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Aid, rehabilitation, resettlement to be speeded up for N-Rakhine

THE Union Government has stepped up measures for humanitarian aid, rehabilitation and resettlement in northern Rakhine State, with priorities laid down by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday.

At the coordination meeting on Rakhine State held at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday with relevant Union ministers in attendance, the State Counsellor discussed the effective supply of humanitarian aid to the people in the areas where terrorist attacks occurred, along with rehabilitation, resettlement and development in the same areas.

At the meeting, U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor, who toured conflict areas and met with local people along with ambassadors from five neighbouring countries on Tuesday, reported on findings from the trip. Afterwards, Dr Win Myat Aye, Chairman of the committee on implementing the recommendations on Rakhine State, reported on implementing the works of the committee.

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe reported on the security situation and Union Minister for Construction U Win Khaing on ongoing rehabilitation and construction



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the work coordination on Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

works for the villagers in northern Rakhine State.

Also present at the meeting were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Sein Win, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, U Kyaw Tint Swe, Thura U Aung Ko, Dr Aung Thu, U Win Khaing, U Thein Swe and Dr Win Myat Aye and deputy ministers U Khin Maung Tin, U Kyaw Myo and departmental heads.

The meeting was held one day after the diplomatic trip to the northern Rakhine led by Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe.

The trip showed the Myanmar government's willingness to implement a national verification and repatriation process, while Myanmar's neighbouring countries are urging them to take steps to solve the issue, which must be done through

negotiation between Myanmar and Bangladesh, officials said.

The Union Government has already announced that it will carry out the verification and repatriation of refugees in accordance with the agreed criteria set out in the Joint Statement between Foreign Ministers of Myanmar and Bangladesh in 1992.— Myanmar News Agency ■

We are young,
and getting
younger:
research study

RESULTS of research released on Wednesday shows that Myanmar is a young country, with 46.5 per cent of its population consisting of youths or children, and will even become statistically younger over the next few years, the study showed.

The Department of Population under the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population research paper on children and youths is based on population, census and demographic statistics from 2014.

The study shows trends in the population and facts on their social affairs, demographic statistics, lifestyle, health, marital status, schooling and employment. The facts and figures described highlight the image of the younger generation in Myanmar.

According to census and population statistics, 46.5 per cent of the populace are children and youths.

If the birth and death rates remain the same, the number of children and youths will increase a little bit within 10 years, estimating the number of children and youths at 24.5 million in 2024. By 2044, the number of children and youths is estimated to be 23.1 million. The study shows that efforts need to be made to encourage the country's youth to stay in school.

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BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

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Ministries, departments urged to carry out reforms for private business sector development

Vice President U Myint Swe has urged ministries and organisations to carry out reforms meeting international standards in order to solve the obstacles being faced by the country's private sector. He made the remark at the fifth meeting of the Private Sector Development Committee at the Ministry of Commerce in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

"The development of the private sector is vital because it makes up 90 per cent of the country's economy," said U Myint Swe, in his capacity as chairman of the Private Sector Development Committee.

Speaking at the meeting, the Vice President also disclosed

that negotiations are underway to find an export market for excessive stocks of peas and beans that resulted from the recent import restrictions by India.

The Government has formed several committees to help develop the private sector, including the Committee for Basic Human Resources Development, Committee for Sourcing of Funds, Committee for Improving the Environment for Law and Regulations, Committee for Improving Trade and Investment and the Committee for Redefining the Role of the State in the Economic and Service Sector.

The Vice President said advice given at regular meetings



Vice President U Myint Swe delivers the speech at the fifth meeting of the Private Sector Development Committee in Nay Pyi Taw, on 11 October 2017. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

with private business owners totaling 157 points have been sent to concerned ministries, region and state governments and various working committees. The aforementioned organisations have taken action on 142 of the points.

According to the World Bank Group's 2017 edition of Doing Business Report, indices has been given in 10 business areas and each country has been given rankings.

The Vice President urged ministries and organisations concerned to take responsibility for the 10 business areas and work hard to improve the ranking of the country. The 10 business areas included in the publication are starting a business, dealing with construction permits, getting electricity, registering property, getting credit, protecting minority investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts and resolving insol-

veny.

At the meeting, Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint reported on measures to be taken for the development of the private business sector and Union Minister U Win Khaing reported on power supply sector which includes in the 10 business areas. The Vice President ended the meeting by reviewing materials discussed and then gave a closing speech.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye meets with World Food Programme Director Mr. David Kaatrud on 11 October 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye holds talks with WFP Director

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye met with Mr. David Kaatrud, Director, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, World Food Programme, and party at the Makhala hall of the Ministry at 9:00 am yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to undertaking of Myanmar according to new operation and strategy of the World Food Programme (WFP), raising momentum in operating the social protection, schools that feed on nutrients activities of the Ministry in cooperation with WFP, development operations and emergency assistance services, humanitarian aid in Rakhine State, upgrading programme to high-quality training in disaster preparedness sector, works relating to the rule of law in Rakhine State Affairs, humanitarian aid programmes, security issues and family reunification

matters, need for temporary storage depots for Rakhine State, democratic transition of the State and role of socio-economic development sectors.

Afterwards, the Union Minister also met with Yangon-Laiza Peace Walk Team led by U Htet Aung Lin discussed matters relating to reports concerning the Buthidaung's ground conditions, the youths to participate in humanitarian activities in Rakhine State led by the government.

Then, the Union Minister received cash assistance Ks 820,000 from officers of the training course No 14 of the Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar), Zeepingyi and Ks 15,000,000 from Construction and Housing Development Bank to the displaced ethnic people who fled from the terrorist attacks by ARSA extremist terrorists and gave them the letters of appreciation.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Discussion on Rakhine State Affairs, Challenges and its Future Scenario held

THE discussion on Rakhine State affairs, challenges and its future scenario was held on 11 October 2017 at Summit Park View Hotel in Yangon aiming at the discussion to be supportive to addressing the Rakhine State affairs basing on the exchange of views without any parameter sponsored by Myanmar National Human Right Commission.

The chairman of MNHRC and members, persons with high experience on Rakhine State affairs and representatives of local NGOs took part in the discussion.

The chairman of MNHRC, U Win Mra said that participation of the experienced persons in this event was much beneficial in trying to get good advice and more comprehensive view that were vital for the success in resolving the Rakhine affairs.

In the first part, peace

and stability of Rakhine State was discussed and Vice Chairman of the commission, U Sit Myaing acted as coordinator of the event. Commission member U Yu Lwin Aung discussed about the findings during the MNHRC's trip to Rakhine State between 24.9.2017 and 29.9.2017, Chief Minister (retired) of Rakhine State, U Maung Maung Ohn discussed on the experience of implementation works on the stability and development of Rakhine State, Vice Chairman (1) of Myanmar Press Council, U Aung Hla Tun discussed on the role of media in Rakhine State affairs and the participants made questions, assessment and discussion.

In the second part, the impact of Rakhine affairs on the international relation was discussed with Commission Chair-

man, U Win Mra acting as coordinator of the event. Commission member U Nyunt Swe discussed about the relation between UN and Myanmar.

The discussions were made on relationship between Myanmar and other countries including Bangladesh by research scholar of international affairs, U Ko Ko Hlaing, on the relation between Myanmar and ASEAN/EU by member of Myanmar Strategy and International Study, U Ba Hla Aye. The participants made questions, assessment and discussion.

Then the participants made final summing-up discussions on the topics discussed and the final result will be submitted to the President's office by Myanmar National Human Right Commission, it is learnt.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Ethnic Affairs Ministry's employees receive skills for social integration

MINISTRY of Ethnic Affairs and the organization of Search for Common Ground jointly conducted a workshop to improve the efficiency of the employees of the ministry.

In his opening address at the workshop at the ministry in Nay

Pyi Taw yesterday, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin expressed his hope that the workshop would be helpful for the peace making process in the country as the employees would receive training for handling and solving conflicts by seeking the

common ground of a conflict.

Mrs Isla Glaister, Country Director of the Search for Common Ground, introduced her lecture on social integration.

Thirty trainees are attending the three-day workshop.— Myanmar News Agency ■



President U Htin Kyaw receives the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany Mrs. Dorothee Janetzke-Wenzel in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

U Htin Kyaw, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar accepts credentials of Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany

H.E. Mrs. Dorothee Janetzke-Wenzel, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany 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 Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw at 10 am yesterday.

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



President U Htin Kyaw receives the newly-accredited Apostolic Nuncio of the Holy See Mr. Archbishop Paul Tschang In-Nam in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

U Htin Kyaw, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar accepts credentials of Apostolic Nuncio of the Holy See

H.E. Mr. Archbishop Paul Tschang In-Nam, the newly-accredited Apostolic Nuncio of the Holy See 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 10:35 am yesterday.

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

MOI holds workshop on effective use of social media

AT a workshop on effective use of social media held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, the importance of good judgement was stressed.

After Dr Pe Myint, Union Minister for Information, made an opening address, U Nay Phone Latt, Yangon Region Hluttaw representative and U Thaung Su Nyein of Information Matrix Co. took part in a panel discussion titled “Judge and assess news and information posted in social website pages”. The essence of the meeting’s message was, “Believe, share and make comments with judgement”, according to discussion leaders.

“It is effective to wisely use social media. But wrong uses, especially spreading false news and making oneself more attractive, are increasing. Some say that Facebook is of little value, and should be closed down. I do not agree with them. Being Hluttaw representatives, we have to use social media in communicating with the public. If possible, we would like all to use not only Facebook, but also other social networks and social media, with good aims, including Facebook, Twitter, You-Tube, Instagram and many others. In our nation, Facebook is widely known to all. Concerning the internet, there are other websites besides so-

cial media. There are many other things to learn. In our country, we go straight to Facebook the moment we open the internet. We spend most of our time on Facebook only. We seldom use other beneficial networks. Concerning this, the government or educational authorities should consider how to educate people to be well convinced of its effects.

“As for me, I would like the Ministry of Information to be proactive, rather than to explain false information posted on social media in response. Proactive means leading. Qualified governments try their best to be proactive. Had true news been released promptly just after false news appears, there would no longer be room for false news. Rumours can survive until the time when true news appears. Rapid response needs to be promptly done for false news. I would like the Ministry of Information to be proactive and to make rapid responses. Technology must be applied for service to be sent to the public exactly and quickly. In the international sphere as well, they try hard like this. For using technology, it will be e-government. It needs to move on to reach this stage. We have already had techniques. Red tape systems are required to be reduced as much as possible. Utilisation of advanced technology can erase our worries of taking



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint addresses the workshop on effective uses of social media and their natures in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

time. It should be assessed as to why we cannot use advanced technology. It should be performed in other ministries serving the public. If so there will no longer be bribery and corruption. We have an e-government master plan. We only need to perform. Today we are discussing social media. We must have intellect in applying social media. And we need to take care of the news we post. In social media, we must be careful about doing Click and Touch. We would not like people to believe all postings, so that it will be beneficial for the country and ourselves.”

