Ethiopia's foreign minister, Workneh Gebeyehu, told the same press conference he was looking for a win-win situation,

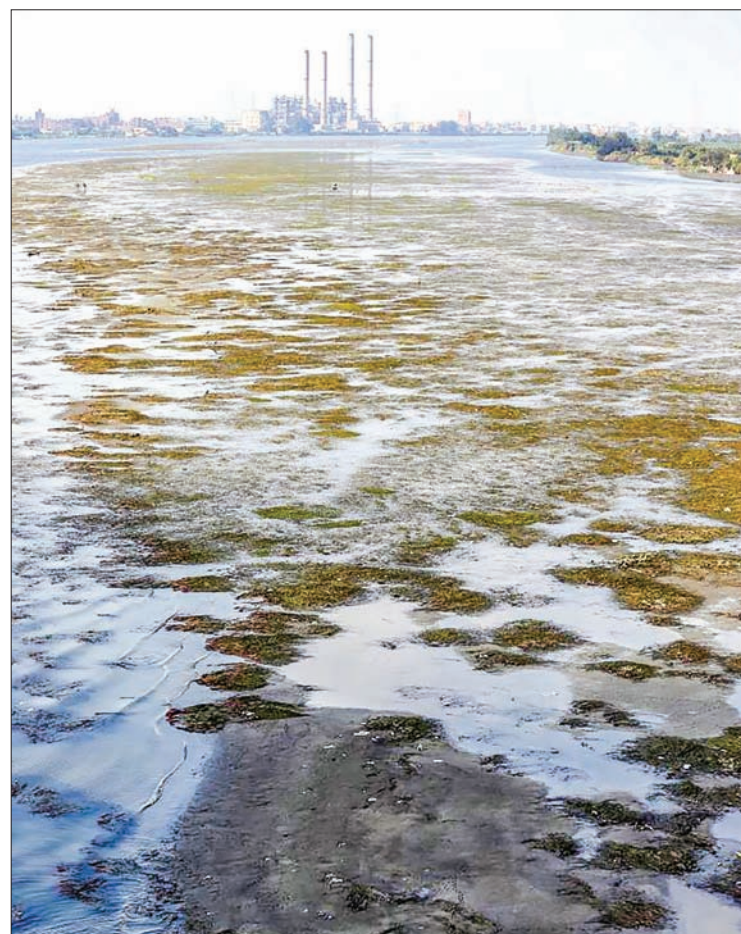
but did not comment on the Egyptian proposal.

Countries that share the river have argued over the use of its waters for decades — and analysts have repeatedly warned that the disputes could eventually boil over into conflict.

Sudan and Ethiopia say Egypt has refused to accept amendments that they had put forward to the environmental report.

Another source of disagreement is whether Ethiopia should be allowed to complete construction of the dam before the negotiations over ensuring water flows have finished.

Egyptian officials say this would violate an agreement signed by all three countries in 2015 meant to ensure diplomatic cooperation. —Reuters ■



Men fish from a boat during low tide on the River Nile in front of a South Cairo Electricity Distribution Company power station in Cairo, Egypt on 19 November, 2015. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Less than 1,000 IS fighters remain in Iraq and Syria, coalition says

BAGHDAD — Fewer than 1,000 Islamic State fighters remain in Iraq and Syria, the United States-led international coalition fighting the hardline Sunni militant group said on Wednesday, a third of the estimated figure only three weeks ago.

Iraq and Syria have both declared victory over Islamic State in recent weeks, after a year that saw the two countries' armies, a range of foreign allies and various local forces drive the fighters out of all the towns and villages that once made up their self-proclaimed caliphate.

The United States has led an international coalition conduct-

ing air strikes against Islamic State since 2014 when the group swept across a third of Iraq. US troops have served as advisers on the ground with Iraqi government forces and with Kurdish and Arab groups in Syria.

"Due to the commitment of the Coalition and the demonstrated competence of our partners in Iraq and Syria, there are estimated to be less than 1,000 ISIS terrorists in our combined joint area of operations, most of whom are being hunted down in the desert regions in eastern Syria and Western Iraq," the US-led coalition told Reuters in an emailed statement.

ISIS is an acronym used for Islamic State.

The figure excludes areas in western Syria under the control of President Bashar al-Assad's government and his allies.

