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Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meeting with representatives of the signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar pledges to invest more in food security

MYANMAR, despite being sufficient in food, still needs to solve the problems climate change, natural disasters, internal instability and migrant issue including food and nutritional problems caused by poverty and the development gap between urban and rural areas said Vice President U Henry Van Thio yesterday.

Speaking at the ceremony to observe the World Food Day in Nay Pyi Taw, he highlighted the country's challenges that emerged together with the nation's independence and couldn't have been solved till now.

"Myanmar will have to emphasize in investing more in food security and progress of rural areas like other UN member countries," said U Henry Van Thio.

About 25.6% of the country's population is living under poverty, according to the integrated Household Living Condition Survey collected in 2010 in Myanmar.

Most are from rural areas and majority of their livelihood are agriculture. According to the 2016 Global Nutrition Report, the nutritional development level of Myanmar is categorized as 106 among 136 countries.

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State Counsellor meets ethnic armed groups

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and members of the Peace Process Steering Team-PPST of the signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement discussed yesterday jointly reviewing the implementation of the NCA and resuming UPDJC meetings.

At the meeting, the State Counsellor expressed her delight for the open discussion with the delegation and thanked to the ethnic armed groups for their support of the government's handling on Rakhine issue. She also stressed the need for unity of all the people of the

country, warning that the country would be put under pressure and bullied by others if there was no unity in the country. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi also stressed the importance of unity and solidarity for the union, urging the ethnic armed groups to cooperate in the Union Enterprise

for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine-UEHRD.

Khun Okka, Patron of Pa-O National Liberation Organization (PNLO), said they supported the Union Government's declaration of the ARSA as terrorist organization. **SEE PAGE-3**

UEHRD mechanism starts

A project on construction of houses in conflict areas in northern Rakhine State was launched yesterday as part of the Union Enterprise For Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in

Rakhine-UEHRD.

The move came three days after State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi announced the mechanism of UEHRD which was established with the aim of allowing the Union Government

and all local and international organizations to work in all sectors and all strata of society.

The project for Mro ethnic people was commenced yesterday at the village of Kondaing in the presence of the delegation

comprising of Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut.

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BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

Awarded by EUROMONEY 2017

Myanmar pledges to invest more in food security, rural development

FROM PAGE-1

“In order to reduce poverty rate and to be sufficient in food and nutrient, measures will be undertaken for the development of rural areas where these incidents mostly occur,” said the Vice President.

He also highlighted one of the State’s economic policy saying that “Establishing an economic model that balances agriculture and industry, and supports that holistic development of the agriculture, livestock and industrial sectors, so as to foster all-round development, food security, and increased exports”.

Besides, the agriculture and rural development tasks are being undertaken with the annual plan, 5-year short term plan, 20-year plan and national comprehensive development plan.

To remind thriving of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in the United Nations in 1945, the World Food Day is celebrated every year around the world on 16th October.

The ceremonies are held annually in over 150 countries including Myanmar, highlighting

the importance of everyone participation in ensuring food security and combating hunger. Only when we, all, have the nutritious food adequately, will we possess the healthy and active lives.

According to the statistics of United Nations, the enough food is being produced for all human beings living on the earth. However, about 800 million populations went to be without sufficient food because of various reasons.

Out of nine people mostly from rural and far-flung areas and migrants, one is facing food crisis due to local/regional instability issues, climate change, natural disasters and poverty.

In accord with the international statistics, it is known that the numbers of international migrants are about 240 millions in 2015 and that of the internal migrants are about 760 millions in 2013. Moreover, one third of the migrants are age between 15 and 34 years. The shortage of labour is being faced in rural areas because of the migrations of young workers and food productions are also decreasing.

Besides, the damage in ag-



Vice President U Henry Van Thio addresses the ceremony to mark World Food Day 2017 in Zeyathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw on 16 October 2017. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

ricultural sector of developing countries is over 20% of the total economic breakdown due to the climate change and natural disasters.

FAO has designated to celebrate 2017 World Food Day with the theme, “Change the future of Migration. Invest in food security and rural development”.

“To fulfill catering of world population that is increasing gradually, we urge to make more investments because UN member countries including Myanmar are responsible for the food security of respective countries and rural development,” said Vice President U Henry Van Thio.

To narrow down the gap between urban and rural development that is the main cause for internal/international Migration, more investments are being

made by the State for the rural socio-economic infrastructure annually in accord with the specifications of Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the UN. More effective way is being undertaken for distribution of rural agriculture products smoothly to the market and for smooth transportation of the people.

The event was also attended by Union Ministers, Union Attorney General, Deputy Ministers, Nay Pyi Taw Council members, Hluttaw representatives, representatives of United Nations organizations, diplomats, representatives from Food and Agriculture Organization, representatives from INGO and NGOS, invited guests and officials.

After the Vice President’s speech, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu explained about

2017 World Food Day and United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Myanmar Representative Ms. Xiaojie Fan read a message sent from FAO Director General.