U Thaung Su Nyein spoke on the subject of “People subjected to advantages and disadvantages of social media and a Crisis Communication Plan,” and explained the social media usage policy.

“The policy is rules and regulations for company staff and government service personnel

to abide by. We managed to discuss how to fact check to know whether these are true or false, whenever news appears on pages. Fact checking is to adjust facts to be accurate. The Ministry of Information should make a prompt response to the statements of international figures about Myanmar, as to whether news is correct, and to what extent. Process and procedure should be carried out beforehand. For example, a market was burnt down, losing lots of money. Till two or three days after the fire outbreak, if the news was not released, there will never be convenience.”

He added, “The Ministry of Information survives on its stance of releasing news and information. In case it will survive as the news media, I would like to suggest that it should be prepared not only for the state-owned media but also for its future. Previously, it used to take

time to change the newspaper. Now, in the age of digital media, it is required to change every week, more and more promptly. We are to observe cutting edge technology. Being boundless, digital media needs to understand international laws and regulations. Especially if we are to try our best to fulfil the needs of readers, that is, to be always with the readers.”

Those present at the meeting made queries. U Than Nang, editor of IPRD said, “In our country, people are being found to have used social media, rather than print media, especially from Facebook. People come to have an opportunity to freely disclose their feelings through Facebook. Generally, Facebook pages are full of hate speech and false news. The people need to judge over these. These false news and hate speeches can increase doubts and hatred among races, religions and organisations. Depending upon their judgement, advantages will result in. Thus, the people will have learnt to use social media effectively.”

Assessments will be made over discussions which came out of yesterday’s meeting and further discussions will be held in the offices of regions, states, districts and townships under the Ministry of Information, it was learnt.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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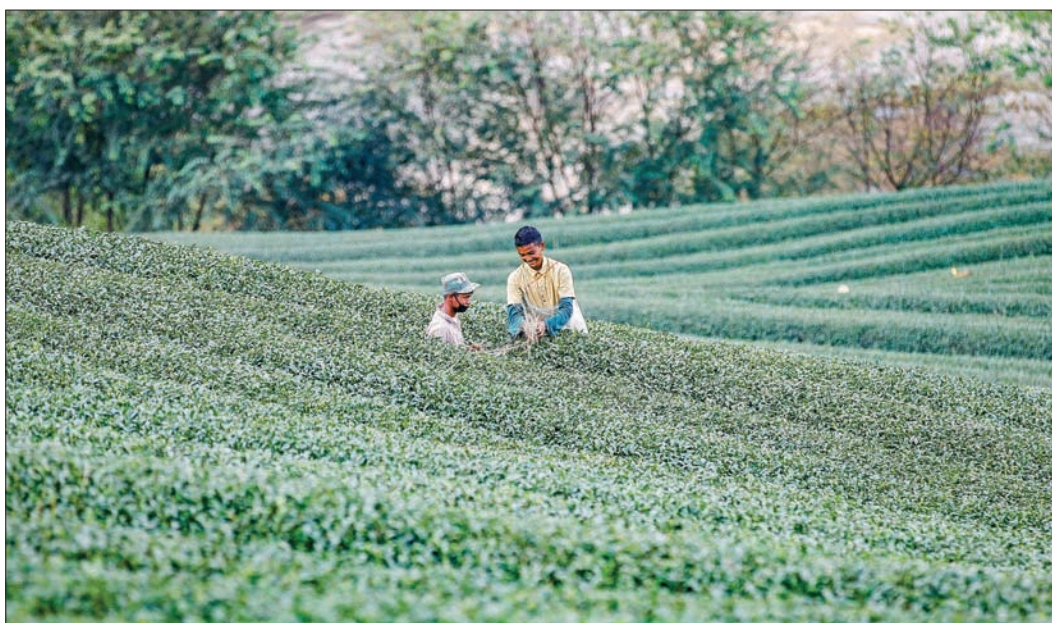
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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Workers work in tea leaf field at Mong Mao in ethnic Wa territory in north east Myanmar in, 2016. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Tea leaves from Shan State exported to Malaysia, Singapore and China

Tea leaves cultivated in Shan are exported to Malaysia, Singapore and China, according to a report in the Myawady Daily.

Since three years ago, the tea leaves has been exported by air to Malaysia and Singapore. This year, China has demanded the tea leaves and Myanmar exports tea leaves by motor roads.

"Although China cultivat-

ed the tea leaves, China imports Myanmar tea leaves because of rise of Chinese currency, bad weather condition and high damages of the tea leaves crops. Therefore, China buys Myanmar tea leaves which is cheaper than the China tea leaves," said a local tea leaf dealer from Lashio Myoma market.

"Our family sell the tea leaves nearly 60 years. Previous-

ly, we distributed the tea leaves across the country. Then, we have exported the tea leaves by air to Malaysia and Singapore for three years. China also demanded the tea leaf this year," said a local seller.

The tea leaf are being cultivated mostly in Laukkai, Kyaukme, Namgsan, Mantung, Namtu, Tangyan and Lashio townships.— GNLM ■

The five suspects and seized motorcycles. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Five suspects arrested in Yangon

ACTING on a tip-off, Yangon Region Police forces arrested four locals on suspicion of looting on Sweltawyeik Street, Ward 60, in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township on 6 October.

While patrolling in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) township, police forces inspected and managed to arrest Thet Naing Tun (a) Than Naing, Thet Naing Aung (a) Min Khant, Zin Myo Htike (a) Satic and Phoe La Pyae. A motorcycle and two phone handsets were confiscated.

Interrogation has led by the police into detaining Chit Ko (a) San Myo Oo at his house in Ward 60, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township and other looting cases.

Upon conducting a search, police found five stolen motorcycles and two stolen handsets from Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township. Four stolen motorcycles and one stolen handset were found in Dagon Myothit (South) Township. Measures are being taken to expose the crime and to take action against those involved.—GNLM ■

Mortality rate from coronary artery disease likely to increase

THE mortality rate from coronary artery disease is likely to increase over the next decade, according to a report in the City News Daily yesterday.

Coronary artery disease can kill about 8 million per year worldwide if health organisations do not provide health education.

The United Nations is making an effort to reduce the mortality rate by 25 per cent by 2025. Unfortunately, the United Nations' plan to reduce the mortality rate of coronary artery disease is unlikely to be fulfilled because of an increase in hypertension, obesity and diabetes. These conditions are directly related to the food people eat.

The United Nations and health organisation said the mortality rate of coronary artery disease will reduce by over 5.7 million if the male mortality rate declines by 26 per cent and the female mortality rate declines by 23 per cent by 2025.— GNLM ■

Eastern part of Yangon circular railway to be upgraded this month

The upgrading of the eastern part of the Yangon circular railway is going to start in the third week of October for the convenience of commuters, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

"We will upgrade the circular railway by dividing the eastern railway into two sections. Upgrading of Part 1 of the eastern railway is from Danyingon station to Paywet-seikkon station, which is 7.25 miles long. The upgrading of the first part will be finished within four months," said U Zaw Lwin, traffic manager of Division 7 of Myanma Railways.

Part 2 of the eastern part will be from Paywetseikkon station to Pazungdaung station and Yangon central railway station.

The upgrading of the second part will also take four

months.

The eastern side is expected to finish by 2018.

"The trains are plying clockwise and anti-clockwise. When we are upgrading the clockwise rails, we will open the anti-clockwise rails. We target to finish each direction within two months. Upon completion of one direction, we will upgrade the other direction," he added.

It currently takes about three hours for a passenger to ride the full circuit of the circular train, but this will be reduced by about one hour after the upgrade, officials said.

At present, Myanma Railways' circular trains are running with 28 carriages 215 times per day, carrying between 85,000 and 90,000 commuters.— GNLM ■



Labourers unload sacks of onion from a truck in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Price of onion, garlic remain on the rise

THE price of onion and garlic is still increasing because of brisk sales in the local market combined with dwindling stocks, according to Bayintnaung onion and garlic wholesalers.

The price of onion has increased to between Ks25 and

Ks75 per viss, while that of garlic has increased to Ks75 per viss, according to onion and garlic wholesalers.

These days, the amount of onion and garlic entering the regional market has declined compared to the similar period last week.

The price for Seikphyu onion is between Ks2,225 per and Ks1,775 per viss, depending on the size and quality. Garlic is selling for between Ks1,800 and Ks1,775 per viss, depending on the size and quality, according to Bayintnaung onion and garlic wholesalers.—Zwe ■

Trade Department issues 88 individual trading cards

THE Trade Department has issued 88 Individual Trading Cards (ITCs) from 1st April to 22nd September this fiscal year, according to an announcement released by the Commerce Ministry.

The Trade Department has issued a total of over 1,352 cards so far, including 292 cards from 21st Nov 2012 to 31st March 2013, 261 cards in FY 2013-2014, 317 cards in FY 2014-2015 FY, 146 cards in FY 2015-2016 and 248 cards in FY 2016-2017 and 88 cards as of 22nd September this FY, according to figure from the Commerce Ministry.

Border trade value with the

use of the ITC in the first half of current FY reached over Ks18.9 billion. Export value with the ITC as of 16th June this FY was Ks1.5 billion, whereas import value with ITC hit over Ks17.4 billion, according to the statistics provided by the Commerce Ministry.

Of border trade camps, Myawady and Kanpikete border trade gates saw the largest trade value using the ITC.

Between 1 April and 22 Sep this FY, values with the use of the ITC were over Ks929 million in Tamu, over Ks11 million in Muse, over Ks14.5 billion in Myawady, Ks711 million in

Tachilek, over Ks56 million in Lwejel, over Ks4 million in Chinshwehaw, over Ks960 million in Kan Pike Tee, over Ks370 million in Kawthoung, over Ks355 million in Reed, over Ks882 million in Maw Taung and over Ks93 million in Kengtung respectively.

The aforementioned department issued the ITC with an aim to boosting border trade. A businessman can trade Ks3 million worth of goods a day using ITC, and then, the trade department granted trade value up to Ks15 million a day, which amounted to a five-day-trade-value. — Ko Khant ■

Nepal offers to buy Myanmar pulses

NEPAL has offered to buy various local pulses at a time when Myanmar has suspended export of pulses to India. Currently, discussions are being made to determine which type of pulses should be sold, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

“Pigeon peas and chickpeas, which are exported pulses, are being consumed by the Nepalese. Therefore, we have

discussed to export this variety of bean to Nepal initially”, said an official from the Ministry of Commerce.

“We have not discussed yet for how many tons of beans will be exported. Currently, we have just discussed the variety of bean to export”, said the official.

Myanmar is exporting a few tons of beans to Nepal through India annually. The lo-

cal growers noted that export to Nepal will not affect significantly the bean market in Myanmar because Nepal purchases only a few tons of beans.

