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Aung Myint Tun, who lost his leg after he stepped on a landmine, rides a makeshift trike in Yangon. The government is fast-tracking rights for the disabled. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Gov't to speed up work for rights for disabled

THE National Committee on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (NCRPD) held a meeting yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw, with a commitment for promoting rights for the disabled in Myanmar.

“Creating job opportu-

nities for the disabled is very important so that they can live with dignity and independence,” said Vice President U Henry Van Thio in his capacity as the chairman of the committee, in a message delivered at the committee’s first meeting

yesterday morning at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw.

People with disabilities are still facing difficulties and challenges in obtaining equal rights in the same way as other nationals, the Vice President said.

The capabilities and abilities of people with disabilities needs to be recognised and programmes to increase the capability and ability of people with disabilities according to work types need to be conducted.

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Mro national killed in Maungtaw Township

A MAN from a Mro village in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State, was found dead with multiple stab wounds on Wednesday after he did not return from a fishing trip.

U Laung Pyaw, 45, son of U Hto Hlaing, and 17 villagers from Trane (Mro) Village, in Maungtaw Township went fishing about 6 miles south of the village on Tuesday afternoon. U Laung Pyaw left to return to the village by himself before the others at around 5:30 p.m. When the 17 villagers arrived back at the village at 7 p.m, U Laung Pyaw could not be found, prompting U Ein Soe Maung, the head of the village, to call the Trane Police Post.

On Wednesday morning, police and about 30 Mro villagers searched for U Laung Pyaw and found his body in a field about 100 feet west of Myaw Chaung (North) village.

His body was found with a cut on the right hand, a cut in his armpit, and two thrusting stab wounds in the stomach. It was found that skin of his male organ was also removed. The body was sent to Maungtaw Hospital for post mortem examination.

A case has been opened in Kyeinchaung area police station. —Myanmar News Agency ■



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Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint holds talks with Singaporean Ambassador Ms. Vanessa Elisabeth Chan Yuen Ying in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 December. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint receives new Singaporean Ambassador

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint received H.E. Ms. Vanessa Elisabeth Chan Yuen Ying, the newly appointed Singapore Ambassador to Myanmar, at the guest hall of Pyithu

Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, matters relating to Singapore-Myanmar bilateral friendship and cooperation were

discussed.

Present at the meeting were Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat and Pyithu Hluttaw officials. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Live broadcast of State Counsellor's Peace Talk with local youths

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is conducting a Peace Talk with local youths at the State Hall of Loikaw, Kayah State at 9:20 a.m. today.

The talk will be broadcast

live by television channels MRTV, MITV, Skynet Upto Date, MNTV, Myanmar Radio Program and the official Facebook page of the State Counsellor. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives UNICEF's June Kunugi

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung received UNICEF Residence Representative to Myanmar Ms. June Kunugi and party yesterday morning at

the Amyotha Hluttaw Building II in Nay Pyi Taw. During the meeting, matters relating to women's and children's rights were discussed. — MNA ■



Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung meets UNICEF's Ms. June Kunugi in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe delivers the speech at coordination meeting for reviewing country-wide procurement of medicine and medical equipments. **PHOTO: MNA**

Country-wide procurement of medicine, medical equipment reviewed

UNION MINISTER for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe attended the coordination meeting to review a country-wide procurement plan of medicines and medical equipments held yesterday morning in the meeting hall of the ministry.

The Union Minister said the coordination meeting was held urgently to review the procurement plan and indent system to procure medicines

and medical equipment that is now in use to ensure it is in line with the current needs and to reduce wastage.

There is wastage or loss in the distribution of main medicines and medical equipment, the effective health care provided and benefits both the personnel of Ministry of Health and Sports and the people.

The medical stores in hos-

pitals throughout the country are starting to use computers to have a systematic record system and it is more effective than in the past", the Union Minister said.

The coordination meeting held with officials from Ministry of Health and Sports explaining the procurement and indent systems of medicines and medical equipment. — Myanmar News Agency ■

3,000 issued NVC and NID cards in Maungtaw Township

AN official from Rakhine State Immigration and Population Department said nearly 3,000 people from Shwe Zar Village, Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State have been issued National Verification Cards (NVCs) and technology-based National Electronic IDs (NIDs), a pilot programme. "NVC works by the ministry were started in 12 October with 60 staff as per the instruction of the State Counsellor Office. Currently, 50 staff divided into four groups are carrying out the programme. The four groups have already issued NVCs to 1,457 people and NIDs to 1,503 people of Shwe Zar Village, Maungtaw My-

oma west ward and Myoma south ward in Maungtaw Township", said Maungtaw District Immigration and Population Department Assistant Director U Than Shwe.

Although the staff from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population is continuing the process of issuing NVCs and NIDs in the compound of Basic Education Middle School (branch), Zedipyin Village, Shwe Zar Village Tract, Maungtaw Township, the number of people making NVCs and NIDs are declining. Shwe Zar Village tract containing 12 Muslim villages is close to Maungtaw Township. — Myint Maung, Zeyar ■



PHOTO: NAY WIN TUN

Gov't to speed up work for disability rights

FROM PAGE-1

The meeting was also attended by NCRPD Vice Chairman Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye and U Aung Ko Myint, committee members, Deputy Ministers, Myanmar Human Rights Commission Vice Chairman, States and Regions ministers for social affairs, Permanent Secretaries, Directors General, officials from (Myanmar) Federation on Persons with Disabilities and officials from affiliate associations on disabilities.

At the meeting, the Vice President said there were 2.3 million people with disabilities in Myanmar, more than 4.6 per cent of the population. The NCRPD was formed on 14 September with Union Government order no. 70.

Renovating and constructing basic infrastructures to create reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities, repairing and maintaining classroom desks, providing teaching aids depending upon the type of disability and other physical products, providing teachers who know the Braille writing system and sign language and understanding people with disabilities are lacking, he said.

Works sites that are appropriate for people with disabilities need to be created and necessary technical and other supports need to be provided", U Henry Van Thio said.

Human rights as well as other rights of people with disabilities such as participating in politics and people's affairs, access to health care, businesses,



Vice President U Henry Van Thio greets U Aung Ko Myint, Chairman of Myanmar Federation on Persons with Disabilities. **PHOTO: MNA**

culture, information, living independently in the society, equality and development in all sectors need to be provided, he added.

In recognition of the rights of the people with disabilities, Myanmar became a signatory of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 7 December 2011 and enacted the Disability Rights Law on 5 June 2015 under the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No. (30). It was followed by the forming of the National

Committee on Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The role of NCRPD is important for people with disabilities to obtain the full rights included in the Disability Rights Law. The national committee will protect and promote the life of the people with disabilities, implement provisions included in the Disability Rights Law, set national level policies and guidelines, obtain and conduct works with the approval of the Union Government, cooperate

and coordinate with relevant ministries, State and Regional governments, Nay Pyi Taw Council, municipal committees according to set policies and guidelines, cooperate and observe the works related to disabilities conducted by non-government social organizations, business entities, disability associations, welfare organizations interested in works for people with disabilities, news, information, communication and technology organizations

and individuals.

"Implementing the work of obtaining rights for people with disabilities is not to be thought of as related only to a single department or a single organization. Relevant organizations from each sector need to take up their responsibilities", the Vice President said.

"All need to work together for the development of people with disabilities. The rights and requirements of the people with disabilities are to be understood and included in the new programs. People with disabilities need to participate and work together with other people with disabilities".

Disabilities do not affect the development of a human society. Ignoring or leaving out the affairs related to disabilities affect and hinder the sustainable development goals of the human society. Thus, all are urged to work together for people with disabilities to provide them with equal rights and develop their rights, said the Vice President.

Next, the NCRPD Vice Chairman Dr. Win Myat Aye explained matters of the rights of the people with disabilities.

Afterwards, committee member Director General Dr. San San Aye discussed the rehabilitation and development work programmes for people with disabilities and the future works of the national committee.

Committee Vice Chairman and Myanmar Federation on Persons with Disabilities chairman U Aung Ko Myint then explained the rights of people with disabilities.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Mro villager killed after two murdered in June by terrorists

TRANE villagers confirmed the discovering of the body of U Laung Pyaw, 45, a Trane (Mro) villager in a field on farmland near Myaw Chaung (North) Village at around 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday.

U Laung Pyaw lived in Sagapinyin Village Tract, Maung-taw Township.