Next, 2017 World Food Day commemorative video and a video showing Myanmar’s effort toward food sufficiency and agriculture sector development were shown.

Afterwards, Vice President U Henry Van Thio together with event attendees took commemorative group photo and visited the 2017 World Food Day exhibition.

After the event, the Vice President, Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu and officials visited Zaman Dam and Yezin Dam and observed the maintenance status and water level in the dams.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye provide humanitarian assistance to Maungtaw region villages

COMMITTEE for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State chairman Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye went to northern Maungtaw Laungdon, Badaka, Pantawpyin villages yesterday afternoon and provided humanitarian assistance.

The Union Minister together with Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, state ministers and officials left Sittway airport by helicopters and reached Laungdon (Na Ta La) village north of Maungtaw town at 1:30 p.m. where ethnic Mro nationals

living. They met and encouraged the ethnic Mro nationals.

The Union Ministers said the teams from Union Government and the State Government came to provide food for ethnic nationals and will rebuild houses for families who do not have a house after the village was burnt.

Health and education sector development for ethnic minority nationals will be provided and the Union Government conducting three projects work. The three includes providing food, resettlement, health, education and livelihood. All ethnic nationals are urged to participate in

these projects said the Union Minister.

The Union Minister, State Chief Minister and officials then provided 290 rice bags, 97 cans of cooking oil, 18 bags of pea, 7 bags of salt, 48 bags of onion, 48 bags of potato, 5 bags of dried chili and 21 packets of milk powder to the local ethnic Mro nationals.

Next, the Union Minister went to Kone Tine village where ethnic Mro nationals live and attended a stake driving ceremony to construct a new Na Ta La village for ethnic Mro nationals.

The Union Minister and party went on to Pantawpyin



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye meets with villagers to provide humanitarian assistance in Maungtaw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Village where Muslims lived and met with villagers and provided 661 rice bags, 220 cans of cooking oil, 39 bags of pea, 12 bags of salt, 100 bags of onion, 100 bags of potato, 11 bags of dried chili and 9 cartons of milk powders with 37 packets

of milk powders in each carton. Afterwards, the Union Minister and party met and encouraged Ministry of Health and Sports mobile health service group that was providing health care service in Pantawpyin Village.— Myanmar News Agency ■

State Counsellor holds talks with ethnic armed groups

FROM PAGE-1

PNLO is standing with the Union Government and the Tatmadaw regarding the accusations of international communities over the Rakhine issue.

Khun Okka also disclosed that they (ethnic armed groups) rejected some attempts made by non-ethnic group to become a member of the group of ethnic armed groups.

Afterwards, on behalf of the signatories to the NCA, U Saw Mutu Saepo, Chairman of Karen National Union, urged all participants of the meeting to continue to march to the goal of peace with mutual understanding and tolerance.

The meeting was also attended by Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint

Swe, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Nai Thet Lwin, Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, Lt-Gen Yar Pyai, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin, members of the Peace Process Steering Team-PPST U Yawd Serk, Salai Lian Hmung Sakhong of the Chin National Front, Naw Kapaw Htoo, member of the central committee of the Karen National Liberation Army (Peace Council), Khaing Soe Naing Aung, Vice-Chairman of the Rakhine Liberation Party, Than Gae, Chairman of the All Burma Students Democratic Front (ABSDF), and Saw Mo Shae, Chairman of Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (KKO) and Pado Saw Khwe Htoo Win, leader of the PPWT of KNU.—Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrives at the meeting with ethnic armed groups in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi shakes hands with Mr. Jeffrey Feltman in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi accepts the credentials from Mr. Oussama Tawil in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with Mr. Sun Guoxiang, Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in Nay Pyi Taw on 16 October 2017. PHOTO: MNA

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives envoys from UN, China

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, received Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, Under Secretary-General for Political Affairs of the United Nations and Mr. Sun Guoxiang, Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China yesterday separately.

During the meeting with Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, they exchanged views on matters pertaining to find ways and means to enhance cooperation be-

tween Myanmar and the United Nations, and to assist the Government's efforts in implementation of the recommendations of the Advisory Commission's on Rakhine State.

At the meeting with Mr. Sun Guoxiang, they discussed matters on bilat-

eral cooperation and Myanmar's Peace Process.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi also received Mr. Oussama Tawil, newly-appointed Country Director to UNAIDS Myanmar yesterday and accepted his credentials. — Myanmar News Agency ■



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Eight more tourism companies increase this year in Myeik District

WITH eight more local tourism companies running in Myeik District, there are a total of 26 enterprises so far, according to Myeik District Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

The Myeik archipelago in Taninthayi Region has become a new tourist destination to the local travelers as well as the tourists as the visitors are interested in eco-tourism sites.

They enjoy watching scenic beauty along the coast such as coral reefs and mangroves and exploring a diverse species of birds and aquatic animals and traditional culture.