Currently, the market for pigeon peas and chickpeas are cooling in the local bean market. The prices of pigeon peas and chickpeas continues to decline, according to the Bayintnaung bean market.—Min Thu ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း “Sunday Special” အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈) မျက်နှာပါဝင်သော The Global New Light of Myanmar နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကို အောက်ပါမြို့များတွင် ဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

“Sunday Special” အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈) မျက်နှာ ပါဝင်သည်

နေပြည်တော်
မြန်မာ့ရေးရာဌာနမှ ရုံးအမှတ် (၇) နေပြည်တော်၊ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရုံးချုပ်)၊ စီမံရေးရာဌာန၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇ ၄၁၂၁၀၈

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The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊ ငါးထပ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ဗဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၁ ၀၆၀၅၇၂၊ ၀၉၅၄၄၄၂၄၁၁၄

မန္တလေး
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တောင်ကြီး
ရုံးကြီးလမ်း၊ သစ်တောရပ်ကွက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၁၂၁၁၀၄၊ ၀၉၅၂၁၄၃၅၇

မကွေး
နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ တပ်မ (၈၈) တပ်နယ်ရေးအနီး၊ မကွေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၃၂၃၇၁၂

တချင်းတုံ
မြို့နယ် (၃-၁)၊ အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းသွယ်၊ ဗြိမ္မာလမ်း၊ ကျင်းတုံမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၄၂၂၇၉၂

ကလေး
အောင်ဇေယျရပ်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊ ကလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၁၁၃၃

မြင်ကြီးမုန်း
အမှတ် (၄၁)၊ ရေရပ်ကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊ မြင်ကြီးမုန်းမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄၂၂၄၆၂

စစ်တွေ
ရခိုင်တပ်မတော်နှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊ မီးစက်ကြီးအနီး၊ မန်းကျင်းမြင်ရပ်ကွက်၊ စစ်တွေမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃၂၃၀၆၈

လာရှီ
ဟူးမွန်ကျေးရွာထိပ်၊ ဟူးမွန်ဆည်ဘယ်ဘက်ခြမ်း၊ (၁၂) ရပ်ကွက်၊ မန်ဆူဘုရားရွာ၊ အဝေရာလမ်း၊ လာရှီမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၂၂၃၀၆၇

ခြံ
မေတ္တာလမ်း၊ ရှမ်းရောင်ရမ်း၊ ကလွင်ကျေးရွာအုပ်စု၊ ခြံမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၉၄၂၁၀၃

မော်လမြိုင်
ကြာအင်းကျေးရွာ၊ မော်လမြိုင်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၇၂၇၂၅၊ ၀၅၇၂၇၂၆

မုံရွာ
နန္ဒဝန်ရပ်ကွက်၊ ဆက်သွယ်ရေးတံတိုင်းအနီး၊ မုံရွာမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၁၂၆၅၃၅၊ ၀၇၁၂၆၅၃၃

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Naga ethnic people are dancing at the traditional new year festival in Lahe. **FILE PHOTO: MNA**

Naga Traditional New Year Festival to be held in Nanyun

Naga Traditional New Year festival will be held at Nanyun Town in January, a town of Naga Self-Administered Zone, Sagaing Region, according to U Sein Maung region Hluttaw representative of No (1) constituency of Nanyun Town.

“Holding such kind of festival does not mean the development of Nanyun Township, however, it is sure that visitors to the festival can see the culture and living standard of Naga here”, said U Sein Maung.

Naga Self-Administered Zone includes three townships namely Lahe, Leshi and Nanyun. Nanyun Township has 8399 households with a population of



more than 55,500. Naga new year festival was held alternatively at the three towns of Lahe, Leshi and Nanyun. The first time in Nanyun was held in 2010 and the second time in 2013.

The festival is apparently attractive to photographers at home and abroad for photographing the hill tribe people,

The annual festival is held for two full days each January. The first day is set aside for rehearsing traditional dances, with the second day for the festival proper. Ethnic tribes people strut their stuff in the afternoon and evening in front of a clamoring throng of spectators.

Carrying dry rations on their backs, Naga men and women from far away villages have to trek up and down the mountainous region to reach the festival. The event alternates between Leshi and Lahe towns each year previously, and some must spend four to five days reaching the hosting place.—Win Oo (Zayar Taing) ■

To boost the family income, bamboo vocational class opened in Kaw Kathaung

The closing ceremony of vocational training for making bamboo handicrafts was held on Tuesday 4pm at Kaw Kathaung village of Own Ta Pin village tract near Kaw Kathaung cave, Hpa-An Township in Kayin State.

This vocational class started on 25 September and ended on 10 October. The vocational class was opened free of charge supporting the necessary foods and things and the course was attended by 30 trainees.

U Htun Zaw Chit head of rural development department in Kayin State delivered the speech for closing ceremony. The first, second and third prize winners were also awarded. U Than Oo head of rural development department in Hpa-An District gave the certificates and a trainee received the certificates on behalf of all other trainees.

The class was opened for the benefit of young residents in this area. For the family in-

come, bamboo boxes, bamboo baskets and other living room utensils and furniture can be sold by displaying at the Kayin traditional textiles shops and bamboo chicken nests, bamboo chicken mesh cover and seagrass baskets, bamboo vendor trays, various sizes of bamboo baskets, bamboo containers to store paddy, peas and tobacco leaves and other bamboo handicrafts can also be sold in both wholesale and retail.

A bamboo plant is purchased Ks 700 and can produce five bamboo chicken mesh covers. A family can make around 10 bamboo chicken mesh cover a day. A family can earn around Ks 13,000 a day as an item of bamboo chicken mesh cover is sold Ks 1300 at trade price. The wholesale buyers have also bought the bamboo products from this village and distributed and sold at the townships of Mawlamyine, Thaton and Kawkaireik. —Nay Myo Lwin (IPRD) ■



Head of rural development department observes at the closing ceremony of bamboo handicrafts vocational training in Kayin State. **PHOTO: NAY MYO LWIN (IPRD)**

We are young, and getting younger ...

FROM PAGE-1

Statistics show that 71.2 per cent of children between 5 and 9 are receiving a primary education, while 76.2 per cent of those between 10 and 13 are in middle school. But only about half of the children aged between 14 and 15 go on to state high schools.

The problem is worse in rural areas, with only 47 per cent of rural youths attaining a high school education, with 59 per cent of urban youths studying at city high schools.

Findings of the research

show that one out of three children come from homes that use gasoline and/or candles for lighting. Over 75 per cent of children and youths come from families who use wood and gasoline as fuel for cooking food. As a result, children are at risks of health problems such as bowel disorders, suffocation and food poisoning, especially in rural areas, the study showed.

The relatively low rates of school attendance are tied to youth and child employment. Eight per cent of children between 10 and 13 are working. Of

them, 4 per cent of the children are working in urban areas and 9 per cent in rural areas. Sixty per cent of male youths between 15 and 19 and 44.2 per cent of female youths are in the work force.

Studies showed that the employment rate for those over age 20 are on the rise. Workers between 25 and 29 reached 92.3 per cent. As for female youths, those between 20 and 24 are 59.7 per cent, but between the ages of 25 and 29 that statistic dropped to 57.7 per cent.

Most of the youths in Myanmar live in their hometowns, but one out of every 5 youths between 15 and 24 years of age have moved to other places. Fif-

ty-seven per cent of the youth population has lived in other regions or states at least once in their lives, especially in Yangon. In 2014, when the last census was collected, 700,000 youths had been abroad. In some border areas, 50 per cent of youths had been abroad. It was found that 60 per cent of migrant workers were male youths.

In the research paper, children, especially those in rural areas, are in need of fundamental health care, drinking water, buildings improved with ventilated dry pit latrines, availability of more electricity and provision of health assistances.

“More investment needs to

be done, and reduction of the hindrances to proceed to middle school education after completion of primary education are needed,” according to the research paper.

In 2014, the department of population released reports on population, census and demographics.

Based on these facts and figures, 13 detailed research papers and an atlas showing the results of the census are being compiled. Reports and research papers which had already been released can be seen by visiting the website of the department www.dop.gov.mm, it was learnt. —Myanmar News Agency ■

WCS on survey trip to dolphin conservation area

THE Fishery Department and Wildlife Conservation Society WCS (Myanmar) are cooperating in extending Ayeyawady dolphin conservation areas and conducting survey activities from Mandalay to Bhamo, Kachin State and they are currently on a second trip.

During this trip, eight staff members from Mandalay, Sagaing and Kachin Fishery departments carried out research activities. This research trip is scheduled to take about two weeks. The officials from the fishery departments of Shwebo and Htigyaing townships will also take part in research activities within their respective township area.

Research activities will include recording the number of dolphin, educative talks and practical activity of trainees from SMART Database patrol

for dolphin protected areas and taking actions against electro-fishing. Additionally, conducting surveys and collecting data for Ayeyawady dolphin conservation areas extension will also be included in this cooperation, said U Han Win, in-charge of Ayeyawady dolphin conservation under the Fishery Department.

"We will collect the necessary data and conduct awareness campaigns for the extension areas of Ayeyawady dolphin conservation.

We did survey those places last time. This time, we will make sure to reach more places and study more. Normally, conservation and research trips were held in February in the past years. But, three times are slated for this year, he continued.

The extension area will start from the Ayeyawady River



A dolphin is seen in the conservation area near Mandalay. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

in Kanbalu Township, Sagaing Region to the Ayeyawady River in Shwegu town, Kachin State.

This research trip is the second of this year. The Fishery

Department and the WCS Myanmar cooperated in patrolling to ensure there is no illegal fishing during fish breeding season in June, said U Kyaw Hla Thein,

in-charge from WCS Myanmar.

According research carried out in January 2017, only 60 dolphins were discovered. —Nyi Tu ■

More than 400 buses made before 1998 to be deregistered

MORE than 400 pre-1998 model buses powered by Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) have been targeted for deregistration, Dr. Maung Aung, the secretary from Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA) told City News.

The move is one of several ongoing steps to keep Myanmar buses safe and up to date. Prior to the deregistration of 1998 model buses, deregistration of old pre-1995 and 1995 model commenced in November 2016. Registration slips were returned to owners when

a total of 3,171 vehicles, including 1,238 city buses, 257 mini-buses, 397 BM buses, 1,231 Toyota Dyna trucks, 25 pickup trucks and 23 light trucks were deregistered at the Road Transportation Administration Department (RTAD) as of the end of September. Over 200 vehicles are still left to claim for deregistration, according to yesterday's report of City News.

There are more than 90 YBS bus lines with 4,000 vehicles serving over 2 million commuters daily. —GNLM ■

Use of electronic data system starts in ports

AN Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) system which can record the inflow and outflow of cargo ships will be used in Yangon ports this month, according to yesterday's report of Myawady Daily.

This system will help to have smoother trade by providing accurate data on the flow of cargo ships. Myanmar is endeavouring to prepare trade processing in order to keep up

with modern shipping procedures.

Use of the EDI will allow owners of the freight to directly withdraw their goods if they can present bill of lading at the respective department

The Department of Marine Administration warned box operators not to collect more charges than the set price when there is a delay to claim their goods. —GNLM ■

Rural projects to be implemented based on development of business and population

RURAL projects will be implemented in towns with business development potential, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

Between 2011 and 2015, about 37 townships have been chosen to receive rural improvement projects. The project authorities will review implementation of such plans for Kungyangon and Kawhmu in

Yangon region, Patheingyi, Labutta and Haigikyun in Ayeyawady region, Mawlamyine town in Mon state and Mandalay city. Moreover, the rural development plans are being drawn up for five towns in Magwe region, three towns in Mon state, two towns in Sagaing region, two towns in Bago region, three towns in Kayah State and three towns in Kayin State.