According to villagers, U Laung Pyaw went fishing with other villagers and returned home alone. But, he didn't arrive home by Wednesday morn-

ing. Police from Trane (Rakhine) Police Post led a search for him together with about 30 other villagers. His body was found with several wounds in the field, said the administrative head of the Trane Village U Ein Soe Maung.

"We went to search for him since yesterday evening. But we know of him being lost only late in the evening, so we rounded up other villagers and went to search for him together with security personnel the next morning. We found the body just after 8 a.m.

and it was sent to Maung-taw Hospital", said U Ein Soe Maung.

"He went to fish yesterday afternoon. Others returned, but he didn't come back. We went to search for him and found his body in the field. We have six children and the oldest is only 17 years. As a mother of young children, I don't know how I can take care of them" said Daw Paing Tauk, 40, U Laung Pyaw's wife.

"As my father has died, I'm the eldest now. I don't know how we will live. None of us know what



The bereaved family of U Laung Pyaw who was killed by terrorists. **PHOTO: NE WIN TUN**

to do. I have younger brothers and sisters, and I don't know how we can live. Each of us is in trouble now" said the eldest daughter Ma Paing Pyaw. Earlier this year

on 24 June, two Trane villagers from northern Maung-taw Trane Village who went to fish were also killed by terrorists.—Myint Maung, Zeyar ■

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Organic paddy grows well in Indawgyi region

ORGANIC paddy, which is cultivated by the Indawgyi Region Natural Farm Crops Agriculture Association as a pilot project, is growing well in Mohnyin township, Kachin State, according to Fauna & Flora International (FFI).

"We have to test whether the paddy are organic or not. We will take a sample of rice powder and make arrangements to test. If we find the paddy is organic, we will make them available to sell to local residents," said U Yein Khaw, the supervisor of FFI.

Five years ago, the agricultural land in Indawgyi region was damaged by the use of artificial chemicals and fertilizer. This resulted in formation of the Indawgyi Region Natural Farm Crops Agriculture Association (INFA) on 30 July with local farmers.

"Indawgyi region is cultivated paddy mainly as well as other crops. Starting from 2010, people are using more chemical fertilizer, which can affect the people's health. Last year,

some local people needed serious medical treatment after eating vegetables which were grown with chemical fertilizer. The association was formed with an aim to grow organic paddy and crops for people to consume organic and healthy food," said U Tin Soe, the chairman of INFA.

Indawgyi Region Natural Farm Crops Agriculture Association (INFA) is composed of 20 local farmers from seven villages.

To be able to grow the organic paddy and crops, FFI and Shan Green Land Technology Development group has provided technical assistance. The local farmers also cultivated 20-acres of organic paddy as pilot project in five villages.

The organic crops can be cultivated only on the land on which fertilizer has never been used," said U Khin Aung Zaw, the head of Township Agricultural Department.

The INFA is planning to cultivate the organic groundnut and garlic. — EPN ■



Paddy field in Mohnyin Township. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**



Local farmers praised the technology in the paddy plot in Mohnyin Township. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Danyingone wholesale vegetable market open

A new Danyingone wholesale vegetable market jointly developed by the Myanmar Agro Exchange (MAEX) and the Yangon City Development Committee was opened on Tuesday, according to a report in the Myawady Daily. Currently, over 2,500 rental applications have been received

seeking to open retail and wholesale shops at the Danyingone market. The Danyingone wholesale vegetable market is located at the corner of ShwePyiThar Bridge Road and Palae Road near Danyingone station, Insein Township, Yangon. The wholesale market is aimed to

assist farmers in selling their produce to customers directly. The market is constructed on 85 acres of YCDC land, with an investment of Ks118 billion. The new market consists of three buildings and will also offers 2,500 parking spots, and truck terminal facilities for cleaning

fruits and vegetables. The entire market project is expected to be completed by the end of 2019.

People who want to hire a shop must bring a copy of household lists, national ID card, and three passport photos to the Danyingone wholesale vegetable market. —GNLM ■

German tour groups visit Myanmar via Tachilek border gate



German tour groups visit Myanmar through Tachilek border gate under the supervisor of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism. **PHOTO: MNA**

THERE are many unique natural scenes, eco-tourism sites and archaeological sites in Myanmar, and there is now a culture-based tourism industry

by which tourists can observe the traditions and cultures of ethnic people. With these attractive sites and scenes, a large numbers of tourists are

visiting Myanmar. Tourists arrive by air, by sea, and road trips. Moreover, tourists are also coming to Myanmar in vehicles, motorbikes and bicycles.

A German tour group comprised of 23 tourists visited Myanmar through the Tachilek border gate on 14 December, travelling with their own cars.

They visited Myanmar through the arrangement of Traventure Travels & Tours Co., Ltd, and under the supervisor of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

The tourists followed the route- Tachilek -Kyau-kdon -Namsang -Nyaung Shwe-Inlay- Nyaung Shwe-Mandalay-Bagan-Gangaw-Kalay-Tamu trips.

The tourists left the country, heading to India via Tamu border gate on 24 December, it is learnt. —Myanmar News Agency ■

MIC invites entrepreneurs for logistic services sector

May Thet Hnin

INTERESTED investors who own the land may submit investment proposals for logistic services as soon as possible, according to an announcement of the Myanmar Investment Commission.

The MIC welcomes Myanmar citizen investors and foreign investors to be engaged in dry port services, bonded warehouses services, highway bus and freight terminals, warehouses and wholesale centres in the big cities and trading hubs.

“Improvement of logistic services can bring about trade facilitation, reduce transport charges and minimise trade delays. It will contribute to the economic development and

public benefit”, said U Min Zaw Oo, the director of MIC.

U Kyaw Win, Union Minister for Planning and Finance, also said that business permits will be granted for those who want to provide warehouse services at a meeting of the Private Sector Development Committee and Myanmar Businessmen.

The aforementioned ministry is conducting a series of discussions with Myanmar businessmen who are engaged in Singapore logistic services.

The Myanmar Investment Commission recently invited entrepreneurs to invest in manufacturing of the import substitute commodities; manufacturing of different types of vehicles and vehicle related fixtures and parts of

machines, manufacturing of tractors and trailers, manufacturing of telephone and telecommunication equipment, production of machine and machinery equipment, manufacturing of electricity distributing and control apparatus, production of iron and steel, production of fertilizer, manufacturing of plastic raw materials, manufacturing of paper, production of emulated fibre, production of edible oil, production of medicine, manufacturing of cosmetics products.

Also, the MIC will provide necessary assistance to investors to get land and electricity required for operation and scrutinise business proposals promptly for investment in these areas. ■

Companies to be scrutinised for re-export of sugar in September

THE Commerce Ministry gave a nod to Myanmar merchants for the re-export of sugar in September, with an aim to attaining hard currency earning, enhancing trade and the emergence of job opportunities.

However, those authorised companies need to strictly adhere to the prescribed rules and regulations, officials said. Those companies will be inspected whether they abide by the set rules or not. Those companies which violate the set rules will have action taken against them.

Some companies are reportedly selling the sugar imported under a re-export system in the domestic market. If the import list does not tally up with the volume of re-export, those companies will face legal

action, officials said.

Therefore, the companies can check their re-export list against actual records within a month at the Trade Department, according to news recently released by the Commerce Ministry.

Myanmar’s merchants import sugar mostly from Thailand and India and also from Brazil, Qatar and the UAE, then re-export it to China through Sino-Myanmar checkpoints as Myanmar sugar millers are unable to produce quality sugar which meets export criteria due to a lack of advanced refining machinery.

About 2 million tons of sugar is annually traded under re-export system. —Htet Myat ■



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For the opening of Kan Thar Yar International Specialist Hospital on 26th December 2017 that will offer the people complete one-stop service with specialty facilities for cardiac and kidney problems, with no need to go abroad for medical treatment.

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NSCN invited to attend Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong

BY Ye Khaung Nyunt

THE Peace Commission invited the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) yesterday to attend the third meeting of the Union Peace Conference- 21st Century Panglong.

The invitation was offered by Dr. Tin Myo Win, Chairman of the Peace Commission (PC) following a meeting between the commission and the NSCN yesterday at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) in Yangon. At the meeting, the two sides discussed stability and development in the hilly areas of Naga and participating in the upcoming third meeting of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century

ry Panglong, which is scheduled to be held next month.

The NSCN met the preparatory committee for holding the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong on 2nd July 2016. The preparatory committee is tasked with making preparations for the involvement of all stakeholders in the 21st Century Panglong Conference and the successful holding of the conference.