To accommodate increasing number of visitors to the Myeik Archipelago, more than 200 hotel rooms will be added in the coming high season starting in



Colorful fish, corals and sponges on the coral reef in Kawthoung, Taninthayi Region. **PHOTO: KYAW HAN (MOHT)**

October and November, said U Hlwan Moe, in charge of the Kawthoung District Directorate of Hotels and Tourism under the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

There are more than 800 islands in Taninthayi Region, consisting of untouched

islands.

More than 14,190 tourists were flowed into Myeik area in 2016 and over 10,830 tourists entered Myeik District so far, according to Myeik District Directorate of Hotels and Tourism. —Htet Myat ■

Measures taken to build houses in N-Rakhine under UEHRD mechanism

FROM PAGE-1

In the visit to villages of Launglon, Badakar, Panntawpyin in Maungtaw Township and delivered humanitarian aid to the villagers, the government's delegation also delivered the aid to villagers.

During the visits, Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye expressed the government's commitment to food supply, resettlement and development in Rakhine State, urging the local people to cooperate with the government for success of the tasks. The delegation handed over the aid including 290 bags of rice, cooking oil, peas, salt, onion, potatoes, dried chilly and milk powder to the ethnic people.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye drove the stake into the ground to mark the launching of the work on construction of the houses. Following the ceremony, the delegation visited the Islamic village of Pantawpyin and delivered the humanitarian aid to them.—MNA

Improvement of Yangon-Mawlamyine railroad to be finalized by 2019

MYANMA Railways (MR) said the improvement of Yangon-Mawlamyine railroad is estimated to be finalized by March 2019, according to the Myawady Daily issued on Sunday.

After completion the MR's current undertaking railroad improvement projects between Yangon and Mawlamyine, high-speed trains will be run along the route in order to reduce travel time to 6 hours, said En-

gineer U Myo Zaw Tu of the MR.

In upgrading process, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is now upgrading 49.5 miles long railroad between Yangon and Bago. The MR's business to upgrade 31 miles railroads from Bago to Sittaung Bridge and 32.5 miles from the bridge to Taungsoon Railway Station has already been finished.

The upgrading of 37-mile

railroad between Taungsoon Station to Yannyein Station is expected to be completed next March and the improvement of 30-mile railroad from Yinyein Station to Mawlamyine Station is scheduled for completion by 2019.

Under this project, old sleepers along Yangon-Mawlamyine railroad has been replaced with new ones produced from Mottama Concrete Sleep-

er Plant.

The MR is implementing the railroad improvement project on Yangon-Mawlamyine route with the aid of the JICA. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) provided loans to upgrade Yangon-Pyay railroad and Mandalay-Myitkyina railroad is being upgraded with financial aid of Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).—GNLM ■

Myanmar to send nursing assistants to Japan starting December

MYANMAR Oversea Employment Agencies Federation (MOEAF) said it is working to send nursing assistants to Japan as the island nation needs more than 300,000 nursing assistants, according to a report of the Myawady Daily.

U Kyaw Hin Kyaw, general

secretary of the MOEAF said that the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population on 30 September granted permission to carry out the plan which is estimated to start in coming December.

Priorities will be given to female nursing assistants.

However, male nurses are also available to apply for the same position. Only people between the age of 21 and 35 years who passed the level 3 of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test may apply for the job. The selected candidates will work in Japan under three-year con-

tract. Those workers will earn at least above 120,000 Japanese yen per month.

Workers have been sent to Thailand, Malaysia, Japan, Singapore, Korea, UAE, Qatar and Macao. Among those countries Japan gives the highest salaries to workers.—GNLM ■



Workers unloading rice bags from the vehicle. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

MRF requests MOC to take action against China merchants offering inflated price for paddy

May Thet Hnin

MYANMAR Rice Federation (MRF) has recently requested the Commerce Ministry to take action against China's merchants offering inflated price than actual market price for paddy through brokers in Mandalay Region.

"There should not be exorbitant purchase price than reasonable one. This led to the shortage of paddy in rice mills. It is profitable business for farmers as they get high price. But, we need to look forward to long-term benefit", said Dr Soe Tun, the vice chairman of MRF.

The prevailing price of paddy is about Ks500,000 per 100

baskets whereas Chinese merchants offers up to Ks600,000.

Chinese merchants are buying the paddy instead of rice, which causes Mandarin rice millers difficult in their business. Therefore, Mandalay Region Rice Millers Association submitted a report to Mandalay Region Chief Minister and MRF, said U Ngwe Aung, the chairperson of this association.

Previously, there was not much purchase of paddy by China. This kind of purchase commenced from last summer crop season. Chinese merchants mostly purchase from Madaya and Singang townships, said U Aung Than Tun from Mandalay Region Rice Millers Association.

"I am glad that the farmers get the good price. By-product such as paddy husk produced by our local mills goes to waste. There is little wastage in their production process and so, they purchase paddy directly from local farmers. Additionally, they can produce other product from paddy husk. As a result of this, they can offer good price", he continued.