Assad's main ally Russia also said on Wednesday the main battle with Islamic State in Syria was over. Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said the key task in Syria was now destroying another Islamist group, the Nusra Front.

The US-led coalition had said on 5 December that there were less than 3,000 fighters remaining. Iraq declared "final victory" over the group on 9 De-

cember. Most of the fighters had been killed or captured over the past three years, the coalition said on Wednesday.

It would not respond to a question on whether some fighters could have escaped to other countries, saying it would not "engage in public speculation" but said it was working on preventing that.

"We can tell you that we are working with our partners to kill or capture all remaining ISIS terrorists, to destroy their network and prevent their resurgence, and also to prevent them from escaping to bordering countries," it said. —Reuters ■

One dead after 4.2 magnitude quake near Iran capital Tehran

DUBAI — One person died of a heart attack and at least 56 people were slightly hurt when an earthquake of 4.2 magnitude shook an area 50 km (31 miles) west of the Iranian capital Tehran on Wednesday, the state news agency IRNA reported.

Most of the injured were hurt while trying to run out of buildings and were released from hospital after treatment, IRNA quoted the country's Emergency Medical Services as saying.

The quake is an aftershock of a 5.2 magnitude quake on 20 December that killed two people. It was also felt in Tehran where many residents spent the night outside in cars, or in sport facilities and other buildings turned into rescue centers, local news agencies said.

Crisscrossed by several major geological fault lines, Iran is one of the world's most quake-prone countries. In 2003, a magnitude 6.6 quake in Kerman province killed 31,000 people and flattened the ancient city of Bam. —Reuters ■

Turkey detains 54 former university staff in Gulen-related operation: Anadolu

ISTANBUL — Turkish police have detained 54 staff from a university shut down after an attempted coup last year that was blamed on US-based Islamic preacher Fethullah Gulen, state-run Anadolu news agency said on Wednesday.

It said the police had arrest warrants for a total of 171 ac-

ademics and staff from Istanbul's former Fatih University, which was regarded as having close ties to Gulen. The cleric has denied any involvement in the failed putsch of 15 July, 2016.

Fatih University was shut under a state decree following the coup attempt and Anadolu said staff there were found to

have been users of ByLock, an encrypted messaging application which the government says was commonly used by Gulen's supporters.

Since the coup attempt more than 50,000 people, including civil servants and security personnel, have been jailed pending trial and some 150,000 suspended or

dismissed from their jobs.

Rights groups say the crackdown has been exploited to muzzle dissent.

The government says the measures have been necessary due to the security threats which has Turkey faced since the putsch, in which 250 people were killed. —Reuters ■

Russia to start tests of latest seaborne air defence missile/gun system in 2018



A Project 22800 Karakurt corvette is expected to be the first to receive the Pantsyr-ME. PHOTO: TASS

ST PETERSBURG — Russia's latest seaborne Pantsyr-ME air defence missile/gun system will be tested on the land and at sea next year, Almaz Central Marine Design Bureau CEO Alexander Shlyakhtenko told TASS on Tuesday.

"It will be tested from next year, first on the land-based stand and then it will be delivered to one of the ships," the chief executive said, replying to the corresponding question.

Shlyakhtenko earlier told TASS that the Pantsyr-ME would be mounted on a Project 1241 Molniya missile corvette and undergo trials in the Black Sea. As CEO of High Precision Systems Corporation Alexander Denisov said,

the trials are expected to be completed in a year or two and the Russian Navy has already ordered this seaborne air defence missile complex.

A Project 22800 Karakurt corvette is expected to be the first to receive the Pantsyr-ME.

The Pantsyr-ME is the shipborne version of the Pantsyr air defense missile/gun system. Its land-based version is called Pantsyr-S. The seaborne version can be outfitted with missiles from the land-based variant and also with the promising Germes-K missile, which can be guided by a drone. The Pantsyr-ME is set to replace the Kortik system.—Tass ■

Los Angeles-Tokyo flight turns back after passenger mix-up

LOS ANGELES — A Tokyo-bound jet returned to Los Angeles International Airport on Tuesday because the crew learned four hours into the flight that a passenger was on the wrong plane, All Nippon Airways (ANA) said in a statement.

Flight 175 departed Los Angeles at 11:36 am (0336 GMT) for Tokyo Narita Airport but turned around over the Pacific Ocean when crew members learned of the mix-up. It landed in Los Angeles

at 7:33 pm, the airline said.