"We (Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee-UPDJC) have requested them to take the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) into consideration. We also hope that the National Socialist Council of Naga land will attend the coming 21st Century

Panglong," said U Hla Maung Shwe, Secretary of UPDJC.

"We have not been here since one year. We have not yet met with the new government. The main reason why we held talks with the new government is that we want to see peace and stability in our region. We want to strengthen relations and trust between both sides. We decided that we need to establish relations with the Peace Commission," said U Kyaw Wan Sein, a member of the peace committee of the NSCN-K.

The NSCN has not yet signed the NCA, but they signed the state-level ceasefire agreement with the government in April, 2012. They have had no clashes



U Kyaw Wan Sein, a member of the peace committee of the NSCN-K. **PHOTO: MNA**

with the Tatmadaw since 2000.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Chairman of the Peace Commission U Thein

Zaw and members, U An Kant, Chairman of the peace committee of NSCN and U Saw Htin and members of NSCN. ■

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends parade of military nurses

TATMADAW Commander-in-Chief Senior General Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing attended and addressed the passing out parades of the 15th Intake of Tatmadaw Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Science and the 2nd Intake of the Lady Nursing Science yesterday morning at the parade ground of Defence Services Medical Academy in Yangon.

After the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief received a salute and inspected them, the passing out companies then conducted a quick march and slow march past the Commander-in-Chief.

As part of the event, the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief presented awards to Cadet Wei Phyto Hein, who achieved the best cadet award, Cadet Thant Sin, who achieved the best training award, and Cadet Soe Khant Aung, who achieved the best academic award in the 15th Intake of Tatmadaw Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Science.

The Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief also presented awards to Cadet Nan Yawei Paing, with the best cadet award, Cadet Su Mon Naing, with best training award and Cadet Aye Thawda Min, with the best academic award in the 2nd Intake of



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects the ceremonial Guard of Honour at the parade of Tatmadaw Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Science. **PHOTO: MNA**

the Lady Nursing Science.

In his speech to the cadets, the Senior General asked them to strive for the absolute requirement of achieving permanent peace for stability, unity and development of the country. The Tatmadaw had set six peace policies and has worked together with the government in the peace process.

According to the actual existing condition of the country, the areas of the country are designated by states and regions, but in all those states and regions, ethnic nationals

are living together as a union, and it is important that there is no secession, breaking away or breaking apart.

"We should follow our predecessor who had served the Tatmadaw and people dutifully, maintain these good traditions, become Tatmadaw personnel who are loved, trusted and relied upon by the people", said the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief.

After the passing out parade, Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief met with the best cadets of the 15th Intake of Tatmadaw Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Sci-

ence and 2nd Intake of the Lady Nursing Science and their parents in the guest hall of the main hall of Defence Services Medical Academy.

Later in the evening Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended a dinner hosted in honor of the 15th Intake of Tatmadaw Institute of Nursing and Paramedical Science and the 2nd Intake of the Lady Nursing Science at the convocation hall of the Defence Services Medical Academy.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Bus rapid transit system to be launched in Mandalay

A bus rapid transit system (BRT) will be launched in Mandalay soon, said Dr. Ye Lwin, Mayor of Mandalay City during an exclusive interview with Myanmar Digital News.

"Mandalay Urban Transportation Authorities is scheduled to be formed in January. So, Mandalay will launch a BRT system soon," the mayor added. The vehicles from BRT will stop at public areas such as markets, hospitals and government offices and the bus fare is set at Ks 200. The system is expected to facilitate better transportation service for Mandalay residents.

Vehicles with left-hand steering wheels will be used on BRT Lines and will have a right side door for passengers entering or leaving the bus. The BRT will introduce a smart card system for bus fares. Arrangements are being made to develop bus routes and plan out the time it takes for buses to go from one bus stop to another.—Myanmar Digital News ■

Akhar ethnic people celebrates traditional new year in Kengtung

AKHAR ethnic people in eastern Shan State celebrated their traditional new year in Kengtung, Shan State, on Thursday.

In the 43rd new year celebration, Akhar dance troupes entertained the audience with traditional dances.

Folk arts and traditional utensils of the hilly tribes are also displayed at the ceremony and visitors are served with traditional cuisines of

Akhar.

The ceremony was formally opened by Commander of the Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Aung Zaw Aye, Shan State Finance Minister U Sai Tit Shantit Lone and Minister for Akhar Ethnic Affairs.

Akhar ethnic people's new year celebration is also known as "Akhar National Day" falls on 28 December and turned 43rd this year.—Kengtung IPRD ■



Akhar ethnic people celebrating their Akhar National Day in Kengtung in eastern Shan State.
PHOTO: KENG TUGN IPRD

Ngamoeyeik River to be upgraded for water bus service

To assist in water bus service which is currently operating in the Yangon River, the Kamoeyeik River would be upgraded, said Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein yesterday.

He made the remark at the opening of a bridge linking South Okkalapa and Dagon Myothit (North) in Yangon yesterday.

With the service in the Ngamoeyeik River, the current water bus service would provide commuters with circular service of Yangon, he said.

Yangon Water Bus was commissioned into service in October 7. With the help of France, the Yangon Region government is carrying out survey to upgrade

the Ngamoeyeik River and to develop the junctions of roads and rail roads in Yangon, said U Phyo Min Thein. Water buses start running at 6.55am. Each of the eight waterbuses now running can carry 140 to 230 passengers on 12 runs daily. Some are express buses and others "ordinary".—GNLM ■

Dawei cultural heritage displayed at Dawei District IPRD

Dawei District Information and Public Relations Department opened its mini museum showcasing Dawei

traditional cultural costumes, folk arts and antiques on Wednesday.

The opening of the mini

museum is aimed at raising awareness of conserving the traditional culture of Dawei.—Dawei District IPRD ■



Dawei local people observe traditional utensils displaying at mini museum at Dawei. **PHOTO: DAWEI IPRD**

UN pressure hurting, not helping Myanmar: China

SEOUL — The United Nations' independent investigator into human rights in Myanmar has called for international pressure on China and Russia to try to get them to oppose human rights abuses in Myanmar.

U.N. special rapporteur Yanghee Lee, who was last week barred by the Myanmar government from visiting the country, singled out China and Russia because they had failed to back some moves in the U.N. aimed at trying to halt the Myanmar military's crackdown on the Muslim community in Rakhine State.

"I'd like to ask the international community to continue to work with China and Russia to persuade them to stand on the side of human rights," Lee told Reuters in an interview.

Neither has joined the United States, the European Union, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in condemning the crackdown that has led to the exodus of thousands of refugees into Bangladesh. In response to Lee, Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said that "external actors" adding pressure over human rights will not help to resolve the issue, and may make it more complicated.

This would not be in the interests of Myanmar, its neighbours or the international community, she said at a regular news briefing in Beijing on Thursday. "We hope that countries or individuals external to the issue can create a positive environment that is more conducive to Myanmar resolving

the issue for themselves," Hua added.

The Russian foreign ministry did not respond to a request for comment.

The Russian government has previously warned against interfering in Myanmar's internal affairs. Russia's ambassador to Myanmar, Nikolay Listopadov has said it is "against excessive intervention, because it won't lead to any constructive results."

The Myanmar armed forces are accused by members of Muslim community and human rights advocates of carrying out killings, rapes and village burnings, in what top officials in the United Nations and United States have described as ethnic cleansing.

The Russian and Chinese stance is particularly important because either of them can block the U.N. Security Council from referring allegations of crimes against humanity to the International Criminal Court in the Hague. The ICC cannot act against Myanmar without a referral because Myanmar is not an ICC member. Myanmar has denied human rights abuses, saying its military is engaged in a legitimate counter-insurgency operation. The military exonerated itself of all accusations of atrocities in an internal investigation, which published its findings on 13 November. Myanmar's foreign affairs ministry has said Lee was not objective or impartial in a report she issued in July, and it wanted a fair investigator.—Reuters/Hyonhee Shin ■

We will preserve our ancestral heritage!

MOST Myanmar people would have known the historical background of Myanmar as to how Myanmar lost her Independence and as to how our ancestors sacrificed their lives for regaining Independence. But, most will not be able to distinguish the difference between the period when the country lost her Independence and the period after the Independence was regained.