High price offered by Chinese merchants also increases the prices of bran and broken rice. This can also indirectly affect feedstuff processing businesses, said Dr Soe Tun.

There are around 1,100 rice millers in Mandalay Region. ■

Border trade with China shows decrease of \$91 million since April

SINO-MYANMAR trade values between 1 April and 6 October this FY amounted to over US\$3 billion, which shows a decrease of \$91 million compared to similar period of last FY, according to the Commerce Ministry.

The main reason of trade is sharp decline in Muse which is the largest border trade gate in Myanmar.

China's National Holiday in early October also has a slight impact on Sino-Myanmar border trade. Only small

number of Chinese merchants came to Muse to purchase the goods as they were faced with difficulties such as transportation, shortage of workers and office holiday during China's recent holiday.

Prior to China's National Holiday from 1 to 7 October, about 50,000 rice bags and 80,000 bags of sugar were daily traded.

Myanmar trades with populous neighbouring country China via Muse, Lwejel, Chinshwehaw, Kanpiketee and

Kengtung gates. Of five, Muse, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung land points of entry is seen to decline in trade and the rest showed slight increase against that of last FY.

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

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း: "Sunday Special" အချုပ်ပို (၈) မျက်နှာပါဝင်သော The Global New Light of Myanmar နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကို အောက်ပါမြို့များတွင် ဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

"Sunday Special" အချုပ်ပို (၈) မျက်နှာ ပါဝင်သည်

နေပြည်တော်: မြန်မာ့နိုင်ငံရေးအဖွဲ့ချုပ် (၇) နေပြည်တော်၊ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရုံးချုပ်)၊ စီမံရေးရာဌာန၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၄၁၂၁၀၈

နေပြည်တော်: နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တပ်ကုန်း)၊ ဝေယျာသီရိမြို့နယ်၊ ခေမင်လမ်း၊ နေပြည်တော်၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၃၆၁၄၈၊ ၀၆၇၃၆၁၂၉

ရန်ကင်း: The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊ ငါးထပ်ကြီးတုရားလမ်း၊ ဝဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၁၀၆၀၅၅၃၂၊ ၀၉၉၇၄၄၄၂၄၁၁၄

မန္တလေး: လမ်း (၂၀ x ၂၁) ကြား၊ (၉၂ x ၈၃) လမ်းကြား၊ မုလ်ဇွေ ရောင်ရမ်းမန္တလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၂၃၂၇၂၉၊ ၀၂၃၂၅၅၀

တောင်ကြီး: ရုံးကြီးလမ်း၊ သစ်တောရပ်ကွက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၁၂၁၁၆၄၊ ၀၉၅၂၁၄၄၅၇

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

တရားဝင်: မြို့ပေါ် (၃-၁) အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းသွယ်၊ မြို့ပေါ်လမ်း၊ ကျိုင်းတုံမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၄၂၂၄၉၂

ကလေး: အောင်ယုရပ်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊ ကလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၂၁၃၃

ပြင်ဦးလွင်: အမှတ် (၄၁)၊ ရေရပ်ကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊ မြစ်ကြီးနားမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄၂၂၄၆၂

စစ်တွေ: ရဟန်းတော်လှန်ရေးတက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊ မိမိတော်ကြီးအနီး၊ မန်းကျော်မြိုင်ရပ်ကွက်၊ စစ်တွေမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃၂၃၀၆၈

လားရှိုး: ဟူးမွန်ကျေးရွာထိပ်၊ ဟူးမွန်ဆည်ဘယ်ဘက်ခြမ်း (၁၂) ရပ်ကွက်၊ မန်ဆူဘုရားရှေ့၊ အဝေရာလမ်း၊ လားရှိုးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၂၂၄၀၆၇

ဗြိတိန်: မေတ္တာလမ်း၊ ရှမ်းရောင်ရမ်း၊ ကလွင်ကျေးရွာအုပ်စု၊ ဗြိတိန်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၉၄၂၁၀၃

မော်လမြိုင်: ကြားအင်းကျေးရွာ၊ မော်လမြိုင်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၇၂၇၂၅၊ ၀၅၇၂၇၂၆

ပုသိမ်: နန္ဒဝန်ရပ်ကွက်၊ ဆက်သွယ်ရေးတာဝါတိုင်အနီး၊ ပုသိမ်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၁၂၆၅၃၅၊ ၀၇၁၂၆၅၃၃

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Weapons, ammunitions and WY-stimulants seized at Nay Pyi Taw airport

By Ko Min

Firearms, ammunitions and stimulant tablets were seized from U Phyo Ko Ko Tint San, U Zaw Win Htike and U Ye Min Swe at the Nay Pyi Taw international airport on Sunday.