Model Chrissy Teigen said in a tweet that she and her husband John Legend, a singer and actor, were on the flight.

"During the flight, the cabin crew became aware that one of the passengers boarded the incorrect flight and notified the pilot," the statement said. "As part of the airline's security procedure, the pilot in command decided to return to the originating airport, where the passenger was disembarked."

Los Angeles television station KTLA said that the FBI interviewed passengers and that the agency had received reports of a "possible stowaway" aboard the flight but no arrests have been made.

The FBI did not immediately respond to a request for comment. ANA said it was investigating the incident. "We take great pride providing exemplary customer service, and on this flight we failed to do so," the airline said.—Reuters ■

Obama warns that society being splintered by online biases

LONDON — Former US president Barack Obama said the way people communicate via social media risked splintering society and leaders had to ensure the Internet did not cocoon users within their biases.

Obama said in an interview with Britain's Prince Harry, broadcast on BBC radio on Wednesday, that social media should promote diverse views in a way that "doesn't lead to a Balkanisation of our society."

"All of us in leadership have to find ways in which we can recreate a common space on the Internet," Obama said.

"One of the dangers of the Internet is that people can have entirely different realities, they can be just cocooned in information that reinforces their current biases."

Obama has previously warned that social media platforms can lead people to make snap judgements about complex decisions although he has refrained from criticising his successor Donald Trump who reg-



Britain's Prince Harry reacts as he guest edits the BBC's Radio 4 Today programme, in London, Britain on 27 December, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

ularly uses Twitter.

Obama said in the interview broadcast on Wednesday that moving online communities offline helped people to see that many issues were not as simple as they might seem in a chatroom.

"It's also by the way harder to be as obnoxious and cruel in person as people can be anonymously on the Internet," he said.

Obama spoke to Harry in an interview conducted by the prince as a guest editor for BBC radio's daily morning news show and focussed on their shared interest in promoting

causes.

Harry was asked by the BBC whether he would invite the Obamas to his wedding next year with US actress Meghan Markle.

"I don't know about that," Harry said. "We haven't put the invites or the guest list together. Who knows whether they are going to be invited or not. I wouldn't want to ruin that surprise."

The Sun newspaper said on Tuesday that British government officials had urged Harry not to invite the Obamas to his wedding for fear of angering Trump.—Reuters ■

JX Nippon Oil & Gas Exploration (Myanmar) Ltd. (Yangon Branch) Notice of Commencement of Winding Up & Notice to Creditors

It was resolved by JX Nippon Oil & Gas Exploration (Myanmar) Ltd., Head Office that the Yangon Branch Office, in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, be closed down and its affairs wound up with effect from 30 November 2017.

All persons claiming to be creditors of the Yangon Branch Office as at 30 November 2017 are therefore requested to submit their claim or claims, with documentary evidence to the undersigned at No.64(B) (1st Floor) Komin Kochin Road, Bahan Township, Yangon within one month of the date of publication of this notice.

Maung Maung Aung
Attorney & Liquidator
JX Nippon Oil & Gas Exploration (Myanmar) Ltd.
(Yangon Branch Office in Liquidation)

China's Communist Party to discuss amending constitution, graft fight

BEIJING — China's ruling Communist Party will meet next month to discuss amending the constitution and to talk about the ongoing fight against graft, state media said on Wednesday, ahead of March's expected passing of a new anti-corruption law.

Fighting deeply ingrained graft has been a key policy plank for President Xi Jinping in his first term in office, and that battle will take on a new hue with the setting up of the National Supervision

Commission as he begins his second term.

Trial work has already begun for that commission, which is likely to be formally codified in law in March at the meeting of China's largely rubber stamp parliament. The new body will take over from the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) and merge multiple anti-graft units into a single body. It will also expand the graft campaign's purview to include employees at state-backed institutions rather

than just party members.

In a short report, Xinhua news agency said the party's politburo, one of its elite ruling bodies, had met and decided to hold two important meetings next month — one on amending the state constitution and the other specifically on fighting corruption.

Xinhua gave no details of what the constitutional amendment might entail, but Chinese legal scholars have said the country needs to amend its constitution before it can set up

the new supervision commission to ensure there is a proper constitutional basis for its powers.