During the period when Myanmar people were living under the British Colonial rule there was a deep desire among the people to liberate ourselves out of the British yoke. The feeling was conceived in the deepest hearts of the entire Myanmar people, out of great our deep desire to liberate ourselves from British Rule, and to live as free citizens in a sovereign nation under our own King on the throne, out of a spirit of the great nationalism. This desire to live as free people in an independent sovereign nation was the main driving force that eventually helped us to gain our independence. On the other hand, reading books about independence or listening to stories about independence from others is not sufficient to win the struggle for independence. The indomitable spirit and

the dauntless courage to participate in the struggle for independence finally resulted in victory because the entire Myanmar people were united and worked selflessly for gaining independence.

Accordingly, reminiscences are frequently described for younger generations not to forget as to how our national independence was lost and as to how many people sacrificed their lives for regaining Independence. Only if we always remember these things will the spirit of nationalism never disappear from our hearts so that we will be ready and willing to protect our national sovereignty from the danger of destructive elements like ARSA for example.

The entire population took many years to regain Independence by sacrificing countless lives. We won our independence because of our national unity, enthusiastic nationalism, strong patriotism and bravery.

The concerted efforts of our ancestors should not be forgotten. Their heroic deeds will remain etched in our minds forever; as their actions are worthy of imitation. It can be said that our duty to safeguard the Independence we have gained will not be that difficult compared to the sacrifices of our forefathers. Had we been less united without due recognition of the value of our ancestors' hard-won Independence, potential dangers for harming our national sovereignty and Independence can emerge anytime.

To sum it up, it is incumbent upon us to safeguard our Independence of our ancestral heritage with unity and strength. So, we look towards the Independence Day celebrations, let us firmly resolve to defend our independence from the danger of neo-colonialists and extremist terrorists.

Youths and Independence Day

By Maung Thaung Win
[Ex-Diplomat]

FOSSILS discovered in Myanmar could prove that the common ancestors of human, monkeys and apes evolved from primates in Asia. It shows that Myanmar existed with a long strengthened history background. According to the historical evidences recorded in the eras of Bayintnaung, Anawrahta and Alaungphaya, we can see that Myanmar did stand tall in the midst of the neighboring countries, with its own kings on the thrones. Once in the past Myanmar was greatly valued and paid respect not only by the regional countries but also by other nations.

Plunging under the colonial rule

Due to the wars of aggression for three times by the British Imperialists in later Konebaung Era, Myanmar fell down under the attacks of the British forces on 1st January 1886, experiencing bitter days while living under the colonial rule for over 120 years until 4th January 1948 when our country regained its Independence. While fighting for the Independence lots of lives were sacrificed.

People waged in armed revolt

Whatever it is, people who are not desirous of living under the British rule began to attack the

British forces with the arms they had, such as it was. But, Myanmar people faced only with failures due to lack of systematically organized military operations and a large difference in military strength. However, Myanmar people never abandoned the spirits of achieving for Independence, waging sporadically armed attacks whenever they had an opportunity to fight.

Starting from 1920s, there increased patriotism among youths. They launched social activities by forming YMBA, GCBA and Doe Bamar Asiayone, thence nationalist movements such as Peasants' Strike, Workers' Strike and 1300 Workers' Strikes. Among the Yangon university students, there emerged a very strong-minded patriotic youth, who determined to achieve the Independence. He is none other than Bogoyoke Aung San, the architect of Myanmar Independence.

Thirty comrades led by Bogoyoke Aung San got military training in Hainan Island with great difficulties. On December 26 1941 they made a solemn vow to fight for the Independence at the risks of their lives at the house of U Lun Pe in Bangkok, Thailand, forming the Burma Independence Army—BIA. After that, they entered Myanmar in separate columns. At that time, youths desirous of fighting for Independence of the country at the risks of their lives



joined BIA. The strong Tamadaw was formed step by step, achieving Myanmar Independence on 4th January, 1948.

Political negotiations Held

With the gaining of Myanmar Independence, civil armed conflicts emerged, evil heritage left by the British Imperialists.

Yet, the successive governments made peace negotiations with armed national ethnic groups, assuming that peace is of vitality for the national development. So, the State Government, Tatmadaw and armed national ethnic groups signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement—NCA. Moreover, Union Peace Conference, 21st Cen-

tury Panglong's 2nd Session was successfully held. At the meetings of the conference good results were achieved through positive negotiations.

National Unity for all

At the mass meeting held at the Yangon City Hall on 13th July 1947 Bogoyoke Aung San ad-

ressed, "As long as the country is void of unity between the nationals or the people that country will never develop under any kinds of governments or parties, remaining in a state of the lowest country on the totem pole."

Bogoyoke's speeches may not be sweet to the ears of listeners. But they were meaningful and

short to the point. His statements are still right until now. The essence of the speech will be right eternally so long as the planet exists. He gave us a warning that national unity played an important role in building up a nation, by predicting the future of the nation, in advance.

Lessons from global interventions

As usual, foreign countries easily intervene into the internal affairs of other countries, in which unity is ruined between the national brethren, for example the Middle East. Though they do not yet lose their Independence, the people are greatly suffering from a whole slew of difficulties because they have a strong government. People were displaced to safer places as migrants, for their survival, always living in fear and anxiety.

Savour the taste of Independence?

At the mass meeting held at the Yangon City Hall on 13th July 1947, our national leader-cum-architect of Myanmar Independence, Bogoyoke Aung San addressed, "You need to be disciplined, to be united and to try to set up a developed nation so that you can deserve the Independence, if you want Independence. I hereby want to say

that you are required to get rid of your evil habits, to be united and work hard since now, if you want to savour the taste of the Independence."

Independence Day in our minds forever

On coming 4th January 2018, it will reach for exactly 70 years that Myanmar gained its Independence. Only when we are not free we are well convinced of the value of the Independence. To our great sorrow, some youths of younger generation came to forget the essence of the Independence which is of vitality for the entire national populace.

Though the age of Myanmar Independence will enter 70 years, we cannot build up the eternal peace in the country. Solutions should be sought transparently among the national brethren. Presently, there are opportunists waiting for chances of exploiting out of the Rakhine State Affair; in our surrounding. Only if we, especially new generations have been endowed with spirits of nationalism and nationalist awareness can those harming the national sovereignty be driven out. May our youths of younger generations safeguard the Independence which our forefathers achieved at the risks of many lives!

Translated by
Khin Maung Oo

POEM

A Happy Slave

I won't be a wretched pawn on the Chessboard of Fate, now moved here, now moved there, by the whimsical Hand unseen, finally to be sacrificed.

I won't be the poor, little Fawn that fawns the Tiger for not eating him, but finally to be pounded and crushed by the ferocious Hands.

I'd rather be, as Poet Minthuwin says, "an intellectual working like a happy slave, but no more happy when treated like a slave."

Dr. Zaw Tun

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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

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Suicide bombers kill dozens at Shi'ite center in Afghan capital

KABUL — Suicide bombers stormed a Shi'ite cultural center and news agency in the Afghan capital on Thursday, killing more than 40 people and wounding scores, many of them students attending a conference.

Islamic State said in an on-line statement that it was responsible for the attack, the latest in a series the movement has claimed on Shi'ite targets in Kabul.

Waheed Majrooh, a spokesman for the ministry of public health, said 41 people, including four women and two children, had been killed and 84 wounded, most suffering from burns.

The attack occurred during a morning panel discussion on the anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Sunni-majority Afghanistan at the Tabian Social and Cultural Centre, witnesses said.

The floors of the center, at the basement level, were covered

in blood as wailing survivors and relatives picked through the debris, while windows of the news agency, on the second floor, were all shattered.

"We were shocked and didn't feel the explosion at first but we saw smoke coming up from below," said Ali Reza Ahmadi, a journalist at the agency who was sitting in his office above the center when the attack took place. "Survivors were coming out. I saw one boy with cuts to his feet and others with burns all over their faces," he said. "About 10 minutes after the first explosion, there was another one outside on the street and then another one."

Deputy Health Minister Feda Mohammad Paikan said 35 bodies had been brought into the nearby Istiqlal hospital. Television pictures showed many of the injured suffered serious burns. The bloodshed followed



Afghan policemen stand guard at the site of a blast in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 28 December 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

an attack on a private television station in Kabul last month, which was also claimed by the local affiliate of Islamic State.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid issued a statement

on Twitter denying involvement in the attack, which a spokesman for President Ashraf Ghani's office called an "unpardonable" crime against humanity.

Over the past two years, Is-

lamic State in Khorasan, as the local group is known, has claimed a growing number of attacks on Shi'ite targets in Afghanistan, where sectarian attacks were previously rare. —Reuters ■

More patients, abductees evacuated from rebel-held eastern Damascus area

DAMASCUS — Another batch of kidnapped people as well as others with tough medical conditions were evacuated from the rebel-held Eastern Ghouta region of the capital Damascus overnight, state news agency SANA said Thursday.