While checking passengers travelling by MNA air bound for Yangon from Nay Pyi Taw at 7:13pm 12 WY stimulant tablets, ICE 1.5 gram, two Australia-made 9 mm pistols and 72 bullets, 2 magazines, 3 wireless machines, one laser block bearing the name of Phyo

Ko Ko Tint San, a pass-port, one drone, a lens, 6 cameras, a watch, one Wi-Fi transmitter, 15 memory sticks, 3 mobile phones and a vehicle they drove were seized from U Phyo Ko Ko Tint San, U Zaw Win Htike and U Ye Min Swe. They were filed at the E Lar police station and the arrested were under investigation.

Police Colonel Zaw Khin Aung, head of Nay Pyi Taw Region Police Force said, "A case was filed against them. Another seizure of weapons was made again last night from Hotel Ace.

The case was under investigation, evidences were not complete yet till now."

Under their statements, the team led by Police Lt Colonel Hla Yi searched the Hotel Ace for other evidences, 2 suitcases, 5 pistols, 638 9mm bullets, 20 M-16 bullets and two magazines, 7.65 mm 136 32 Auto bullets, 10 point 22 bullets, 7 blank magazines, one M-16 hand-guard, 5 black colored pistol holsters, one bullet-proof shirt and one sniper lens in the bureau of U Phyo Ko Ko Tint San's room, with 3 hand-bags, 2 pistols and 16 bullets seized in the room of Ye Min Swe and Zaw Min Htike. A case was filed against them at Dekkhina Myoma Police Station, said the police.

Police Colonel added, "For now, they are being investigated. For the time being, we cannot give the information in detail. Nothing was known yet as to whether they connected other organizations. It will be released only after detailed statements were taken. They will be taken legal action against, in accord with the law." ■



File photos show confiscated firearms, ammunitions and stimulant tablets at the Nay Pyi Taw international airport. **PHOTO: MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

Heroin and two hand-made guns seized in Khamti

A COMBINED force consisting of police forces from Hommalin anti-drug squad searched the residence of Babu at no h/432, Cherry Road, Ziphyugone Ward of Khamti at 10 pm on 14 October, finding Babu, Arman and Par Saung together with heroin 0.3 gram and two hand-made long-barrel guns. Similarly, the combined forces consisting of police forces from anti-drug squad 35 of

Myeik searched the house of Thein Win residing in Kwethit village, Kabin village-tract of Kyunsu township, finding 35 tablets of stimulants, drug 4.3 gram. According to their confession, Hsan Zaw living in Ywathit village was caught with 3582 tablets of stimulants red-handed.

At 5 pm on 15 October, the combined force consisting of anti-drug squad 17 of Manda-

lay North searched the restaurant "Excellence" no B 4 on roadside Yangon-Mandalay express way at Ohnbinchan village in Singaing township, finding Bo Bo Tun (a) Bo Tun, Zaw Myo Hlaing, Ko Ko Tun (a) Htun Htun, Myo Htet, Win Zaw Oo and Thet Oo Maung together with 1800 tablets of stimulants, 7 mobile phones and two motor bikes.

The combined force consisting of anti-drug squad 22 Muse, found Aung Myat together with heroin 9.5 gram and 520 tablets of stimulants, with the combined force consisting of anti-drug squad 30, Tachileik finding Sai Shen, his wife Ma Nan Kyauk and Arlon (a) Ah Lee together with 1150 tablets of stimulants and ICE 215 gram at Sai Shen's house at no 145, Mae Yan village, Phan Min village tract of Tachileik township. They had been taken action against under the narcotic drug and psychotropic substances act, it was learnt.—GNLM ■



Six suspects detained in possession of stimulant tablets. **PHOTO: MYANMAR POLICE FORCE**



MYANMAR GAZETTE

Heads of service organizations confirmed (16 October 2017)

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on the expiry of the one-year probationary period from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(1) Dr Phoe Kaung	Rector Yangon University Ministry of Education
(2) Dr Daw Thida Win	Rector Mandalay University Ministry of Education
(3) Dr Daw Tint Tint	Rector University of Foreign Languages (Mandalay) Ministry of Education
(4) Dr Than Soe	Rector Myitkyina University Ministry of Education
(5) Dr Tin Htwe	Rector Hinthada University Ministry of Education
(6) Dr Maung Maung Naing	Rector Lashio University Ministry of Education
(7) Dr Daw San San Mar	Rector Kengtung University Ministry of Education

One Mark II vehicle seized without license

DURING security patrol at the Taunggyi hot air balloon launching grounds police forces led by Police Lt Colonel Ye Myint, head of Taunggyi District police force, Shan State tried to stop the car driving into the ground rapidly, they drove away. So the combined police forces caught them by blocking ways, arresting those driving the car, 35 minutes after the incident at the traffic light nearby Myanmar Econom-

ic Bank. Ne Zin Htet Naing (a) Thar Oh aged 19 and Lin Lin (a) Marlit aged 22, the owner of the car.

According to the investigation, the vehicle was found to be the one without license, it was learnt. They are being arrested under export and import law section 8/10 at Taunggyi Myoma police station under case no Pa 898/2017.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Beijing proudly unveils mega-airport due to open in 2019

BEIJING — China's capital unveiled the "shining example" of its 80 billion yuan (£9.1 billion) new airport on Monday, tipped to become one of the world's largest when it opens in October 2019 amid a massive infrastructure drive overseen by President Xi Jinping.