Development projects will

also be implemented in Maungmagan beach, Ngapali area and Kyaikhtiyo area.

Project authorities are making arrangements to implement the rural projects in over 300 towns. Currently, the rural projects are being implemented on the other side of the Yangon River with an aim to match the population growth and that of the economic development. — GNLM ■

Illegal guar horns seized in Bogalay

ILLEGAL guar horns have been seized in Bogalay village, Kyain Ta Lee Township on Tuesday.

As the leader of the village is informed that a suspect, an unidentified man entered the cemetery carrying a bag in his hand, Bogalay forest officer U Kyi Linn, the forestry corporal Wai Lin Zaw, Sergeant Min Htin Aung of Military Affairs Security Unit, Lance Corporal Nay Min



Seized illegal guar heads. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Htun of Special Investigation Department and U Tin Soe leader of the village have gone and investigated the spot where the suspect left his bag and ran away.

The township's forestry de-

partment kept the suspect's bag involving guar heads and horns and cooperated with the Kyain Ta Lee Township police station to catch and take action to the suspects. —Township (IPRD) ■

Bribery and Corruption, the Danger for National Security

Khin Maung Oo

NUMBERS of people who fled Rakhine State into Bangladesh are increasing. Meanwhile, our country is making arrangements to systematically accept those who will come back into the country. It has been described in the notification 11/2017 issued by Myanmar National Human Rights Commission that it needs to systematically scrutinize so as not to include those who committed crimes and ARSA extremist terrorists in accepting Bengalis who fled the region, and simultaneously to lay stress on long-lasting co-existence in resettling them. The MNHRC included those

facts in its recommendations after making investigations in the areas where conflicts took places.

Local nationals and other minority groups as well expressed their worries over potential inclusion of criminals and terrorists mixed with those who will come back. And there are also people's concerns over threats of Al Qaeda, IS and religious extremists from South East Asia.

Although we are ready to fight against any military aggressions as for our national security, we must make systematically concerted efforts to remove terrorists and criminals under the disguise of refugees out of thousands of people who will enter

the country. According a news item a foreign expert pointed out that a possible way for those kinds of people to come back into the country is none other than the way of giving a tidy fortune. We must take this fact into great consideration according to previous events.

With a view to prevent the country from the dangers of uncivilized intruders, successive Chinese rulers built up the world-famous Great Wall by taking many years.

It was great and strengthened so much so that it was wide enough to drive fast a chariot in some places on the wall. Yet, there were many intrusions through the Great Wall

throughout their history. We had ever noted that such incidents were especially caused by internal traitors who exercised bribery and corruption. We must take a lesson from this example that a breach of the national security can happen at any time on account of such betrayals how much a wall is fortified.

Last but not least, we hereby call for all our citizens full of patriotism and nationalism to monitor, find out and get rid of potential entry of extremist terrorists in various forms of disguise with the intention of creating destructive and terrorist attacks in the country, every time and everywhere. ■

INTERNATIONAL Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, ICESCR is one of the core International Human Rights Treaties. In December 1966, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the historic convention namely ICESCR and in force form January 1976. ICESCR is part of the International Bill of Human Rights along with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UDHR and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ICCPR.

The ICESCR defines a broad set of rights related to the economic, social, and cultural elements of life and it includes the rights to decent work, an adequate standard of living, housing, food, water and sanitation, social security, health, and education. Indeed it recognizes the rights of all people to self determination, pursue their economic, social and cultural goals, and manage and dispose of their own resources. Thus ICESCR always stand as essential as the freedom of expression or the right to a fair trial for ensuring human dignity.

Like other human rights, economic, social and cultural rights are the birth right of every human being. A child excluded from primary school because of school fees, a woman paid less than her male colleague for the same work, a person in a wheel chair unable to enter a theatre because there is no ramp, a man refused emergency medical care on account of his migrant status, an artist whose work is publicly distorted, these all are examples of individuals denied their economic, social and cultural rights.

Myanmar signed the ICESCR in July 2015. Two years and three months later on 6 October 2017, Myanmar ratified the ICESCR according to Ministry of Foreign Affairs Myanmar. What a great news to us as ratification the ICESCR means State guarantee

What a great news, Myanmar ratified the ICESCR

Dr. Khine Khine Win

its citizens the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights without discrimination and to ensure the equal right of man and woman to the enjoyment of these rights. State must prohibit discrimination in, for instance health care, education and workplace.

There are a number of clear benefits to the wider human rights movement if States ratify the core treaties. According to the UN data, a total of 164 countries have already ratified the ICESCR. Myanmar now became the State Party of ICESCR and this is the fourth International human rights treaty ratified by Myanmar out of nine International Human Rights Treaties. What I believe is that the most important benefit of ratification human rights treaty is the actual improvement in the human rights of individuals and groups in the ratifying State. Greater realization of human rights has the potential to empower the disadvantaged and marginalized, and contribute to a more just, inclusive and fair society. Ultimately, a State with a strong commitment to human rights is likely to be a State that is well-governed, secure and stable. Let me proudly say, ICESCR ratification is a mile stone for us, for our country.

In order to assume all monitoring functions of the implementations of ICESCR, there is committee on Economic, Social and Cultural rights. It is the body of 18 independent experts that monitors the implementation of ICESCR. All States parties are obliged to submit regular reports to the Committee on how the rights are being implemented. States must report initially within two years of accepting the Covenant and thereafter every five years. The Committee examines each report and addresses its concerns and recommendations to the State party in the form of "concluding observations".

Actually, State has the primary role to respect, protect and fulfill of human rights of its citizens, other various actor including NHRIs, CSOs also have important role to realizing the economic, social and cultural rights. In addition, different State organs (the legislature, the executive and the judiciary) also play the role on human rights including economic, social and cultural rights. They all need to work together to implement the ICESCR.

As we noted, human rights are crucial to development and economic, social and cultural rights are fundamental to development. Nowadays,

many Nations in the world have been implementing the 2030 agenda for sustainable development goals with different strategies and plans. The SDGs provide an appropriate framework for advocating and implementing economic, social and cultural rights within an overall approach to sustainable development which enhances economic prosperity, promotes social equity and facilitates the expression of cultural identity. Implementing SDGs successfully means implementing the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights of people, no doubt. We want development without discrimination.

In conclusion, I myself happily welcome Myanmar ratification of the ICESCR being the citizen of Myanmar as economic, social and cultural rights address the livelihood of all Myanmar people and it provide guidance to government on interpretations of rights enshrined in the ICESCR articles. It is really great news to us. ■

ICESCR means State guarantee its citizens the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights without discrimination and to ensure the equal right of man and woman to the enjoyment of these rights.

Order No.75/2017 establishing the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State was issued on 12 September 2017. Thereafter, Order No.83/2017 enlarging the membership was subsequently issued on 9 October 2017. The Terms of Reference of the two orders are identical. The following is the official translation of Order No.83/2017.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order No.83/2017

4th Waning of Thadingyut 1379 ME
(9 October 2017)

Establishment of the Committee for Implementation
of the Recommendations on Rakhine State

1. In order to implement the report of the Maungdaw Region Investigation Commission and the recommendations contained in the final report of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State has been established with the following persons:
- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| (a) Union Minister | Chairman |
| Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement | |
| (b) Chief Minister | Joint Chairman |
| Rakhine State Government | |
| (c) Deputy Minister | Vice Chairman |
| Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor | |
| (d) Permanent Secretary | Member |
| Union Government Office | |
| (e) Permanent Secretary | Member |
| Ministry of Home Affairs | |
| (f) Permanent Secretary | Member |
| Ministry of Information | |
| (g) Permanent Secretary | Member |
| Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture | |
| (h) Permanent Secretary | Member |
| Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation | |
| (i) Permanent Secretary | Member |
| Ministry of Transport and Communications | |
| (j) Permanent Secretary | Member |
| Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population | |
| (k) Permanent Secretary | Member |
| Ministry of Education | |
| (l) Permanent Secretary | Member |
| Ministry of Health and Sports | |
| (m) Permanent Secretary | Member |
| Ministry of Construction | |
| (n) Chief of Police | Member |
| Myanmar Police Force | |
| Ministry of Home Affairs | |
| (o) Managing Director | Member |
| Electricity Supply Enterprise | |
| Ministry of Electricity and Energy | |
| (p) Acting Director-General | Member |
| Administration and Finance Department | |
| Office of the President | |
| (q) Deputy Minister | Secretary |

Ministry of Border Affairs
(r) Deputy Minister
Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
Joint Secretary

2. The duties of the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State are as follows:
- (a) To effectively and beneficially implement the recommendations of the Maungdaw Region Investigation Commission and the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State based on the situation on the ground;
 - (b) To work towards ensuring the rule of law, peace and stability and peaceful coexistence among different communities;
 - (c) To draw and implement a strategic plan for the enhancement of security and speedy development of economic and social sectors in Rakhine State;
 - (d) To ensure the sustainability of ethnic villages and to work towards the closure of IDP camps;
 - (e) To formulate and implement necessary policies to develop infrastructure and to create more job opportunities in order to prevent the migration of local people;
 - (f) To prioritize efforts on ensuring that the area is free from terrorists attacks and the scourge of narcotic drugs;
 - (g) To manage the allocation of humanitarian aid and relief supplies provided by local and international organizations in accordance with the policy adopted by the State;
 - (h) To expedite the process of granting citizenship to those who qualify under the 1982 Myanmar Citizenship Law and to speed up the National Verification Process;
 - (i) To manage the expeditious implementation of tasks for ensuring that all communities in Rakhine State have equal access to education and health care services regardless of citizenship, religion, race and sex;
 - (j) The progress report regarding the status of the Committee's implementation shall be made public every four months;
3. The office of the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State shall be established and all expenses of the Committee shall be borne by the funds from the Office of the President.
4. The Office of the President and Rakhine State Government shall provide necessary security and administrative assistance to the Committee in the discharge of its duties.
5. An advisory committee will be formed with local and international experts and experienced individuals to provide necessary advice for the effective implementation of the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State based on the situation on the ground. A separate order for the establishment of the advisory committee will be issued.

(sd) Htin Kyaw
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Senior General receives American Ambassador

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of the Defense Services received Mr Scot Alan Marciel, American Ambassador to Myanmar yesterday morning at the Zeya Thiri Bhimman Guest House on Kone Myint Thar, Yangon.

During the meeting, they discussed the Rakhine State issue.

Also present at the meeting together with the Senior General was senior military officers from the the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army).

In the afternoon, the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services visited Telecom International Myanmar Co., Ltd, (MyTel) in Dagon Township.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talk with Mr Scot Alan Marciel, American Ambassador to Myanmar in Yangon PHOTO: MNA

Theresa Maybe? PM refuses to say how she'd vote in another Brexit referendum

LONDON — Prime Minister Theresa May refused to say whether she would vote for Brexit if there was another referendum, repeatedly avoiding giving an answer on an issue that will define Britain's fate for generations to come.