The evacuation is a part of a deal that demands the rebels to release pro-government detainees in exchange for the government approval to grant access to the people with hard medical conditions into the capital's hospitals.

SANA said 10 abductees were released Wednesday evening by the rebels including two children, a day after the release of the first batch of six kidnapped people from Eastern Ghouta.

The state news agency also said a number of patients from eastern Ghouta were taken to hospitals inside Damascus, stopping short of giving the exact number.

While activists blamed the

government forces' siege on eastern Ghouta for the tough humanitarian situation, where 400,000 people are under siege, SANA blamed the rebels for the hard situation, saying the armed groups have taken the civilians inside Eastern Ghouta as "human shields."

The evacuation of the ill people from the Eastern Ghouta happened in cooperation between the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent.

The spokesperson of the ICRC, Inji Sidki, told Xinhua Thursday that 12 ill people, mostly children, were evacuated from Eastern Ghouta on Wednesday evening.

She said that the evacuees have heart, blood, and other chronic diseases, adding that the families of the children accompanied them out of Eastern Ghouta. She added that altogether 29 people with hard medical conditions will leave in batches as part of an ongoing process.—Xinhua ■

Liberia presidential camps offer duelling predictions before first results

MONROVIA — Former soccer star George Weah's camp said on Wednesday he was set to win Liberia's presidential election run-off against Vice President Joseph Boakai but Boakai's camp said the contest was still too close to call ahead of the first official results.

Liberians voted on Tuesday in a run-off for a successor to outgoing President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, meant to usher in the first democratic transfer of power in more than seven decades.

Liberian election officials began collating the votes from Liberia's 15 counties on Wednesday but a possible announcement of preliminary results in the afternoon did not materialise. They were now expected on Thursday, with final results due some time later.

Unofficial partial results announced on local radio stations all showed Weah in the lead. Weah, the only African ever to be named FIFA World Player of the Year, lost to John-

son Sirleaf in a 2005 election as a political novice. He has served in Liberia's senate since 2015.

A senior Weah adviser, Morluba Morlu, told Reuters he expected Weah to win with about 70 per cent of the vote based on precinct-level vote tallies he said were trickling in from across the country after Tuesday's vote.

"It is clear. We are only waiting for the (election commission) to announce the results and declare him president," Morlu said. "We are calling on ... Boakai to concede defeat and congratulate George Weah."

Boakai spokesman Robert Kpadeh, however, predicted a close race.

"The numbers give us a good feeling," he told Reuters. "From now to tomorrow morning, we should have bigger numbers from our strongholds. We are still optimistic that the numbers can favour us."

Liberia, Africa's oldest

modern republic, was founded by freed US slaves in 1847, but its last democratic transfer of power occurred in 1944. After a violent military coup in 1980 it experienced instability and civil war that ended only in 2003.

In a statement, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres welcomed the "orderly poll" and its peaceful conduct.

Johnson Sirleaf's 12-year rule cemented peace and won her the Nobel Peace Prize, but many Liberians have criticised her for not doing enough to root out endemic poverty and corruption and are eager for fresh leadership.

Weah has positioned himself an outsider who will deliver tangible benefits to the country's young population. Turnout on Tuesday appeared much lower than the first round in October but people in the capital Monrovia expressed relief that the vote had gone smoothly, after several candidates said the first round was marred by fraud. —Reuters ■

Ukrainian government, rebels hold largest prisoner swap

KIEV — The Ukrainian government and pro-independence insurgents in the eastern part of the country on Wednesday carried out their largest prisoner swap since the start of the conflict in April 2014, according to the reports from the rival parties.

During the exchange, the rebels in Donetsk and Lugansk have transferred 74 Ukrainian soldiers and pro-government civilians to Kiev, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko wrote on Facebook.

Meanwhile, the insurgent-run Lugansk Information Center said that the government has released 75 supporters of Lugansk rebels, but two of them refused to return to the insurgent-controlled area.

The prisoner swap between Kiev and Donetsk has also been completed, said Daria Morozova, the self-styled ombudsman of the self-proclaimed Donetsk republic. She, however, did not specify the number of people, who were handed over to Donetsk.

Ukrainian media said later that Kiev has transferred a total of 238 people to the rebel-held area and 165 of them went to



Prisoners from the Ukrainian armed forces gather during the prisoners swap in Donetsk region, Ukraine on 27 December 2017. The Ukrainian government and pro-independence insurgents in the eastern part of the country on Wednesday carried out their largest prisoner swap since the start of the conflict in April 2014, according to the reports from the rival parties. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Donetsk. The Ukrainian ombudsman Valeria Lutkovska told reporters that many people, who were listed as Kiev hostages, had been released from Ukrainian prisons earlier and did not arrive at the scene of the swap.

According to local me-

dia estimates, more than 100 Ukrainian soldiers and pro-government civilians and 86 insurgent supporters still are kept hostage by the sides.

On 20 December, during the meeting of the Contact Group on Ukraine's crisis in Minsk, Belarus, the conflicting par-

ties agreed to carry out the exchange of the detained persons before the winter holidays.

The prisoner swap is a key part of the Minsk ceasefire agreement designed to end the conflict in eastern Ukraine that has killed some 10,000 people. —Xinhua ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Two Bangladesh Air Force training planes crash after collision, pilots eject safely

DHAKA — Two training planes of the Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) crashed after collision on Wednesday night in the country's Cox's Bazar district, 292 km southeast of capital Dhaka, but the pilots ejected safely, said Inter Service Public Relations (ISPR) of Bangladesh Army.

Lt. Col. Md Rashidul Hasan, director of the ISPR, said the planes burst into flames after the mid-air crash.

He said the BAF training planes, Russian Yak 130, crashed around 6:30 pm local time about 15 minutes after they lost contact with Radar. The two-seat training planes were being flown by flight cadets.—Xinhua ■

China to build Mars village in Qinghai Province

BEIJING — China is building a village simulating the environmental conditions on Mars, in northwest China's Qinghai Province.

The project, as part of China's Mars exploration preparation, was approved by experts in Beijing Thursday.

The village will be constructed in the red rock area of the Qaidam basin in western Qinghai, which has been dubbed "the most Martian place on Earth."

Covering 702 hectares, the "Mars Village" will consist of a tourism center, a Mars community, a simulation base and other facilities. Total investment is estimated at 850 million yuan (about 130 million US dollars). —Xinhua ■

Two suspicious packages prompt area close-off in German state Thuringen

BERLIN — Due to two suspicious postal items, the area around the State Chancellery of the German state Thuringen is widely closed off.

Fire fighters and police are in large presence, local media Focus online reported, citing the Twitter account of the "MDR Thuringia."—Xinhua ■

Putin says St Petersburg supermarket bombing was terrorism

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin said a bomb blast in a St Petersburg supermarket on Wednesday was an act of terrorism, and that security forces whose lives were threatened by terrorist suspects should shoot to kill if necessary.

Putin was speaking on Thursday at an awards ceremony in the Kremlin for Russian personnel who served in Syria.

"You know that yesterday in St Petersburg a terrorist act was carried out," Putin told the audience, referring to the explosion that injured 13 shoppers in a branch of the Perekrestok supermarket chain.

Investigators have opened a criminal case into Wednesday evening's blast, which they said was caused by a homemade bomb packed with pieces of metal.

Russian media reports said the bomb was hidden in a locker where shoppers leave their belongings.

Putin said the FSB security service had recently prevented "another attempted



Vehicles of emergency services are parked near a supermarket after an explosion in St Petersburg, Russia, on 27 December 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

terrorist act."

He gave no details, but the Kremlin said earlier this month that a US tip-off had helped thwart a planned attack on St. Petersburg's Kazansky Cathedral.

Putin also told the ceremony that the security situation in

Russia would be much worse if thousands of Russian citizens who fought with Islamic State in Syria had been allowed to return home.

Putin said security forces should take no chances with their own lives if confronted by terrorist suspects.

"I yesterday ordered the FSB director to act within the framework of the law when detaining these bandits of course, but if there is a threat to the life and well-being of our employees ...to act decisively, not take any prisoners, and liquidate the bandits on the spot." —Reuters ■

Erie, Pennsylvania, buried under record snowfall

Erie, (Pennsylvania) — A storm that has dumped more than 65 inches (165 cms) of snow this week on Erie, Pennsylvania, is expected to slightly taper off on Wednesday after leaving drifts that buried cars, paralyzed the area and made the county declare an emergency.