Representatives showed off the sprawling skeleton of "Beijing New Airport", which is made up of 1.6 million cubic metres of concrete, 52,000 tonnes of steel and spans a total 47 sq km (18 sq miles), including runways.

It is expected to serve an initial 45 million passengers a year with an eventual capacity of 100 million, putting it on par with Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

"Lined up together there's roughly 5 km of gates," said project spokesman Zhu Wenxin. "It's a shining example of China's national production capacity."

Updates on the airport come as the ruling Communist Party

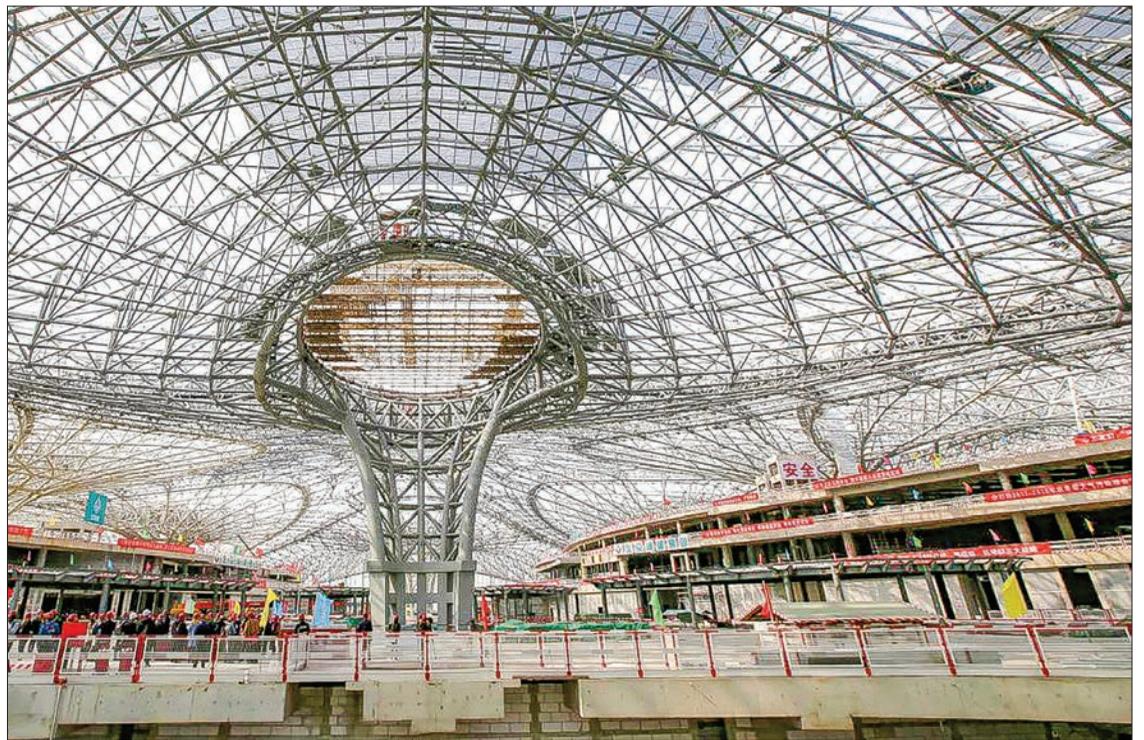
is set to open its 19th congress later this week, a twice-a-decade leadership event where Xi will consolidate power and emphasise successful projects and policy from his first five years.

The project, which broke ground in 2014, is one of the region's largest infrastructure investments under Xi's rule, which has been plagued by fears of slowing economic growth, offset slightly by a construction spree.

China has sought to boost its profile as both an aviation hub and a manufacturer in recent years. The country's first home-grown passenger jet, the C919, lifted off on its maiden flight in May, edging into a multibillion-dollar market currently dominated by Boeing Co and Airbus SE.

Situated 67 km south of Beijing, the airport technically falls in neighbouring Hebei province, though it will eventually constitute its own development zone.

It will relieve pressure on



The inner view of the terminal hall of new Daxing Airport constructed on the outskirts of Beijing, China on 16 October, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Beijing's existing international airport, to the northeast of Beijing and currently the world's second largest by passenger volume, which opened a new terminal worth \$3.6 billion (£2.7 billion) in 2008 ahead of the Beijing Summer Olympics.

The existing airport will continue to operate major international flights, though a third smaller domestic airport in the city's south will close in coming

years.

Two of China's three major airlines, China Eastern Airlines Corp and China Southern Airlines Co, will relocate to the airport on completion, accounting for roughly four-fifths of the new airport's total traffic.

The airport will be connected to Beijing by a high speed train with a top speed of 350 km an hour, as well as an inter-city train and a major expressway.