The constitution clearly defines China's top political institutions, such as the judiciary and the prosecutor, in order to grant them state power and changes need to be made to these definitions to make room for a similarly powerful supervision system, scholars argue. The party will discuss the amendment, or amendments, at a plenum next month, Xinhua said

without giving an exact date or saying whether it was one amendment or more. The constitution, which is different from the party constitution, was last amended in 2004 to include guarantees to protect private property and human rights. The other meeting, a full session of the anti-corruption watchdog the CCDI, will be held from 11-13 January, the report added, again without giving details. Xi has vowed that his war against graft will not ease until officials at all

levels dare not, cannot and do not want to be corrupt.

Xi told top party leaders in October revision of the anti-graft architecture would include the scrapping of a controversial "shuanggui" system of secret interrogations, and the introduction of a new detention system.

The latest draft of the new Supervision Law, unveiled last week, adds protections for graft suspects as part of efforts to revise the interrogation system. — Reuters ■

Gunman opens fire in Moscow factory, killing one, hostages held: RIA

MOSCOW — A gunman opened a fire in a pastry-making factory in Moscow on Wednesday, killing one person and taking an unknown number as hostages, Russian state news agency RIA said, citing a law enforcement source.

The "Menshevik" factory building, in south-east Moscow, has been cordoned off by the police, which is trying to make a contact with the gunman and free the hostages, RIA said.

At least two people have been wounded in the shooting, another news agency, Interfax, said, adding that the preliminary reports suggest the vic-



A policeman stands guard after a gunman opened a fire in the pastry-making factory "Menshevik" in Moscow, Russia on 27 December, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

tim worked as a security guard at the factory, which is located on Ilovaiskaya

street.

Interfax cited a source as saying that

the former factory owner has opened a gunfire. —Reuters ■

Japan to limit work permits for asylum seekers from 2018

TOKYO — The Japanese government has decided to limit work permits for asylum seekers from 2018 on the back of a sharp rise in the number of applicants whose purpose is believed to be just to seek jobs, sources close to the matter said on Wednesday.

The current system introduced in 2010 grants work permits to all asylum seekers six months after they file for refugee status. Under the change, the Justice Ministry will only allow people deemed to have high chances of being recognized as refugees

to work, the sources said.

Applicants clearly expected to be denied refugee status such as those fleeing debts will be denied the right to work in Japan and deported to their country of origin after the valid period of their stay expires, the sources said. The number of applications for refugee status has soared since the 2010 revision of Japan's system. The figure surged from 1,202 in 2010 to 10,901 in 2016 and is expected to reach 17,000 in 2017.

But only 28 people were recognized as refugees in 2016, sparking in-

ternational criticism that Japan is closed to refugees.

The refugee screening process in Japan takes 10 months on average and it can take years before a final conclusion is reached as an applicant can file appeals or resubmit an application. Work permits are given to assist the lives of asylum seekers during the screening process, but many applicants are believed to have filed for refugee status just to work in Japan, not seeking protection.

Under the new system to be introduced next

year, the ministry will conduct simplified screenings within two months on applicants who have resident status in such categories as study abroad, technical training and short-term visits.

Then applicants will be classified into three groups — people with a high possibility of being recognized as a refugee, those judged to be clearly not genuinely seeking asylum, and those who have repeatedly submitted applications. People in the latter two groups could be deported. —Kyodo News ■

TRADEMARK CAUTION

NOTICE is hereby given that **F. DIVELLA S.P.A.**, a company incorporated in Italy and having its principal office at 1, Largo Domenico Divella, 70018 Rutigliano (BA), Italy is the owner and sole proprietor of the following trademark:-



(Reg: No. IV/7379/2017)

in respect of the goods: "Meat, fish, poultry and game; meat extracts; preserved, frozen dried and cooked fruit and vegetables; jellies, jams, compotes; eggs, milk and dairy products; edible oils and fats" in class 29.

"Coffee, tea, cocoa, sugar, rice, tapioca, sago, artificial coffee; flour and preparations made from cereals, bread, pastry and confectionery, edible ice; honey, treacle; yeast, baking powder; salt, mustard; vinegar, sauces (condiments); spices; ice for refreshment" in class 30.

The aforesaid goods bearing the registered trademark are imported and distributed in Myanmar by:

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U Kyi Win Associates

For **F. DIVELLA S.P.A.**

BY ITS ATTORNEY

ACTIP IP LIMITED

P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.