But the respite for Erie, a city of about 100,000 in northwest Pennsylvania on the shores of Lake Erie, is expected to be short-lived, with a fresh round of winter storms coming Thursday night predicted to bring as much as 10 inches more snow, forecasters said.

"This is a crippling snow event," said Zach Sefcovic, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Cleveland.

"They are no strangers to snow in that part of the state, but this much snow in that short a time is just



Erie firefighters remove snow from around fire hydrants on West 8th street after two days of record-breaking snowfall in Erie, Pennsylvania, US, on 27 December 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

unprecedented," he said in a telephone interview.

Large parts of the United States were gripped by freezing weather, with an area stretching from Montana to Maine expected to see temperatures below 10 degrees

Fahrenheit (-12.2 degrees Celsius) early on Thursday, the National Weather Service said.

The winter blast in Erie was caused by cold Arctic air moving over the lake, which had relatively mild water temperatures,

forecasters said. The storm broke a 59-year-old record for a two-day snowfall in Pennsylvania, topping the 44 inches that fell in 1958. Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper issued a temporary disaster emergency declaration

that mobilized resources to help the area.

Pictures of residents on social media showed drifts reaching beyond window-levels in houses and people clearing paths through chest-high accumulations.

"Out of Doritos. Family is arguing. Dogs are getting ornery. It's been 3 days since my last chicken wing. We are out of whiskey," wrote Nicole Massari on her Instagram account @theworldaroundnikki, along with a video showing her Pennsylvania home surrounded by snow.

Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf deployed 21 Pennsylvania National Guard troops along with some all-terrain military vehicles to the region on Tuesday to help residents dig out and transport emergency responders around the area. —Reuters ■

Former Zimbabwe army boss Chiwenga sworn in as vice president

HARARE — Recently retired army chief Constantino Chiwenga, who led a de facto coup last month that ended Robert Mugabe's 37-year rule, was installed as Zimbabwe's vice president in Harare on Thursday.

Chiwenga, whose appearance on state television on 15 November preceded armed soldiers taking to the streets, paving the way for Emmerson Mnangagwa to become president, is the latest in a string of military leaders to be elevated to government positions. — Reuters ■

Greek urban guerrilla group claims responsibility for courthouse blast

ATHENS — A Greek urban guerrilla group claimed responsibility on Wednesday for a blast at an Athens court on 22 December, accusing the judiciary of acting as a proxy for politicians supporting austerity in the crisis-hit country.

Nobody was injured in the early-morning blast at the Athens Court of Appeal. The explosion shattered windows and damaged the facade of the building. Shots were also fired in the direction of a security guard present.

In a statement, the Group of People's Fighters (OLA) said the Court of Appeal had upheld the legality of austerity measures, such as cutting pensions and salaries, in return for bailouts from international creditors.

"Justice is like a snake. It will only bite those barefoot," the group

said in a proclamation.

Police said they believed the claim was authentic.

The group has previously claimed responsibility for a blast outside the offices of a Greek business federation in Athens in 2015 and two attacks in 2013 - one on the headquarters of Greece's conservative New Democracy party and another on the German ambassador's residence.

Earlier this year it claimed responsibility for a small blast outside the offices of a commercial bank, and in late 2016, for placing a bomb at the Labour Ministry in Athens found by police and defused. Small-scale attacks on businesses, state buildings, police and politicians are frequent in Greece, which has a history of political violence.—Reuters ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI-AMPLE VOY. NO. (449)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V UNI-AMPLE VOY. NO. (449) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-12-2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V THANLWIN STAR VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V THANLWIN STAR VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-12-2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ANAN BHUM VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ANAN BHUM VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-12-2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA**

Phone No: 2301185

Myanmar Port Authority "Notice of High Tide"

Exceptionally high spring from 20.3 feet to 21.0 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of January 2nd to January 5th, 2018.

Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum to inform the high tide to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

Correction

Please read "Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division" instead of "Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Cereals Prevention Division" in the advertisement.

"Notification on Changing Pesticide Distributor" on page 12 of 14th December issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar. Agro Power Company Limited.

China extends tax rebate for electric cars, hybrids

BEIJING/SHANGHAI — China will extend a tax rebate on purchases of so-called new-energy vehicles (NEV) until the end of 2020, a boost for hybrid and electric car makers amid a shift by policy-makers away from the traditional internal combustion engine.

The finance ministry said in a statement on Wednesday the tax exemption, which was set to expire at the end of this year, will run from 1 January 2018 until 31 December 2020 for electric, plug-in petrol-electric hybrid and fuel-cell powered vehicles.

The extension comes as automakers in China brace to meet strict NEV quotas starting in 2019 that are sparking a flurry of electric car deals and new launches of electric and hybrid models.

Amid the shift, some global automakers have called on China to maintain financial support for the market, citing concerns consumer de-

mand alone will not be sufficient to drive sales without state-backed incentive schemes to lure buyers.

The Ministry of Finance said the extension would help “increase support for innovation and development in new energy vehicles”, an area where China is hoping it can catch up - and even overtake - more established global automaker rivals.

Local firms like NEV specialist BYD Co Ltd are now jostling with global names such as Ford Motor Co and Nissan Motor Co Ltd in the race to develop successful “green” vehicles for the Chinese market.

China’s auto market, the world’s largest, has slowed sharply this year, but new-energy vehicles has been a bright spot. NEV sales in January-November jumped 51.4 per cent and are on track to hit a target of 700,000 NEV sales this year.—Reuters ■

South Korea 'humbly accepts' there is no proof border park cash funded North's weapons



The inter-Korean Kaesong Industrial Complex is seen across the demilitarised zone (DMZ) separating North Korea from South Korea in this picture taken from Dora observatory in Paju, 55 km (34 miles) north of Seoul, in 2013. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

SEOUL — South Korea said on Thursday it “humbly accepts” there is no evidence North Korea diverted wages paid to its workers by South Korean firms in a now-closed border industrial park to bankroll its weapons programmes as the previous government asserted.

The South’s unification ministry was responding to the findings of a panel which contradicted claims of money being transferred by North Korea as it pursues its nuclear and missile programmes in defiance of UN sanctions. It said would take follow-up steps to boost transparency and public trust in its policy towards the North.

South Korea said last year that most of the cash that flowed into the jointly run Kaesong complex was being diverted. It made the claim when it pulled out of the joint venture in response to the North’s launch of a long-range missile.

In July, two months after liberal President Moon Jae-in was elected, a South Korean government official said there was no hard evidence to back up the assertion.

The decision to suspend the Kaesong project was “unilaterally and ver-

bally” made by Moon’s predecessor, ousted president Park Geun-hye, a day after the missile test and without any formal discussions within the administration, the panel, appointed by the unification ministry, said.

“The presidential office inserted the wage-diversion argument as major grounds, yet without concrete information, sufficient evidence and consultations with related agencies, mainly citing defector testimonies that lack objectivity and credibility,” Kim Jong-soo, a priest who heads the panel, told a news conference. —Reuters ■

Bank Holiday

All banks will be closed on 1st (Monday) January 2018 “International New Year Day” and 4th (Thursday) January 2018 “Independence Day” under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION
DEPARTMENT OF BRIDGE
Invitation for Bids

Date: 5th January, 2018

Loan Agreement No.: MY-P16

IFB No: Package 1: BRBP-P1
Package 2: BRBP-P2
Package 3: BRBP-P3

1. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (GOM) has received a Loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) toward the cost of the Procurement of Civil Works Contractor for Infrastructure Development Project of Bago River in Yangon City. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this Loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract resulting from the bidding for which this bidding is conducted.

2. The Ministry of Construction (the Employer) intends to bid contractors and/or firms for the Bridge Construction Project on Bago River in Yangon City (Bago River Bridge Construction Project: Package 1, Package 2 and Package 3). The Project comprises of the following components:

Package 1

- Construction of bridges, its approach road and an on-ramp. Total length of the Project is 1,312m for main alignment.
- No. of lanes: four (4) lanes for main alignment, one (1) lane for on-ramp.
- Main alignment bridges consist of PC Box Girder, Steel Box Girder and Cable Stayed Bridge. Total length of main alignment bridges is 955m. The on-ramp bridge consists of PC girder. Total length of the on-ramp bridge is 115m.
- Approach road consists of embankment with soft soil treatment and drainage. Construction of pavement, lighting, lane marks, road safety facilities.