Although May has talked up the "promise of Brexit" since gaining power last year, she had, in the run-up to the June 2016 referendum, quietly backed staying in the European Union.

She won the top job after David Cameron, who had also campaigned to remain, resigned in the chaos following the shock result of the vote. She has ruled out holding a second referendum on the final deal of the terms of Brexit, despite calls for one from some pro-EU MPs.

Asked three times in an interview if she had changed her mind since then, she did not answer directly, saying she wouldn't engage with hypothetical questions and said her job was now to deliver what the people had voted for.

"I voted remain for good reasons at the time, but circumstances move on and I think the important thing now is that I think we should all be focused on delivering Brexit and delivering the best deal," she said on British radio station LBC on Tuesday.

The United Kingdom remains deeply divided over Brexit which most senior politicians view as the most important de-



Britain's Prime Minister, Theresa May, arrives at 10 Downing Street in central London, Britain on 9 October, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

cision Britain has taken since World War Two.

In the 23 June, 2016 referendum, 17.4 million voters, or 51.9 per cent of votes cast, backed leaving the EU while 16.1 million voters, or 48.1 per cent of votes cast, backed staying.

Britain has just over one year to negotiate the terms of the divorce and the outlines of the future relationship before it is due to leave in late March 2019. Both sides need an agreement to keep trade flowing between the world's biggest trading bloc and the fifth largest global economy.

But the other 27 members of the EU combined have about five times the economic might of Britain. They also have a strong incentive to deny the UK a deal so attractive it might encourage others to follow the British example.

May, who said she voted to remain, called a general election earlier this year in a bid to unite the country around her vision for Brexit. However, she lost her parliamentary majority, jeopardising her premiership.

Pressed on whether she would now vote leave, she said she would look at everything

and come to a judgement, but stressed that there would not be another referendum.

Minister Damian Green, who is effectively May's deputy, was asked on BBC Newsnight the same question. He said that it would have been better had the public voted to remain, but there would not be another referendum and it was his job as a democrat to work towards making Brexit a success.

Under the headline "Theresa Maybe", The Sun, Britain's most read newspaper, said Brexiters were offended by May's response.—Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

UK "not ramping up for no Brexit deal," says PM May

WLONDON — British Prime Minister Theresa May said on Wednesday Britain was not "ramping up" for a no deal in Brexit talks with the European Union but money was being used to prepare for every eventuality including leaving without an agreement.

"We are preparing for every eventuality. We are committing money to prepare for Brexit including a no-deal scenario," she told parliament. "We are not ramping up a no-deal scenario, we are actively working with the negotiations with the European Union to ensure that we get a good deal."—Reuters ■

Hungary demands faster EU, NATO integration of West Balkans

BUDAPEST — Hungary wants the European Union to speed up integration of the Western Balkans and for NATO to include those countries, Foreign Minister Peter Szijarto said on Wednesday.

"Speeding up the accession process is a guarantee of security," Szijarto said at a news conference also attended by a dozen officials from Central European and Western Balkan countries. "An unstable and tension-riddled Western Balkans is a serious risk to all of Europe ... We have demands in that regard."—Reuters ■

Spain's Socialist leader agrees with Rajoy to launch constitutional reform

MADRID — Spain's opposition Socialist leader Pedro Sanchez said on Wednesday he had agreed with Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy to launch a constitutional reform that could change the way Spain's autonomous regions, including Catalonia, are governed.

The two leaders agreed that a committee would study the current system of regional autonomy for six months, after which the Spanish parliament would debate constitutional reforms, Sanchez told reporters.—Reuters ■

Trump to make working visit to UK in early 2018

LONDON — US President Donald Trump will make a working visit to Britain in early 2018, with a full state visit to follow later at an unspecified date, the London Evening Standard newspaper reported on Wednesday.

Prime Minister Theresa May's office declined to comment on the report, and said its position on the state visit had not changed. The offer had been extended, accepted by Trump, and no dates had been arranged.

May invited Trump for a state visit during a trip to Washington in January, shortly after

he was inaugurated as president. The plan has proved controversial in Britain, with mass protests expected to greet the US leader.

The Evening Standard, which is edited by George Osborne, a former Chancellor of the Exchequer, fired by May last year, reported that diplomats were discussing plans for a pared-down working visit, devoid of the pomp of a full state visit.

Citing unnamed sources, the newspaper said it was likely to form part of a tour of several

countries by the US president.

The Guardian newspaper reported in June that Trump's state visit had been postponed indefinitely after he told May during a phone conversation that he did not want to come if there were going to be large-scale protests.

The White House denied that report and May's Downing Street office said plans for the state visit had not changed.

The British government regards its close ties with Washington as a "special relationship" and a pillar of its foreign

policy as it prepares to leave the European Union.

But May's haste in visiting Trump so early in his term and inviting him for a state visit, which typically involves lavish pageantry and events hosted by Queen Elizabeth, was criticised by some in Britain.

Trump's pledge during his campaign to stop Muslims from entering the United States caused outrage in Britain, going as far as a debate in parliament about whether Trump should be banned from the country.—Reuters ■

Afghanistan election plans face political, technical test

KABUL — Less than a year before Afghanistan is due to hold much-delayed parliamentary elections, technical problems and political wrangling are hampering a project seen as vital to ensuring the country's long-term stability.

Ever since the fraud-tainted presidential election of 2014, the Kabul government and its Western backers have been wrestling with the problem of how to hold fair and transparent elections. Parliamentary and district council polls scheduled for 7 July are seen as a major political test and dry run for the next presidential vote in 2019.

But delays in creating reliable voter registration systems and opposition to an election commission many critics judge is too close to President Ashraf Ghani have raised doubts about whether organisers of the vote — previously slated for October 2016 — will meet the latest deadline.

"The date is 7 July but no one really believes it will happen on that day," said one Western official in Kabul who follows the election process closely.



Afghan president Ashraf Ghani inspects the honor guard before the handover ceremony of Blackhawk helicopters from US to the Afghan forces at the Kandahar Air base, Afghanistan on 7 October, 2017.
PHOTO: REUTERS

For Western countries, desperate for progress after 16 years in Afghanistan, some measure of fudge or delay may be acceptable.

But after repeated postponements since parliament's mandate expired in 2015, there are fears the shaky political stability

achieved since the Taliban government was ousted in 2001 will be undermined if the process is derailed completely.

"If elections do not take place, you go back to square one and you're asking, how do you actually do the division of political power?" said Pernille Dahler Kardel, deputy representative of the United Nations Secretary General in Afghanistan.

"It's to drive that longer term agenda that the international community is so absolutely focused on the electoral agenda."

Electoral reform was one of the centrepieces of the US-brokered deal between Ghani and his former rival Abdullah Abdullah, who joined him in a national unity government after months of wearying negotiations in 2014.

Last week, Ghani pledged to meet the July date and the UN signed an agreement with Afghan authorities creating the legal footing for the UN and donor countries to support the process.

Imam Mohammad Warymoch, chief electoral officer of the Independent Election Commission, said the IEC was "committed to doing the election on time" but admitted: "At the moment, we are a little bit behind." — Reuters ■

Russia says Islamic State operates near US base in Syria unhindered

MOSCOW — Russia accused the United States on Wednesday of allowing Islamic State to operate "under its nose" in Syria, saying Washington was letting the militant group move about freely in an area abutting a US military base.

The allegations, made by Russia's Defence Ministry, centre 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. The United States says the Tanf facility is a temporary base used to train partner forces to fight against Islamic State. Pentagon spokesman Colonel Robert Manning on Tuesday said Washington remained committed to killing off Islamic State and denying it safe havens and the ability to carry out strikes. But Major-General Igor Konashenkov, a spokesman for the Russian Defence Ministry,

said Moscow wanted to know how around 300 Islamic State militants in pickup trucks had passed through the US-controlled area and tried to block the highway between Damascus and Deir al-Zor used to supply Syrian forces. He said the US had not yet given an explanation. "We suggest the American side also explain about another incidence of their 'selective blindness' towards militants operating under their nose," Konashenkov said in a statement. He said about 600 militants based in a refugee camp in the US controlled area had driven en masse to a former customs post called Tafas on the Syrian-Jordanian border earlier this month and seized food and medical supplies meant for locals. "You don't need to be an expert to now forecast an attempt to rupture the peace agreement in the southern de-escalation zone," said Konashenkov. "We issue a warning. All responsibility for sabotaging the peace process will lay exclusively with the American side." — Reuters ■

Iran foreign minister tells lawmakers of plans to respond to Trump moves

BEIRUT — Iran will react sharply to any US move against the nuclear deal with global powers, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif told the Iranian parliament on Wednesday, according to a parliamentarian who attended the session quoted by state media.

The comments were the latest in a series of tough remarks from Iran's leadership, showing a united front between its pragmatist and hardline factions as US President Donald Trump prepares to harden policy towards Tehran this week.

"In the closed session Zarif emphasised that if the Americans take any steps against the nuclear deal that the Islamic Republic of Iran will give them a more crushing response," Shahbaz Hassanpour, a lawmaker representing the city of Sirjan, told the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA).

Another lawmaker, Behrouz Nemat, said the foreign minister discussed

specific steps Trump and the US Congress might take, and Iran's plans for reciprocal action to each anticipated US move. Nemat did not say what actions Zarif had described.

Trump is expected this week to "decertify" the landmark 2015 deal under which Iran agreed with global powers to accept curbs on its nuclear programme in return for the lifting of international sanctions.

Decertification would not by itself withdraw the United States from the agreement, but would pass that decision on to Congress, requiring lawmakers to decide within 60 days whether to re-impose sanctions.

Trump is also expected to declare Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps a terrorist organisation. Since the Guards have a vast economic empire in Iran, such a declaration could make it more difficult for Iranian businesses to access the international financial system.

Washington has already blacklisted other entities and individuals for supporting Guards' activities, but has not blacklisted the Guards themselves.

The threat of increased US pressure has been met by a united front of criticism from within Iran, with members of the pragmatic faction that seeks greater interaction with the West showing their support for the hardline Guards.

Iranian newspapers ran photos on Tuesday of Zarif, the urbane, US-educated foreign minister, laughing and hugging the head of the Guards, Mohammad Ali Jafari.

During the meeting with Zarif, parliament members expressed their support for the Guards, Hassanpour said. Zarif also noted during the session that European countries will continue backing the nuclear deal regardless of what actions the US may take, Hassanpour told IRNA. — Reuters ■



Ratnik combat gear. PHOTO: TASS

Russia's 'soldier of the future' combat outfit gets nuclear-blast resistant watch

MOSCOW — Russia's Ratnik "soldier of the future" combat gear has got a shockproof watch, which is resistant to electromagnetic impacts and capable of working even after a nuclear blast, Rostec's press office reported on Tuesday.