Phone: 372416

Dated: 28th December, 2017

Oliver expresses regret over failed Hoffman confrontation

LONDON — Popular host John Oliver has expressed regret over the outcome of his “failed” face-off with Dustin Hoffman, who has been accused of sexual misconduct by multiple women.

Oliver had got into a heated argument with the veteran Hollywood actor over the allegations against Hoffman at a film panel during the screening of the political drama “Wag the Dog”.

In an interview on UK talk show *The Russell Howard Hour*, Oliver was asked about his confrontation with Hoffman and he replied, “It felt unavoidable and that we had to have a discussion about it.”

“It wasn’t ideal, but it became such a big story. But it became about my questions rather than his answers. The questions weren’t particularly remarkable, but his answers were... not great. That was the point of it,” he added.

Oliver also said that he felt

like the dialogue between the two men “failed”.

“It didn’t really go anywhere constructive, so the whole thing just made me feel sad,” he said.

When Howard consoled Oliver for having tried to question Hoffman over the allegations, Oliver said, “I did. I tried and failed.”

Last month, in an article written for *The Hollywood Reporter*, author Anna Graham Hunter opened up about her encounter with Hoffman when she was a minor.

Hoffman responded to the story, saying, “I have the utmost respect for women and feel terrible that anything I might have done could have put her in an uncomfortable situation. I am sorry. It is not reflective of who I am.”

Since then more women have come forward and narrated their encounters with Hoffman during which he misbehaved with them.—PTI ■



Amitabh Bachchan. PHOTO: PTI

Amitabh Bachchan’s old shoulder injury aggravated

MUMBAI — Megastar Amitabh Bachchan says he is experiencing “unbearable pain” as an old shoulder injury has flared up again.

The 75-year-old actor took to his personal blog, where he said that the injury recently got aggravated after some heavy-lifting on a film’s sets.

Bachchan is currently under medication and applying ice compresses to his injury.

“... Old injury to the left shoulder has through time and activity and age been giving nagging pain... That has recently got aggravated due some strong usage on set... and though the pain became unbearable, the medication and the Tunnel visit has shown that it is an extra tear

on the rotor cup, but that it is not reached an alarming stage,” he wrote.

The actor, who will next be seen in “Thugs of Hindostan” and “102 Not Out”, also shared some pictures from actor Anushka Sharma and Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli reception last night.

Bachchan sported a black sling as he attended the high-profile event and was joined by daughter Shweta Bachchan Nanda, actors son and daughter-in-law, Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan. “So arrive in a somewhat state that could give undue attention to the issue... But really it is not as bad as it looks...,” Bachchan said about his look.—PTI ■



The ballet premiered on 9 December. PHOTO: TASS

Bolshoi to keep controversial Nureyev ballet in its repertoire after next summer’s runs

MOSCOW — The Bolshoi will keep the Nureyev ballet in its repertoire after three runs scheduled for June 2018, the theater’s Director General, Vladimir Urin told TASS on Tuesday.

“I’ve already made an

announcement that we’ll be touring China and [South] Korea next May and that’s why Nureyev will have three runs in June,” he said. “After that the ballet will stay in our repertoire.”

The ballet premiered on 9

December, 2017. Its creators are composer Ilya Demutsky, choreographer Yuri Possokhov, and producer, theater designer and libretto author Kirill Serebrennikov, who is currently under house arrest on embezzlement charges.—Tass ■

I leave my persona behind while playing a role: Rani Mukerji

NEW DELHI — Rani Mukerji has always had a strong connect with the audiences and the actor believes people find her relatable because she never brings her real-life persona on screen.

In her new film “Hichki”, which is her first after the birth of her daughter Adira, Rani plays the role of a woman who does not let her speech disability come in the way of achieving her dream of becoming a teacher.

“Whenever I play a character in a film, I try to remove Rani Mukerji and emotionally connect with the part. If a person sitting in a cinema hall can forget who you really are and believes you are the character, that’s the real victory for an actor,” Rani told PTI in an interview.

“I want people to forget that they are watching a Rani Mukerji film and get invested in the character,” she added.

The actor said she has always been attracted to complex

roles and this was one of the main reasons to accept “Hichki”.

In the film, Rani plays a woman with Tourette syndrome, a condition that forces an individual to make involuntary repetitive movements or sounds.