Package 2

- Construction of bridges, its approach road and Toll Gates. Total length of the Project is 1,363m for main alignment.
- No. of lanes: four (4) lanes for main alignment.
- Main alignment bridges consist of PC Box Girder and Steel Box Girder. Total length of main alignment bridges is 1,076m.
- Approach road consists of embankment with soft soil treatment and drainage.
- Construction of pavement, lighting, lane marks and road safety facilities.

Package 3

- Construction of flyovers, its approach road and two (2) intersections. Total length of the Project is 824.9m for main alignment.
- No. of lanes: two (2) lanes for main alignment.
- Main alignment bridges consist of PC-T Girder, Steel Plate Girder and Steel Box Girder. Total length of main alignment bridges is 602m.
- Approach road consists of embankment with soft soil treatment and drainage.
- Construction of pavement, lighting, lane marks and road safety facilities.

3. Bid will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans (April 2012). The Eligible Nationality of the Applicants shall be Japan in the case of the prime contractor. In case where the prime contractor is a joint venture, such joint venture will be eligible provided that the nationality of the lead partner is Japan, that the nationality of the other partner is Japan and/or the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and that the total share of work of Japanese partner in the joint venture is more than fifty-percent (50%) of the contract amount.

4. Interested eligible Applicants may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below, from 10.00am to 2.00pm.

5. The complete set of the Bidding Documents for each package are available in CD-ROM and will be obtained by 1,000 USD per package by interested Applicant(s) from 5th January, 2018 to 5th February, 2018 on the submission of a written Application to the address below.

6. Pre-Bid meeting and Site Visit for Package 1, 2 and 3 will be held on below date and time:

		Package 1	Package 2	Package 3
Site Visit	Date	24 January 2018	25 January 2018	26 January 2018
	Time	09:30hrs	09:30hrs	09:30hrs
	Place	Bridge Special Unit 11, Thaketa Township, Yangon	Bridge Special Unit 11, Thaketa Township, Yangon	Bridge Special Unit 11, Thaketa Township, Yangon
Pre-Bid Meeting	Date	24 January 2018	25 January 2018	26 January 2018
	Time	14:00hrs	14:00hrs	14:00hrs
	Place	Bridge Special Unit 11, Thaketa Township, Yangon	Bridge Special Unit 11, Thaketa Township, Yangon	Bridge Special Unit 11, Thaketa Township, Yangon

7. Applications for bidding for Package 1, 2 and 3 should be submitted in sealed envelopes, delivered to the address below on 10.30am of 4th April, 2018 Myanmar local time and be clearly marked “Application to Bidding for Bago River Bridge Construction Project”.

Attention: U Shwe Lay, Director General, Department of Bridge, Ministry of Construction

Address: Director General's Office, Department of Bridge, Ministry of Construction at Building No. 11, Ministry of Construction, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Phone No: +95-67-407514, +95-67-407069

8. Applications for bidding will be opened below schedule:

The opening of the Technical Bid shall take place at:

	Package 1	Package 2	Package 3
Date	4 th April 2018	4 th April 2018	4 th April 2018
Time	11:00hrs	11:30hrs	12:00hrs
Place	Director General's Office mentioned above.		

Anushka Sharma has been named the PETA 2017 Person of the Year

GUWAHATI — Bollywood superstar and vegetarian Anushka Sharma has been named the PETA 2017 Person of the Year for her wide-reaching work for animals.

"Anushka Sharma is a proud animal rights proponent whose kindness and initiative know no bounds," said People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) Associate Director Sachin Bangera in a statement today.

The actor has also taken to Twitter to demand a ban on cruel carriage rides in Mumbai where often-lame horses are forced to haul passengers in all weather extremes without adequate rest, food or water, PETA said, adding Sharma lives with her beloved adopted dog Dude.

Past recipients of PETA's Person of the Year Award include



PHOTO: PTI

politician Dr Shashi Tharoor; former Supreme Court Judge K S

Radhakrishnan Panicker and actors Kapil Sharma, Hema Ma-

lini, R Madhavan, and Jacqueline Fernandez.—PTI ■

Lady Gaga announces two-year Las Vegas residency

LOS ANGELES — Music diva Lady Gaga has announced a two-year special engagement at Las Vegas' Park Theatre, beginning December 2018.

The 31-year-old artiste will be performing a show specifically designed for an intimate venue at the Park MGM centre. Talking about her upcoming feat, Gaga said it has been her "life-long dream" to perform in Vegas. "It's the land of Elvis, Tony Bennett and Frank Sinatra, the Rat Pack, Elton John, Judy Garland and Liza Minnelli. It has been a life-long dream of mine to play Las Vegas. I am humbled to be a part of a historical line-up of performers, and to have the honour of creating a new show unlike anything Vegas has ever seen before.—PTI ■

Pop star Rihanna calls for end to gun violence after cousin's death

NEW YORK — Pop star Robyn Rihanna Fenty on Tuesday called for an end to gun violence in a post mourning her cousin's death, becoming the latest high-profile figure to raise concern over gun control.

Following photos with her cousin posted on Instagram, the always best-selling singer wrote: "Can't believe it was just

last night that I held you in my arms! Never thought that would be the last time I felt the warmth in your body!!!"

Rihanna ended her post with the hashtag #endgunviolence. She didn't tell the cousin's name but tagged his Instagram account in one of the photos.

The singer's post has received support from millions of

fans and tens of thousands of comments. Local media identified the slain man as 21-year-old Tavon Kaiseen Alleyne, who was reportedly gunned down near his home in the Caribbean country of Barbados, Rihanna's homeland. Visitors to the island were suggested to "be vigilant at all time," according to the British government's foreign travel advice. "The

local police have advised residents and visitors against wearing visible gold jewelry due to a spate of robberies particularly in Bridgetown and other popular tourist areas," the travel advice added.

Bridgetown is the capital of Barbados and birthplace of Rihanna, whose career is thriving in the United States.—Xinhua ■

Billie Lourd honours Carrie Fisher on first death anniversary

LOS ANGELES — Actor Billie Lourd has paid tribute to her mother Carrie Fisher with a trip to see the northern lights.

In an Instagram post, the 25-year-old actor said she took a trip to Norway with her father, Bryan Lourd, as a tribute to Fisher on her first death anniversary.

"My mommy had an otherworldly obsession with the northern lights, but I never got to see them with her," Lourd wrote, along with a photo of her father and the bright green northern lights flashing behind him.

"We journeyed to northern Norway to see if we might 'see the heavens lift up her dark skirts and flash her dazzling privates across (our) unworthy irises.' And she did," Lourd added.

Fisher had died in December 2016 of cardiac arrest at the age of 60.—PTI ■

Now 80, Jane Fonda says she didn't think she'd live to 30

LOS ANGELES — Actress Jane Fonda, who celebrated her 80th birthday last week, says that growing up she never expected to reach 30.

"I never pictured 30," Fonda told People magazine in an interview published on Wednesday.

"I assumed I wouldn't live very long and that I would die lonely and an addict of some sort. I didn't think if I did live this long, that I would be vibrant and healthy and still working. I'm grateful," she added.

Fonda's mother committed suicide when she was 12 years old and the same year her actor father, Henry Fonda, remarried. She has spoken in the past about suffering from bulimia, taking

hallucinogenic drugs and being abused as a child. Fonda won her first Oscar in 1972, at age 35, for the movie "Kluge" and went on to win her second for the 1978 Viet Nam War drama "Coming Home." She became an anti-war and women's activist, launched a fitness craze with her 1980s workout videos, married three times, and is nominated at January's Screen Actors Guild awards for her lead role in TV series "Grace and Frankie". The actress turned 80 on 21 December. "I'm thankful that I've gotten better over the 80 years," she told People. "I'm less judgmental. I'm forgiving. It wasn't always true. I've really worked hard to get better as a human being."—Reuters ■



Actress Jane Fonda attends the Women's Media Center 2017 Awards in New York, US, on 26 October 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

There's a good boy: Thai nurses dress babies up as dogs to ring in New Year

BANGKOK — Nurses at a hospital in the Thai capital showed some festive puppy love on Thursday, dressing up newborn babies up in fetching canine outfits ahead of the Year of the Dog.

Staff at the Paolo Memorial Hospital Chokchai 4 dressed the babies in blue and brown crochet hats with dog ears and matching outfits for a photoshoot.

Parents were later given framed photos as a memento, said nurse Pilaiporn Kondee.

She said some parents specifically chose to give birth at the

hospital because of the new year costumes and photo souvenirs on offer.