Original plans for the airport were made by French airports operator Aeroports de Paris, though third-party improvements to the original version make the final design "wholly domestic", said Zhu.

"It's like a large flower, but made of steel," said one construction worker on the site, who declined to share his name because he was not authorised to speak to press. —Reuters ■

Thai hotels booked up ahead of funeral of revered king

BANGKOK — Hotels in Bangkok's bustling old town, home to a backpacker enclave favoured by foreign tourists, are booked up as Thailand prepares to host the lavish funeral of its revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej next week, the hotel association said on Monday.

The funeral of King Bhumibol, who died on 13 October last year after seven decades on the throne, will run for five days next week, with most events centering on the Grand Palace and Sanam Luang, a public square in the historic quarter.

About 250,000 mourners are

expected to attend the funeral, which will feature gold-tipped pavilions built for the occasion, and 26 October, the day of the cremation, has been declared a national holiday.

"Many Thais wishing to attend the cremation feel it would be more convenient having a

place to stay nearby, so most hotels have been booked out already," Supawan Tanomkietipume, president of the Thai Hotels Association, told Reuters.

A Reuters survey of three hotels on the Khao San Road, the main artery of the Banglamphu backpacker area, found no rooms were available.

"We are fully booked during the royal cremation," said Preechaya Amngeun, 23, a guest services agent at the Ibis Styles Bangkok Khaosan Viengtai, part of French hotel group Accor.

"Around 80 percent of the guests we have are Thais. The other 20 percent are foreign tourists."

Thailand's tourism industry, which accounts for 12 percent of GDP, has been a rare bright spot for an economy that has struggled since a 2014 coup. It has weathered political turbulence and a major natural disaster over the past decade. —Reuters ■

Cambodia parliament amends laws to redistribute opposition seats

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia's parliament on Monday adopted amendments to allow redistribution of the seats of the main opposition party to other parties if the government succeeds in its bid to dissolve it.

In the 123-seat National Assembly, all 67 lawmakers from the ruling Cambodian People's Party of Prime Minister Hun Sen voted for the changes to four election-related laws while all 55 lawmakers from the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party boycotted the session.

Besides parliamentary seats, the amendments will also apply to seats in commune and district councils.

The Interior Ministry earlier this month filed a lawsuit seeking the dissolution of the CNRP ahead of next year's general election. —Kyodo News ■



Officials take part during a funeral rehearsal for late Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej near the Grand Palace in Bangkok, Thailand on 15 October, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Move towards the peace goal

Khin Maung Oo

SIGNING the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement with a view to terminating civil armed conflicts is the important step forward in the effort to achieve internal peace. On 15 October 2015, 8 armed ethnic groups signed the NCA, thus the 15th of October this year marks the 2nd anniversary of the signing of the NCA. So, a fitting ceremony marking the 2nd anniversary of the signing of the NCA was held in Nay Pyi Taw.

In August 2016, one year after signing the NCA, the Union Peace Conference 21st Century Panglong was held. Afterwards, 4 months after

convening the 2nd meeting of UPC 21st Century Panglong in May 2017, the ceremony marking the 2nd anniversary of signing of the NCA was celebrated.

After signing the NCA Myanmar is experiencing many challenges, but implementation of the facts included in the NCA is underway as laid down in the Political Road Map to solve political problems and armed conflicts peacefully, aiming at achieving Union Peace. During the 2-year-long peace process we have had progress, challenges and difficulties. NCA is of great importance for the peace process. Only if the nationwide ceasefire can be brought about, will the peace pro-

cess be able to proceed. It has been noticed that the number of armed conflicts decreased after signing the NCA.

After the Second World War, many countries are facing unrest, rage and civil wars. In a period of time they managed to gain peace and civil wars ceased to exist, apart from Myanmar, our country.

Although seven decades has passed in our country, civil armed conflicts are still occurring in Myanmar. Hence, the peoples' government is exerting its concerted efforts to make the peace process a big success.

Not only the people's govern-

ment but also the whole nation wants peace. The government is making efforts to gain peace, as are Tatmadaw, armed national ethnic groups, political parties, civil societies and people's representatives. We are all implementing with unanimous consent for the sake of the Union.

As a matter of fact, political issues beget armed conflicts. Political splits before and after gaining our Independence still result in the vicious circle until now.

To sum it up, we deeply urge our people to take part with unity, strength and mutual trust in marching towards the emergence of a federal democratic republic. ■

WORLD Food Day this year is falling on Monday, 16th of October 2017 and its theme for this year international day is "Change the future of migration; Invest in food security and rural development". On International Youth Day 2017, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations joins the world to recognize the importance of young people to build a future based on peace and prosperity; the world's population today is young and dynamic; some 1.2 billion youth make up 14 percent of the global population, and almost 88 percent of them come from developing countries; this means a large number of young people with great potential and aspirations, but facing big constraints and challenges to build their future. Rural development can address factors that compel people to move by creating business opportunities and jobs for young people that are not only crop-based (such as small dairy or poultry production, food processing or horticulture enterprises); it can also lead to increased food security, more resilient livelihoods, better access to social protection, reduced conflict over natural resources and solutions to environmental degradation and climate change. Large movements of people today are presenting complex challenges, which call for global action. Data as shown below are mentioning the world's migration and their role played in this planet.