“For somebody to take their weakness and turn it into strength... It holds a positive message. I truly believe that all of us have a weakness that we know but we try to camouflage it as we have to put up a hard exterior in front of the world. If one can make their weakness their strength, the world can become a good place.”

Rani is not new to playing challenging roles. She played a deaf and blind woman in Sanjay Leela Bhansalis “Black”.

The actor said one has to be careful with such roles as there is always a probability to look like a caricature.

“It is with all my films. I take special care because it may

become a caricature. There is always a thin line. I have been taking feedback on this film from day one. After every shot, I ensured that if I do the tick, it should appear natural. I would constantly check with Siddharth (director). It was important to look authentic.”

The movie, produced by Yash Raj Films, also highlights the topic of literacy and Rani said the right to education cannot be gender specific.

“Education is the right of every human being, irrespective of the gender. In India, a state like Kerala has the highest percentage of literacy, we should take that as an example. Once there is a change in the attitude, it can make a huge difference. Both men and women are working today and education should not be gender specific.”

Directed by Siddharth P Malhotra and produced by Maneesh Sharma, “Hichki” will release across India on 23 February, next year.—PTI ■

St Petersburg wins two 2017 World Travel Awards

ST PETERSBURG — St Petersburg, Russia's second largest city, has won two prizes at the 24th annual World Travel Awards ceremony, which took place on Viet Nam's Phu Quoc island.

St Petersburg was named winner in two categories, World's Leading Cultural City Destination 2017 and World's Leading City Destination 2017, said Andrei Mushkarev, the head of the local committee for tourism development.

"We believe that these awards are well-deserved and expectable," the official said.

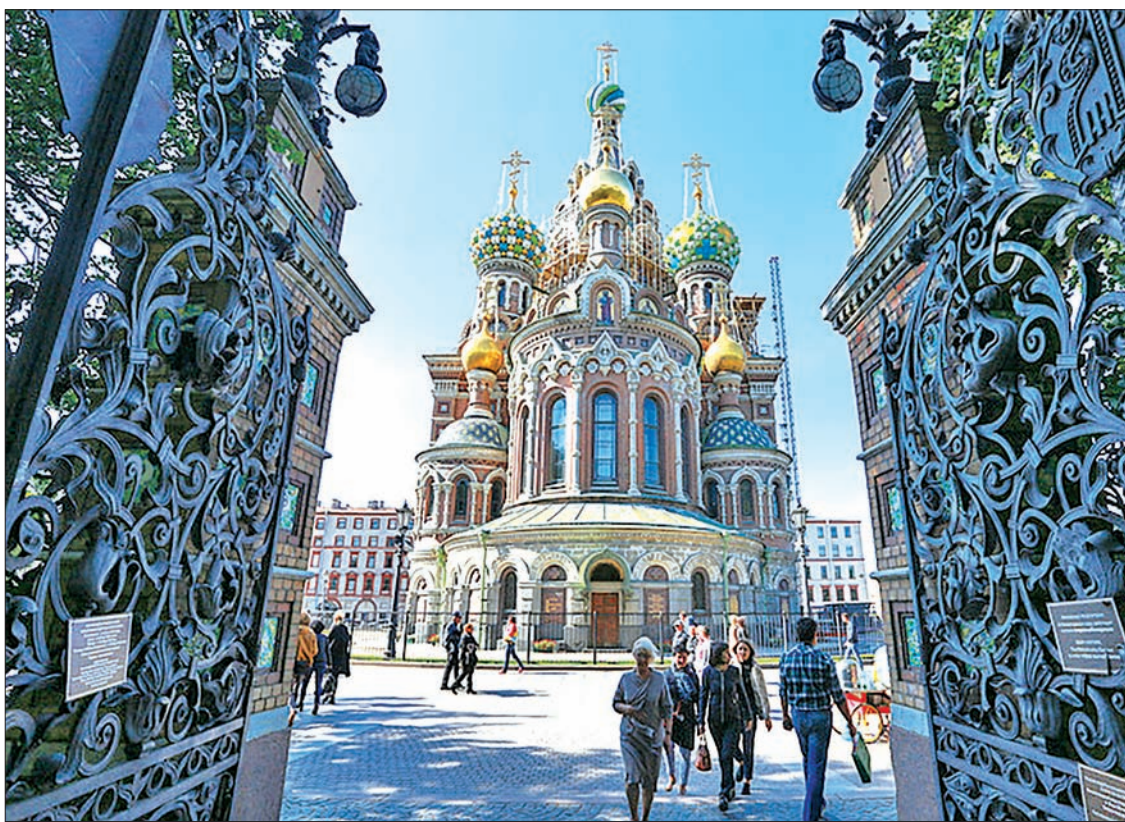
In September, the leaders and experts of the world's tourism industry gathered in St Pe-

tersburg for the World Travel Awards' Europe Gala Ceremony 2017 where the host city picked up the award for Europe's Leading City Destination.