Nopparat Yodsaksee, 32, watched proudly as his newborn son posed for photos.

"This year is the most special year for our family so far," Nopparat told Reuters.

"It's something that has a lot of meaning."

Twelve animals make up the traditional Chinese zodiac, with each year having its own unique beliefs. The Year of the Dog begins in February.—Reuters ■



Newborn babies wearing dog costumes to celebrate the New Year of the Dog are pictured at the nursery room of Paolo Chokchai 4 Hospital in Bangkok, Thailand, on 28 December 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Irish coastal village hosts annual beach horse races

BALLYHEIGUE, (Ireland) — On a rugged stretch of beach in Ireland's southwest, the residents of Ballyheigue braved the wild winds from the Atlantic coast on Wednesday for the annual Christmas horse races.

The winds halted proceedings briefly on a bitterly cold day in County Kerry but the tide stayed out and all eight races took place on the temporary track that locals say first hosted the event back in the 1850s.

"It's a tradition more than anything. Tradition is very important to Irish people," said 70-year-old Donal O'Sullivan.

O'Sullivan, from Listowel, was one of the volunteers that helped prepare the beach to host the picturesque meeting watched by hundreds. A tractor was used to help clear seaweed, while others put up sound systems and racing posts to create a course for the horses and jockeys, who were



Runners and riders participate in the Christmas Ballyheigue beach horse races in the County Kerry village of Ballyheigue, Ireland, on 27 December 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

as young as 11 and travelled from around the country to take part.

"It means a lot to the area at

this time of year where it gives a bit of enjoyment to people who are home on holidays and of

course it leaves a few pounds in the village for the day," O'Sullivan added.—Reuters ■

Tel Aviv attempts plastic brick record with 36-metre tower

TEL AVIV — Tel Aviv residents have built a world record-contending, 36-meter (118ft) plastic brick tower, featuring more than 500,000 pieces, to honor a young cancer victim in the Israeli city.

The multi-colored 'Omer Tower', named after 8-year-old Lego fan Omer Sayag, was completed using cranes in Rabin Square on Wednesday after more than a fortnight's construction work by thousands of residents.

"It was the idea of his

(Sayag's) former kindergarten teacher, and building blocks were donated by residents, companies and some were purchased using municipality funds," a spokesperson for the mayor's office said.

There was no Guinness World Records adjudicator on site to measure the 'Omer Tower', meaning Tel Aviv must wait for approval from the body to confirm they have beaten the previous record of 35.05 meters (115 ft), built in Milan in 2015.—Reuters ■



Tel Aviv residents assemble last toy bricks in order to create a 36-meter tower, in an attempt to break the Guinness world record for the highest building blocks structure in Tel Aviv, Israel, on 27 December 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Indonesia opens new flights for Wakatobi coral reef destination

JAKARTA — Indonesia is taking a series of steps to promote the coral reef destination of Wakatobi in Southeast Sulawesi province, including opening multiple flights to reach a target of 500,000 foreign tourists by 2019, according to government sources. Among the steps were intensifying the connecting flights serving Wakatobi, carried out by state-run airlines Garuda Indonesia by opening flight service from the province's capital of Kendari to Wakatobi's newly-built airport of Matahora.

Garuda Indonesia Marketing and Information Technology Director Nina Sulistyowati said that the opening of the flight route was part of the national efforts to expand air connectivity to the nation's new destinations. Garuda Indonesia will assign the ATR 72-600 propeller plane to ply for the Kendari-Wakatobi route four times a week. Wakatobi is among Indonesia's prioritized destinations and part of ten new destinations across the country. The development of Indonesia's ten new destinations is aimed at tapping more foreign tourist arrivals, inline with the government's vision to make tourism a leading sector in the country. The Wakatobi coral reef is located at the center of the world's coral reef triangle that spans from Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines to Papua New Guinea, Solomon Island and Timor Leste.—Xinhua ■

Khin Mar Lar Tun gets hat trick as Sports & Physical Education trounce University

Sports & Physical Education FC handily beat University, the newest team in the KBZ Bank Women's League, by a score of 9-0 in the first week of the 2017-2018 season yesterday at Aung San Stadium in Yangon.

Sports & Physical Education used its star players including Yee Yee Oo and Khin Mar Lar Tun from the Myanmar Women's National football team against University, and the vast difference in talent between the two teams was evident.

Sports & Physical Education dominated the match, showing concentration and skillful play right from the kick-off.

The opening goal for Sports

& Physical Education was scored at the 12-minute mark by Yee Yee Oo, who also scored the third goal for her team at the 25-minute mark. Khin Mar Lar Tun scored an unbelievable five goals during the match at the 18, 24, 28, 50 and 85-minute marks. In the second half, University attempted to clear the ball, but the very good attacks created every minute by their opponents made the players from University lose their composure and stamina. At the 70-minute mark, the young player Thin Thin Yu scored for Sports & Physical Education. The ninth and final goal was scored by Zin Zin Naing for Sports & Physical Education.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■



Players from Sports and Physical Education and University team vie for the ball in yesterday's match at Aung San Stadium. **PHOTO:MWL**



David Moyes, Manager of West Ham United. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Moyes targets midfield reinforcements to bolster Hammers

LONDON — West Ham United are hopeful of strengthening their central midfield and are also targeting right-sided players in the January transfer window, manager David Moyes has said.

West Ham are 17th in the Premier League and Moyes is keen to add stability to his squad as they look to steer clear of a relegation battle in the second half of the season. "We're short in some areas and overloaded in others," Moyes told the club's website. "For example, we've got lots of forwards, but we're really short of midfield players.

"We've got quite a few who are comfortable playing on the left, but not so many who can

play on the right, so we've got a little bit of an imbalanced squad which we've got to straighten out in January if we can.

West Ham have lost once in the last five league games, beating champions Chelsea 1-0 and holding Arsenal to a goalless draw in that run. The London side drew 3-3 with Bournemouth in their last outing on Tuesday.

"I'm pleased with our spirit and I think there's a bigger hunger and desire to do it, but we're lacking quality. We've got to stop conceding goals as easily as we are at the moment," Moyes added. West Ham next take on 19th — placed West Bromwich Albion on 3 January.—Reuters ■

MNL match commissioner seminar 2018 wraps up in Yangon

With the aim of successful holding of the coming MPT Myanmar National League (MNL) football competition 2018, MNL match commissioner seminar 2018 was launched at the conference hall of Thuwunna Stadium, Yangon yesterday.

Football officials from Myanmar Football Federation, Myanmar National League and other experienced officials who have ever attended match commissioner courses made from AFC, MFF and MNL attended the yes-

terday's seminar.

The seminar was made with the way of discussion.

Ways to develop future Myanmar football, knowledge about match disciplines, newer football match disciplines amended by the former one set up by Asian Football Confederation (AFC), negotiation power in holding the football competition and ethic and good friendship of referees and match supervisors were mainly focused in the seminar.

The seminar was concluded

in that afternoon.

The 2018 Myanmar National League also known as the MPT Myanmar National League is the 9th season of the Myanmar League, the top Myanmar professional league for association football clubs, since its establishment in 2009. A total of 12 teams will compete in the league.

Shan United is the current champions, having won the Myanmar National League title in the previous season.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

New players can boost struggling Swansea, says Britton

LONDON — Swansea City need to recruit players in the January transfer window to provide a much-needed boost to both morale and performance at the Premier League's bottom side, caretaker manager Leon Britton has said.

Swansea's 5-0 defeat by Liverpool on Tuesday marked their ninth defeat in 12 games, leaving the Welsh side five points adrift of safety, having won just three of 20 matches so far.

The Swans escaped relegation last season after recruiting Martin Olsson, Tom Carroll, Luciano Narsingh and Jordan Ayew

in January and Britton is hopeful that a raft of new signings would have a similar impact this time around.

We have January coming up," Britton told the club's website. "I am sure there will be some fresh faces coming in and we need that.

Last January, the club brought some players in who gave us a big boost in the second half of last season, and doing something similar will be important this year.

"We have to try to lift the place by bringing some fresh faces into the squad."

Britton, who took charge after Paul Clement's sacking earlier this month, also urged his underperforming squad to do all they could to get positive results.

"We want some new faces, but it's also down to the players we have now to get us out of it," the 35-year-old added. "The majority of them were here last year when we managed to survive and we now have to do the same again."

Swansea will be looking to end a four-game winless streak when they travel to 10th-placed Watford on Saturday.—Reuters ■