"The watch, which we have included in the Ratnik outfit, retains its properties upon the impact of radiation and electromag-

netic impulses, for example, upon a nuclear blast," Chief Designer for the Life Support System of the Soldier Combat Outfit at the Central Scientific Research Institute for Precision Machine Engineering (TsNIITochMash, part of Rostec) Oleg Faustov was quoted by the press office as saying.

The watch is equipped with a self-winding mechanism and continues working accurately in

adverse climatic and operational conditions, and also in daily routines and during combat operations. Besides, the watch can even be used when swimming under water.

Industrial Director for Rostec's Armament Cluster Sergey Abramov said that the Ratnik combat gear was continuously upgraded and a modern soldier's outfit was becoming ever

more perfected.

"The level of technology and the reliability of the elements of servicemen's outfit is growing. Correspondingly, the level of a soldier's capabilities on the battlefield is increasing. This new development by Central Scientific Research Institute for Precision Machine Engineering is another step in this direction," he said.—Tass ■

Pro-Catalonia anarchists enter Spanish embassy in Athens

ATHENS — Self-proclaimed anarchists burst into the Spanish embassy in Athens on Wednesday and threw leaflets in favour of Catalan independence, an embassy official said.

The embassy staff evacuated the premises leaving only a few diplomats inside, the official said. There were no reports of damage or injuries.

"About 15 to 20 entered the embassy and threw leaflets. They did not break anything. The leaflet said 'solidarity is the weapon of the people,' the embassy official told Reuters.

The demonstrators unfurled a banner from the roof of the building reading "No Pasaran!" (They Shall Not Pass), a leftist slogan from the Spanish Civil War.

Greek police later detained 19 people, a police official said. Another police official said the group, known as Rouvikonas, had been demonstrating in favour of Catalan independence. "We are now back inside, the demonstrators have left," the embassy official said.

Small scale attacks against police, businesses, embassies and state buildings are frequent in Greece, which has a long history of political violence and is struggling to emerge from crisis despite three international bailouts. Rouvikonas has stepped up its activities in recent months.—Reuters ■

Wildfires kill 17 in California wine country

SANTA ROSA — Firefighters battling wildfires in California's wine country face the prospect of new outbreaks when dry, windy conditions return on Wednesday to an area where at least 17 people have been killed and 2,000 homes and businesses destroyed in blazes.

Gusts of up to 50 mph (80 kph) and 10 per cent humidity are forecast for later on Wednesday and into Thursday for the region where 17 fires have forced 20,000 people to flee their homes, fire officials said.

"The potential for new fires that could grow exponentially as these fires did in such a short time period is there," said Lynne

Tolmachoff, spokeswoman for California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

The weather gave firefighters a reprieve on Tuesday as cooler temperatures, lower winds and coastal fog allowed them to make headway against the fires that had burned 115,000 acres.

Some evacuations in Nevada and Yuba counties in western California were lifted on Tuesday while other evacuations to the east in Sonoma and Napa counties, where more than 50,000 acres burned, were expanded, Tolmachoff said.

Some 155 people were still missing in Sonoma County, although 45 others had been found

and some of those unaccounted for may be due to confusion surrounding evacuations.

The city of Santa Rosa was particularly hard hit by the so-called Tubbs Fire, which damaged a Hilton hotel and destroyed a mobile home park. Irene Fonzeca and her husband Luis were spending their second night in shelter on Tuesday after the couple woke up to raging fire nearby that was being blown toward their home on Monday. The sound of fiery trees crashing down was terrifying, Luis said. "We have no idea what's there or if there's anything to go back to," Irene Fonzeca said outside the shelter holding a breathing mask as

smoke and light ash blanketed downtown Santa Rosa. In the shelter, emotions were raw, Irene Fonzeca said. "People are crying hugging helping each other. It's devastating," she said.

In Napa County, the dead included 100-year-old Charles Rippey and his wife, Sarah, 98, according to the county sheriff's office. The couple were married for 75 years, a CBS affiliate in San Francisco reported, citing their son, Mike. Charles Rippey's body was found outside where her bedroom once stood, he said.

"He was trying to get from his room to her room," Mike Rippey said. "He never made it. Even if he had gotten there, he wouldn't

have been able to get her out ... And there is no way he would have left." Napa Valley Vintners, a trade group, said it was too early to assess the economic impact of the fires. At least four wineries had suffered "total or very significant losses," and at least nine reported damage, the group said.

California Governor Jerry Brown declared a state of emergency in several northern counties where fires were burning and in Orange County in Southern California, where the so-called Canyon Fire 2 destroyed 14 structures and damaged 22 and forced the evacuation of 5,000 people, fire spokesman Thanh Nguyen said.—Reuters ■

Heavy rain leaves 20 dead, 5 injured, 12 missing in Viet Nam

HANOI — Breached dykes, landslides, house collapses and flooding caused by a tropical depression over the past three days in Viet Nam’s northern and central regions have killed 20 local people, injured five people, and left 12 others missing.

They have also damaged thousands of houses and thousands of hectares of crops, and killed thousands of fowls, the country’s Central Steering Committee for Natural Disaster Prevention and Control said on Wednesday.

The dead people included eight in central Nghe An province, five in northern Son La prov-

ince, four in northern Hoa Binh province, and three in central Thanh Hoa province.

The missing people are from Thanh Hoa, Son La, Hoa Binh, central Quang Tri province and northern Yen Bai province.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, heavy rain caused big floods in Thanh Hoa and Hoa Binh, so Hoa Binh Hydroelectricity Plant had to discharge water from its reservoirs.

As a result, water levels in rivers going through the two provinces kept on rising rapidly, said the committee.—Xinhua ■

Russia to donate Kalashnikovs, trucks and munitions to Philippines

MANILA — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte on Wednesday announced that Russia would donate defence hardware to support the military’s fight against pro-Islamic State militants, who he said could regroup and attack “anywhere and everywhere”.

Duterte said Russia would provide about 5,000 assault rifles in a deal to be signed this month, and the Philippine military would no longer have to use second-hand arms. “We will have the Kalashnikov,” he said in a speech to troops, adding that Russia wanted to keep the donation secret.

Moscow’s gift would follow China’s donation of more than 6,000 assault

rifles and 100 sniper rifles, among the fruits of Duterte’s efforts to form partnerships with two arms-producing powers that are rivals to the United States.

The United States has for decades been the Philippines’ defence treaty ally and its biggest source or hardware and training, providing about \$1 billion in equipment since 2000. Duterte has made no secret of his animosity towards Washington and his disdain for the US military alliance. A senior defence official told Reuters the Russian weapons would arrive later this month, when Russia’s defence minister attends a regional meeting. The rifles would be accompanied by mil-



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte. PHOTO: REUTERS

lions of rounds of ammunition and dozens of army trucks.

Five Russian warships were due to visit in Manila to deliver the equipment, the official said. Four have visited the country this year, in two separate visits.

Duterte said the military needed to be properly equipped to handle Islamic State loyalists who had established a dangerous foothold in Mindanao in the south. “They will not disappear, they will regroup anywhere and everywhere,” Duterte said.—Reuters ■

Hong Kong leader says Asian financial hub faces “grave” challenges

HONG KONG — Hong Kong’s Chief Executive Carrie Lam warned in her maiden policy speech on Wednesday that the city faced “grave” challenges and must develop a more diversified economy, unveiling a mix of housing and tax relief policies to raise competitiveness.

Hong Kong, one of the world’s costliest cities, has battled rising income inequality, the slow implementation of marquee public projects, political tensions with its mainland China and a slide in its competitiveness.



Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam. PHOTO: REUTERS

Lam said. Hong Kong has seen its lucrative position as the world’s gateway to China eroded as the mainland rapidly builds up its own ports, airlines and financial powerhouses, and opens its markets to foreign investors. Lam said she would bolster support for small and medium enterprises in the Asian financial hub by cutting company profits tax to 8.25 per cent from 16.5 per cent for the first HK\$2 million (\$256,000) of earnings. Earnings after that would be taxed at the current 16.5 per cent.—Reuters ■

“In the face of competition from other economies as well as the rise of protectionism in recent years, Hong Kong is facing increasingly grave challenges. We must develop a high value-added and diversified economy,”

Extension of Invitation for Bids

Date: 10th October 2017
IFB No. IFB-MR/YCR/UG/CP201 (T) 2017-18, and MR/YCR/UG/CP202 (T) 2017-18 (Yangon Circular Railway Line Upgrading Project)

Myanma Railways has already advertised the invitation for Bids in the Global New Light of Myanmar on 2nd August, 2017.

In order to be convenient for the interested eligible applicant's document preparations, Myanma Railways extends the closing date as below;

Contract No.	Extended Date for Submission of Bid
MR/YCR/UG/CP201 (Signaling works)	31 st October, 2017 to 30 th November, 2017/10:00 a.m
MR/YCR/UG/CP202 (Rolling Stocks Procurement Works)	31 st October, 2017 to 15 th December, 2017/2:00 p.m

Managing Director, Myanma Railways
Ministry of Transport and Communications

The Erawan Agricultural Chemicals Co.,Ltd 15/7 Soi 33 Ladprao Chandrakasem, Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900, Thailand invites objection from all parties within a period of seven (7) days from the publication of this notice, with copies of such documents and other proofs in support of their objections.