"After seeing St Petersburg with their own eyes, they could not stay indifferent to the Venice of the North and deny its tourist potential," Mushkarev said.

In 2015, St Petersburg was named Europe's best tourist destination.

Founded in 1993, World Travel Awards is the travel industry's most prestigious awards program, rewarding leaders in the tourism, airline, hotel and hospitality sectors around the world.—Tass ■



St Petersburg was named winner in two categories — World's Leading Cultural City Destination 2017 and World's Leading City Destination 2017. **PHOTO: TASS**

Chinese oracle bone inscriptions added to UNESCO world memory register

BEIJING — Chinese oracle bone inscriptions have been included on the UNESCO Memory of the World Register, Chinese authorities announced on Tuesday.

Oracle bones are pieces of ox scapula or turtle plastron, which were used for divination during the late Shang Dynasty (1600-1046 BC).

They bear the earliest significant corpus of ancient Chinese writing and contain important historical information about the Shang.

"Chinese characters have had a far-reaching impact on the world, especially for neighbouring countries, and made great contributions to world civilization," said Deputy Minister of Education Du Zhanyuan, also head of the State Language Work Committee.

"The inclusion signals that the value of Chinese oracle bone inscriptions has been recognized by the world," said Du.

Oracle bones from an-

cient China, hieroglyphs from ancient Egypt, cuneiforms from ancient Babylon, and Mayan glyphs from Mesoamerica are among the world's most famous ancient writing systems, but oracle bones are the only ones that still survive, as they have evolved over time into current Chinese characters. Around 160,000 pieces of oracle bone have been found so far, but of the 4,300 characters inscribed on them, only 1,600 have been decoded.—Xinhua ■



A press conference on the Chinese oracle bone inscriptions is held at the Palace Museum in Beijing, capital of China, on 26 December, 2017. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Real image of Swedish stay-at-home dads inspires world

TOKYO — A photo exhibition depicting Swedish stay-at-home dads who took parental leave for more than six months has made a splash across the globe, posing a question on viewers' perceptions of masculinity and gender equality.

Johan Bavman, 35, whose "Swedish Dads" collection of photos has been exhibited in 25 countries since the two-year project was completed in 2015 said during his recent visit to Japan he wanted to show role models who are often "not perfect" as fathers, worn out from taking care of the kids.

Among the 45 fathers portrayed with their children in a photo book, 25 of whom are shown in the exhibition, are a dad vacuuming the floor while carrying his baby on his back, one helping his three kids brush their teeth and another looking at a smartphone while holding his baby in one arm.

The Swedish photographer based in Malmo, Sweden, who spent a total of 19 months on parental leave for his two sons and recently came back to work, said he was motivated to look for other stay-at-home dads because he had "no one I could relate to" when his first child was born five years ago.

He said that most pictures

are too commercialized, such as ones that show happy or smiling dads or parents pushing their children on park swings, often leaving out negative emotions that go into parenting.

"Not often you saw pictures that express emotions, tiredness and hard work you have to put in becoming parents," Bavman said.

Sweden, which ranked fifth out of 144 countries in the World Economic Forum's 2017 Global Gender Gap Report, has one of the world's most generous parental leave systems, allowing parents to stay at home with their children for 480 days paid for by the state.

In Japan, which ranked 114th in the gender gap report, the worst among industrialized nations, only 3 per cent of fathers were on childcare leave in fiscal 2016 including those who took only several days off, as opposed to more than 90 per cent in Sweden.

To promote gender equality, Sweden allocates 90 of the 480 days to each parent exclusively. But only 14 per cent of parents share the days equally and 25 per cent of fathers claim all the three-month leave period known as "daddy quota," according to the photographer and Swedish Ambassador to Japan Magnus Robach.