No	Commance Name	Trade Name	Reg Type	Reg No
Herbicide				
1.	2,4-D dimethyl ammonium 84% SL	Era-amine 84	P	2015-2355
2.	Acetochlor 50% EC	Erachlor	E	2015-2359
3.	Fenoxaprop-P-ethyl 6.9% EW	Eranox	P	2015-2356
4.	Glyphosate isopropylammonium 48% SL	Caravan	P	2015-2366
5.	Paraquat dichloride 27.6% SL	Erazone	P	2015-2367
6.	Pendimethalin 33% EC	Erathalin	P	2015-2357
7.	Pretilachlor 30% EC	Eraguard	P	2015-2368
8.	Propanil 36% EC	Eranil	P	2015-2350
9.	Atrazine 50% SC	Erazine 50SC	P	2016-3193
10.	Fluazifop-P-butyl 15% EC	Erafop	P	2016-3194
11.	Fomesafen 25% SL	Erasafen	P	2016-3195
12.	Haloxifop-P-methyl 10.8% EC	Eragrassweed	P	2016-3196
13.	Quizalofop-P-ethyl 5% EC	Erazalofop	P	2016-3197
14.	Butachlor 35% + Propanil 35% EC	Erapropachlor 70	E	E2017-3719
15.	Clomazone 12%+propanil 27% EC	Erazonil	E	E2017-3720
16.	Cyhalofop-butyl 10% EC	Erapostrice	P	P2017-3725
17.	Diuron 80% SC	Erauron 80 SC	P	P2017-3726
18.	Glufosinate-ammonium 15% SL	Erabas	P	P2017-3728
19.	Oxadiazon 25% EC	Eradiazon	P	P2017-3730
20.	Pretilachlor 17%+propanil 33% EC	Eraprofit 500 EC	E	E2017-3723
21.	Pyrazosulfuron-ethyl 10% WP	Erafuron	P	P2017-3732
22.	Triclopyr butoxyethyl ester 66.8% EC	Erapyr 668	P	P2017-3734
Insecticide				
1.	Abamectin 1.8% EC	Eramectin	P	2015-2369
2.	Acephate 75% SP	Eraphate	P	2015-2370
3.	Chlorpyrifos 50%+Cypermethrin 5%	Erapyfos 505	P	2015-2352
4.	Cypermethrin 4%+Profenofos 40% EC	Eraprothrin 404	P	2015-2353
5.	Cypermethrin 10% EC	Cypersect 10 EC	P	2015-2371
6.	Cypermethrin 35% EC	Cypersect 35 EC	P	2015-2372
7.	Dimethoate 40% EC	Eramate Gold	P	2015-2373
8.	Lambda - cyhalothrin 2.5% EC	Erathrin 2.5EC	P	2015-2374
9.	Fipronil 5% SC	Erathrip 5 SC	P	2016-3198
10.	Amitraz 20% EC	Mitacide	P	P2017-3724
11.	Lufenuron 5%+ profenofos 50% EC	Eranufos	E	E2017-3722
12.	Pyridaben 20% WP	Eramite 200	P	P2017-3733
Fungicide				
1.	Carbendazim 50% SC	Cardazin-F	P	2015-2354
2.	Carbendazim 50% WP	Cardazin 50 WP	P	2015-2360
3.	Chlorothalonil 75% WP	Erachloronil	P	2015-2361
4.	Copper oxychloride 85% WP	Copina 85 WP	P	2015-2362
5.	Cymoxanil 8%+Mancozeb 64% WP	Crozate Plus 72 WP	P	P2017-2358
6.	Hexaconazole 5% SC	Eravil	P	2015-2363
7.	Mancozeb 80% WP	Ekzomancozeb	P	2015-2364
8.	Metalaxyl 25% WP	Eralaxyl	P	2015-2365
9.	Cymoxanil 64% + mancozeb 8% WP	Crozate Plus 72 WP	P	P2017-2358
10.	Difenoconazole 15% +propiconazole 15% EC	Erapromure	E	E2017-3721
11.	Fosetyl aluminium 80% WP	Erafostyl	P	P2017-3727
12.	Propineb 70% WP	Eratrax	P	P2017-3731
13.	Validamycin 3% SL	Eramycin 3 SL	P	P2017-3735
Molluscicide				
1.	Metaldehyde 5% G	Eradehyde	P	P2017-3729

U Zaw Min Naing (LL.B) High Grade Pleader-Reg No-42805, No.55, 5 floor(B), Bayathoddi street, Pathein Nyunt quarter, Tamwe township, Yangon, Ph: 09-799377691, for Aventure Limited .

Vinci portrait of Christ expected to fetch \$100 million at auction

NEWYORK — The last privately owned Leonardo da Vinci painting and one of fewer than 20 by the Renaissance artist known to still exist is hitting the auction block, Christie's announced on Tuesday.

"Salvator Mundi," an ethereal portrait of Jesus Christ which dates to about 1500, is expected to sell for about \$100 million (75.71 million pounds) at Christie's in November, making it among the most highly-valued works ever to be sold at auction.

"This is truly the Holy Grail of art rediscoveries," said Alan Wintermute, Christie's senior specialist for Old Master paintings, explaining that the portrait sometimes called the male Mona Lisa had long been thought to have been lost or destroyed.

The portrait depicts Christ in vivid blue and crimson robes holding a crystal orb.

First recorded in the pri-

vate collection of King Charles I, the work was auctioned in 1763 before vanishing until 1900, by which time Christ's face and hair had been painted over, which Wintermute said was "quite common" practise.

Sold at Sotheby's to an American collector in 1958 for 45 pounds, it again sold in 2005 as an overpainted copy of the masterwork, he said.

The new owner started the restoration process, and after some six years of research it was authenticated as da Vinci's more-than 500-year-old masterpiece, which culminated in a high-profile exhibition at London's National Gallery in 2011.

The auction house did not identify the seller, a European private collector who acquired the work after its rediscovery in 2005 and lengthy restoration. The painting stands as the first discovery of a da Vinci painting

since 1909.

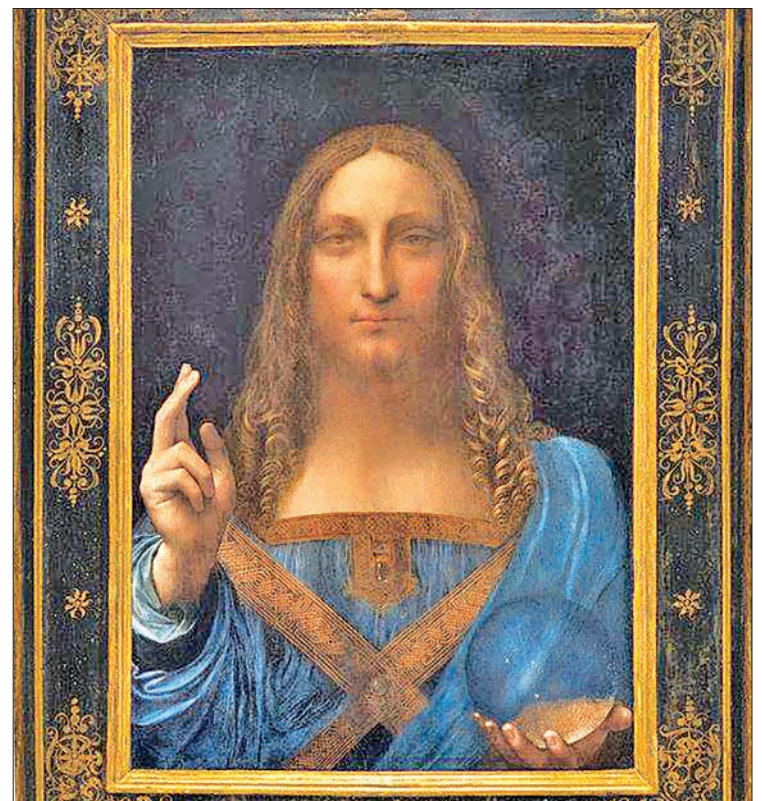
"Salvator Mundi" will be sold at Christie's in New York at its 15 November sale of post-war and contemporary art following public exhibitions in Hong Kong, London and San Francisco.

"We felt that offering this painting within that context is a testament to the enduring relevance of this picture," said Loic Gouzer, chairman of Christie's post-war and contemporary art.

Speaking to its \$100 million estimate, Wintermute reflected "There has never been anything like it sold, and so the market will decide."

The same sale at Christie's will feature Andy Warhol's monumental "Sixty Last Suppers," a piece from one of the pop artist's final series before his death in 1987.

The 32-foot, multiple-image work is estimated to fetch \$50 million.—Reuters



"Salvator Mundi," an ethereal portrait of Jesus Christ which dates to about 1500, the last privately owned Leonardo da Vinci painting, is on display for the media at Christie's auction in New York, NY, US on 10 October, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Satire on EU bureaucracy wins German book prize

BERLIN — A satirical look at the European Union and its bureaucracy, which opens with a pig running amok in one of Brussels' main squares, has won the prestigious German Book Prize.

Austrian writer Robert Menasse scooped a 25,000 euro prize for his novel "Die Hauptstadt" (The Capital) on Monday on the eve of the opening of the Frankfurt Book Fair.

Europe's future hangs in the balance as Britain wrangles with Brussels about the terms of its departure from the bloc after the June 2016 Brexit vote. Despite efforts to provide a united front, the other 27 members remain deeply divided over the euro, taxes and migration.

"Contemporary times are presented literarily so well that contemporaries recognize themselves and coming generations will better understand this time," the German Publishers and Booksellers Association said.

The Austrian newspaper Salzburger Nachrichten called Menasse's book "provocative, timely and important: a plea to remember what lies at the center of the 'European peace project', and to have the courage to take it into its next phase."

The book, published by Suhrkamp Verlag in September, was one of six books short-listed for the prize. Menasse, clearly moved, accepted the prize in Frankfurt.—Reuters ■

Duchess of Cambridge makes first public appearance since pregnancy revealed

LONDON — Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge, made her first public appearance on Tuesday since it was announced she was pregnant, joining husband Prince William and his brother Harry at events to mark World Mental Health Day.

Last month William and Kate announced they were expecting her third child and that as with her two previous pregnancies, she was suffering severe morning sickness.

Last month, she was too ill to take her eldest child George to his first day at school because she was too unwell and her last public appearance had come at the end of August when she joined William and Harry on a visit to a public garden at Kensington Pal-

ace dedicated to their late mother Princess Diana.

However, Kate, whose official title is the Duchess of Cambridge, showed no sign of the sickness that has forced her to cancel all engagements since then when she, William and Harry hosted a reception at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday to celebrate the efforts of those working Britain's mental health sector.

"The duchess' condition is improving but she is still suffering from hyperemesis gravidarum. She is delighted to be able to be here tonight," an aide said.

Hyperemesis gravidarum can cause severe nausea and vomiting and requires supplementary hydration and nutrients. The condition forced Kate to be

admitted to hospital in the early months of her pregnancy with George.

The couple's third baby will be fifth in line to the British throne, after grandfather Prince Charles, father William and elder siblings George, four, and Charlotte, two.

William, Kate and Harry have made campaigning about mental health one of their priorities, with both royal brothers saying in recent months how their mother's death in a car crash when they were children had left deep emotional scars. "All three of us have seen that mental health is at the heart of so many of the issues we are passionate about," William said in a speech to the reception. —Reuters ■

Apple kills Weinstein-backed biopic on Elvis Presley

LOS ANGELES — Tech giant Apple has terminated the deal with Harvey Weinstein's production house for a series on legendary singer Elvis Presley, following sexual harassment allegations on the media mogul.

Weinstein has also been ousted from The Weinstein Company (TWC) as co-chairman post

the controversy.

The Elvis project, which was in very initial stages - barely past the deal-making step, made it easier for Apple to pull the plug on the project, sources told Deadline.

The insider also revealed that there was an idea to expand the series into an anthology fran-

chise, which would have followed stories of Prince and Michael Jackson in subsequent chapters.

Weinstein's name will now be removed from all ongoing TWC TV series on which he had served as executive producer.

These shows, which are in far more advanced stages, will proceed as planned, at least cur-

rently, as most have surpassed pre-production and production.

The board made the decision to fire Weinstein from his company at a meeting held on Sunday afternoon.

"In light of new information about misconduct by Harvey Weinstein that has emerged in the past few days, the direc-

tors of The Weinstein Company — Robert Weinstein, Lance Maerov, Richard Koenigsberg and Tarak Ben Ammar — have determined, and have informed Harvey Weinstein, that his employment with The Weinstein Company is terminated, effective immediately," read a statement from the TWC board.—PTI ■

Western gorilla gives birth at Tokyo's Ueno zoo

TOKYO — A western gorilla, known as an endangered species, has given birth to a baby at a Tokyo zoo, its operator said Tuesday.

Momoko, 34, delivered her baby on Mon-

day morning, Ueno Zoological Gardens said, adding the mother and the baby are in good health.

The newborn's sex remains unknown.

She delivered her

fifth baby while being observed by the infant's father Haoko, 24, and other female gorillas.

After giving birth, Momoko soon hugged the baby and started licking it.

The mother was also seen feeding the infant, the zoo said.

There are currently eight gorillas in the facility, including Momoko and the baby.—
Kyodo News ■

SAO KYI WIN (FINLAND)

Age (59) years

Son of (MAJOR SAO NGWE THAUNG (Retd.) + DAW NAN SHWE KYI) of No. 244/246, Ground Floor, Shwebonhar (Middle) Street, Pabedan Township, Yangon, younger brother of (U SAO TUN KYI), (U SAO TUN LWIN), elder brother of U SAO THEIN KYI, PHONE U + SAO KHIN THUZAR, U SAO HAN KYI + DAW WAR WAR SWE, passed away in OSUUSPANKKI PORVOO FINLAND on (9-10-2017).

Bereaved Family

Japan Autumn Festival opens in HK

HONG KONG — A second "Japan Autumn Festival" began Tuesday in Hong Kong to promote Japanese entertainment, arts and food culture through dozens of events to be held in the city through December.

"Hong Kong is the most important partner of Japan in many aspects such as tourism, food export and domestic investment," Japanese Ambassador and Consul General Kuninori Matsuda said at the opening ceremony.

"We are also very proud that the Japanese community in Hong Kong is an integral and vital part of Hong Kong," he said, adding that the festival will become an annual event.

This year's festival, formally called "Japan Autumn Festival in Hong Kong — Rediscovering Nippon," features Japanese movies, musical concerts, art exhibitions, sports events, food and beverage fairs, tourism and trade promotions, and a carnival.

Organizers expect an enthusiastic turnout, considering the "great success" of last year's festival that drew some 180,000 people.

Some events started before Tuesday's official opening.

"While we have a lot of tourists in Hong Kong from Japan, not all people in Hong Kong could travel to Japan to appreciate what this country has to offer,"

Chief Executive Carrie Lam, who according to Matsuda had raised the idea for hosting the event two years ago, said at the ceremony.

"For most of us, the Japan festival never really ends, Japanese culture and lifestyle are embraced year round here," she said.

Japan was Hong Kong's fourth largest trading partner last year, while Hong Kong was Japan's eighth, according to Lam.

The number of visits to Japan by Hong Kong tourists grew some 21 per cent from 2015 to 1.84 million last year, and about 2.3 million visits are expected for 2017, Matsuda said.

— Kyodo News ■



Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam (3rd from L) and Japanese Consul General Kuninori Matsuda (3rd from R) attend an opening ceremony for the second Japan Autumn Festival in Hong Kong on 10 October, 2017. The event is aimed at promoting Japanese popular art, entertainment and food culture in Hong Kong. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Meal kit delivery services a boon for busy, aged households

TOKYO — Meal kit delivery services are not just helping out busy households but also seniors in Japan's increasingly graying society.

The services are being well-received as customers can prepare fresh meals on their own with a kit of food ingredients and seasonings in just the quantities they need, saving time and reducing food waste.

Customers mainly include cooking beginners, homemakers having trouble with everyday menu planning, and seniors. But gourmets are also being targeted with new services delivering high-grade meal kits for use in web-connected cooking devices under the "internet of things" concept. Yoshiike Kaihatsu KK in Shizuoka, central Japan, has been offering nationwide home deliveries of ingredients for dinners with recipes attached since 1975, becoming a franchiser in 1978. Accepting orders

through online or other platforms, the company offers four ranges of meal kits, including one targeting working mothers and another for senior households, each with an extensive menu. Cooking videos are also available online for some of the recipes.

To customers often away from home, Yoshiike lends a lockbox. Company nutritionists create the menus, using seasonal ingredients in appropriate amounts, according to the company. Menus for each range, available only in Japanese, are offered in booklet format and online. A set of meal kits for five days, each consisting of two items to be cooked in about 30 minutes for three family members, for example, costs some 6,500 yen (about \$60).

In addition to companies offering these services as core businesses like Yoshiike, large-scale retailers have also diversified into

the meal kit delivery market as part of efforts to expand their online retailing.

Seven-Meal Service Co, a group company of Seven & i Holdings Co, entered the market in 2000 and delivers meal kits in Tokyo and surrounding prefectures.

The cooking time for each meal is around 20 minutes, with nationally registered dietitians creating menus to include 120 grams or more of vegetables, mushrooms and/or beans per meal, according to Seven-Meal.

Customers can order a day's meal — 550 yen for one person and 1,000 yen for two — or order meal sets for seven days at one time, with deliveries made every day. Customers can also opt to pick up a meal kit at the counter in Seven-Eleven convenience stores. Sharp Co, a home electronics maker under Taiwan's Hon Hai Precision Industry Co, is launching

delivery services of premium meal kits for its high-end Healsio steam ovens and no-water cooking pots, starting this month. When the devices are hooked up to the internet, they can automatically download cooking instructions for the customer's meal. Users of the HealsioDeli service can enjoy menus from big-name chefs. The ingredients and seasoning have already been measured, washed and cut and all the users have to do is to put them in the oven or pot and push a button.

Sharp is collaborating with restaurant search business Gurunavi Inc. and Taihei Co, a meal kit delivery service firm in Chiba Prefecture. Chefs of restaurants registered with Gurunavi help to create Healsio menus, while Taihei is in charge of procuring and processing food ingredients, Sharp said. Starting with 14 meals for "special weekend

days," Sharp will offer a kit for two or three persons at a minimum of 3,800 yen without tax, plus shipping costs for deliveries to Hokkaido in the north and the Shi-

koku and Kyushu regions in the southwest. A Sharp official says the company aims at 20 billion yen in yearly sales by fiscal 2020. — Kyodo News ■



A woman cooks a meal at her home in the city of Shizuoka in central Japan on 11 September 2017, using a food ingredient and seasoning kit delivered by Yoshiike Kaihatsu KK, a Shizuoka-based meal kit delivery company mainly targeting beginners, seniors and homemakers who find it difficult to plan their everyday meals. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Myawady FC stays perfect in KBZ Bank Women's League

Kyaw Zin Lin

MYAWADY FC remains in first place in the KBZ Women's League 2016-2017 with a win over YREO FC by a score of 6-0 at Aung San Stadium yesterday.

Although YREO is in last place in the standings, they played to the best of their abilities during yesterday's match.

Myawady played calmly and effectively, showing they are one of the best in the Myanmar Women's League.

Myawady's star Win Theingi Tun got a hat trick in the match by scoring an opening goal at the 2-minute mark with other goals in the second half

at 60 minutes and 83 minutes.

Myawady scored its third goal of the match in the first half by Yuper Khaing's score at 37 minutes.

Even though YREO changed game tactics in the second half, they could not change the result as goals continued to be scored against them.

At the 53-minute mark, Khaing Thazin from Myawady scored a brilliant goal and YREO gave up a goal for Myawady at the 78-minute mark.

Myawady's big win keeps the team at the top of the standings, earning 25 marks after playing 9 matches. ■



Myawady FC and YREO FC players vie for the ball at yesterday's match in Aung San Stadium. **PHOTO:MWL**

Myanmar to take part in Thai's M-150 football Cup

THE Myanmar national football team will compete in the international friendly football tournament M-150 Cup 2017 in Thailand between 9 and 15 December.

A total of six teams includ-

ing Myanmar will be taking part in the tourney.

The event will feature six U-23 teams. Along with Myanmar, host Thailand and Vietnam from ASEAN there will be three powerhouse Asian teams

from Japan, North Korea and Uzbekistan.

According to the draw, Myanmar is in Group B along with Thailand and Vietnam, while Group A is comprised of Japan, DPR Korea and Uzbekistan. All

six teams from both groups will play a round robin format, with the top two teams advancing to the final.

The winning team will be awarded USD20,000 (Ks27.3 million).

The tourney's opening match will feature host Thailand against Vietnam on 9 December at the I-Mobile stadium in Buriram, Thailand according to the Asian Football Federation.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Reid questions Everton's mentality after poor start

LONDON — Peter Reid has questioned Everton's character after their woeful start to the Premier League campaign left them just two points above the relegation zone.

After spending around 140 million pounds in the last transfer window, Everton, who finished seventh last season, have won just two of their opening seven league games.

Reid, who made over 220 appearances for the club from 1982 to 1989, said Ronald Koeman's side appear to lack the stomach for a fight. "I played in an Everton side not all that long ago which was lacking in confidence..." Reid told reporters on Tuesday. "I think this Everton team is in a scrap. The team I was in could scrap. I am not sure this team can."

"We are in a dogfight and I am not sure ... they are ready for that. They look scared to put in a shift. I wouldn't say they are not trying, but they look like they cannot move."



Bradley's Blues manager Peter Reid. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

While the club's majority shareholder Farhad Moshiri has pointed to their tough schedule as a reason for the poor start, Reid, who won the 1985 top-flight title and the European Cup Winner's Cup with Everton, said they had to set the bar higher.

"When the owner comes out and says that (a difficult start) is what we expected — no, you are wrong mate," Reid added. "As an Everton fan, expectations are higher than that."

The 61-year-old said Ever-

ton had to get the fundamentals right and prepare themselves for a battle. "I would ask them to roll their sleeves up," he said. "You get back to basics. You have to say: 'Lads we have to make it hard for them when they have the ball'..."

"I am not saying I want to be the next Everton manager but this is what that club needs, it needs a depth of desire."

Everton travel to Brighton and Hove Albion in the league on Sunday.—Reuters ■

Stoke midfielder Allen doubtful for City clash due to head injury

LONDON — Stoke City midfielder Joe Allen is a doubt for Saturday's Premier League game against Manchester City after the Wales international sustained a head injury in Monday's 1-0 loss to Ireland in their final 2018 World Cup qualifier.

Allen was helped off the pitch in the first half at Cardiff after being involved in a collision with Ireland's David Meyler and James McLean, who went on to score the match-winning goal to end Wales' hopes of reaching the World Cup finals.

British media reports said Allen suffered a suspected concussion and Stoke assistant manager Mark Bowen said the 27-year-old had been given extended leave until Thursday and would be assessed upon his return.

"Joe is an early doubt, but we are still hopeful on him for the weekend..." Bowen told reporters on Tuesday. "We didn't

see any real need to get him in this morning, so fingers crossed he is ok and available for the game on Saturday."

"There is protocol to follow with injuries of this nature, which we will of course follow — the doctor will go around later today to see him, but he will come back in on Thursday and we will assess him then."

According to FA guidelines, players who suffer a suspected or confirmed concussion are not allowed to return to play for at least six days after the injury.

Bowen also said captain Ryan Shawcross had yet to recover from a back injury, with no clear timeline for the 30-year-old's return.

Defender Bruno Martins Indi is back in training and on-loan striker Jese has returned to the squad after missing Stoke's previous game against Southampton on compassionate grounds, Bowen added.—Reuters ■