—Kyodo News ■



Players from Southern Myanmar FC and Shan United vie for the ball at yesterday's match in Salin Stadium in Yangon. **PHOTO:SUFC**

Southern Myanmar FC prepares for 2018 season

IN preparation for the 2018 season of the MPT Myanmar National League, Southern Myanmar FC intends to recruit high-quality players while retaining their current coach.

Southern Myanmar recently recruited well-known midfielder Hein Zar Aung, who was a star player for Magway FC since 2015.

Southern Myanmar's coach Fey Bianco, is aiming to renew his contract while he recruits new expatriate players from Nigeria, according to the teams' website.

Southern Myanmar United Football Club was founded in 2009 and is based at Yaman-ya Stadium in Mawlamyaing, Myanmar.

The club represents Mon State, Kayin State and Tanintharyi Division on the southern coast of Myanmar.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Shan United defeated by Southern in football friendly

SHAN United lost to Southern Myanmar in a friendly football match played in preparation for the upcoming season of the MPT Myanmar National League 2018.

Southern Myanmar won the friendly against Shan United by a score of 4-2 at the 3,000-seat Salin

Stadium in Yangon.

Southern Myanmar dominated play, converting almost all of the scoring opportunities into goals. The opening goal was scored by Southern Myanmar at the 11-minute mark, but Shan United got the equaliser at the

26-minute mark on a penalty shot by Shan's Nay Lin Htun.

Southern's Ye Htet Aung made the second goal for his team at the 55-minute mark in the second half, lifting the team's spirits. Two consecutive goals scored at 77 minutes by Thet

Paing Soe and at 80 minutes by Thann Zaw Myo due to penalty blunders sealed the victory for Southern Myanmar.

But Shan's star player Shwe Ko made the team's second goal to salvage some pride at 89 minutes.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Fellaini uncertain about Manchester United future

LONDON — Marouane Fellaini is uncertain if he will extend his stay at Manchester United but the midfielder believes manager Jose Mourinho will respect his decision if he chooses to end his spell at Old Trafford.

Fellaini came under fire for his inconsistent performances after signing from Everton in 2013 but the Belgian international has since become an important player in Mourinho's squad.

United triggered a one-year extension in the 30-year-old's contract at the start of the year, but agreeing a deal beyond the end of the current campaign is proving difficult.

"They made a proposal, probably another will follow. Whether I will accept it, I do not know. We will see. You cannot ar-

range something like that in a jiffy," Fellaini told Belgian website HUMO.

"If Manchester did not want me anymore, they would have said that for a long time."

Fellaini can begin talks with clubs when the January transfer window opens on Monday and could leave for nothing when his current contract expires at the end of the season.

The Belgian international has discussed his situation with Mourinho but does not expect it to affect his relationship with the manager.

"We talked about it. The coach is someone who respects the decisions of his players," he said. Fellaini, who has played nine league games and scored three goals this season, is currently sidelined with a knee injury.—Reuters ■

Cautious Kompany reminds leaders City of 2012 Man United meltdown

LONDON — Manchester City captain Vincent Kompany has used Manchester United's late title meltdown during the 2011/12 season as a cautionary example to remind his team mates that there is no room for complacency in the Premier League title race.

United held an eight-point lead atop the table in 2012, before losing two and drawing one of their final six league games to allow City to get back into the race and eventually, seal the title on the final day of the campaign.

Kompany, who was instrumental to City's dramatic comeback six seasons ago, is wary of a similar collapse from the league leaders this campaign and is eager to keep his team mates grounded despite their 12-point lead atop the table.

"I don't know if everyone will remember but it was six games left and we were eight points behind, so that's why I am always



Manchester City's Vincent Kompany. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

the first to come in and say, 'No guys, we can't really take the foot off the gas,'" Kompany told British media. "I really don't want that." "We push, we push, we push, and no one has the right to let their performance down or their guard down." Manager Pep Guardiola's side extended their record-breaking winning streak to 17 league games with a 4-0 rout of Bournemouth last weekend and Kompany is keen to maintain

the high with a win at Newcastle United later on Wednesday.

"We have to keep it going," the Belgian added. "When you are on such a run you want to put it aside straight away and think about the next one, because you know how little it takes to lose that special feeling." "So we have gone into Christmas with a feeling of duty towards the game at Newcastle and with a happy feeling." —Reuters ■