- In 2015, there were 244 million international migrants, 40% more than in 2000.

- People who move within national borders were estimated at 763 million in 2013, meaning that there are more internal migrants than international migrants.

- About one-third of all international migrants are aged 15-34. Nearly half are women.

World Food Day

Htun Tin Htun

- In 2015, migrants sent over US\$ 600 billion in remittances to their countries of birth. Of that, developing countries received about US\$ 441 billion, nearly three times the amount of official development assistance.

- A large share of migrants come from rural areas where more than 75% of the world's poor and food insecure depend on agriculture and natural resource-based livelihoods.

- Most migrants, whether international or internal, originate in the Middle East and North Africa, Central Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe.

- In 2015, 65.3 million people around the world were forcibly displaced by conflict and persecution, including over 21 million refugees, 3 million asylum-seekers and over 40 million IDPs.

- A quarter of global refugees reside in only three countries (Turkey, Pakistan and Lebanon).

- In 2015, more than 19 million people were internally displaced because of natural disasters. Between 2008 and 2015, an average of 26.4 million people were displaced annually by climate or weather-related disasters.

FAO is working with governments, UN agencies, the private sector, civil society and local communities, to generate evidence on migration patterns and is building countries' capacities to address migration through rural development policies and FAO supports governments and partners as they

explore the developmental potential of migration, especially in terms of food security and poverty reduction. FAO is helping countries create more employment opportunities for youth in rural areas, by harnessing the potential of agricultural and rural livelihoods. "Fostering sustainable agriculture and rural development is essential to absorb these millions of youth looking for a job". Our world is getting closer than before and our laws, rules, regulations and procedures should recognize and appreciate the performance and capabilities of migrants who moves, travels, works and remits across the planet to help grow the world's socio-economies. One by one, moment by moment, little by little the migrants can do more and more benefits to the development of the nations around the world to help achieve the sustainable development goals that we all must try to achieve by 2030. Development experts said while population grows, employment opportunities remain limited and of poor quality for young people in rural areas; they often earn low wages and face unsafe, exploitative working conditions, which force them to migrate to urban areas or leave their country to look for better opportunities; in 2015, of the 244 million people who crossed the border in search of a better life, about one-third was between 15 and 34 years old; in addition, there were 763 million internal migrants and many young migrants come from rural areas where the lack of productive and decent employment

opportunities perpetuates poverty, food insecurity and economic fragility; conflicts and natural disasters adds further pressure on rural livelihoods, all of which leads to forced migration and displacement of youth internally and abroad.

Development is of paramount importance for the people of this planet and migration is part of the process of development as economies undergo structural transformation and people search for better employment opportunities within and across countries; the challenge is to address the structural drivers of large movements of people to make migration safe, orderly and regular; in this way, migration can contribute to economic growth and improve food security and rural livelihoods, thus advancing countries' progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). "A sustainable world can only be achieved with the full engagement of young people. They must feel integrated and believe that a more peaceful and prosperous world is possible." said the Director-General of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization José Graziano da Silva. Young people of this world are of great importance to build a future based on peace and prosperity; by the end of 2016, 66 million individuals were forcibly displaced worldwide, many of whom are young people coming from rural areas; these generations of displaced young people are particularly exposed to the threat of violence and radicalization; for rural youth, the creation of decent employment is much more than just a job and it is a life-changing opportunity to build a brighter future based on peace and prosperity in their own country. ■

Reference: FAO Website for WFD

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives PPST members

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received members of Peace Process Steering Team (PPST) of NCA signatory ethnic armed groups led by General Saw Mutu Sae Poe, Chairman of Karen National Union (KNU) in Bayintnaung Guest House, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, PPST chairman and members said for them there is no other path than NCA in the peace process. Implementation of NCA needs to be reviewed and points included in NCA need to be implemented speedily. PPST has no intention of taking advantage on others and have a simple intention of resolving the conflicts

in the country. They want all to participate in a peace (process) country wide.

They fully support Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief's speech given at the NCA 2nd Anniversary ceremony as it is the same as their aim to form and implement a union based on democracy and federal through a political dialogue. They then discussed about matters relating to each group's implementation of peace process.

Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief said for country-wide participation of all, a real desire for true peace is needed. On the NCA 2nd Anniversary he urged those who hadn't signed the NCA to take the first step for



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing shakes hands with Chairman of Karen National Union (KNU) General Saw Mutu Sae Poe at Bayintnaung Guest House in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

peace by signing the NCA. NCA path is taken primarily for peace and was not for playing politics. Tatmadaw had a strong desire and is also ready to quickly implement the provisions included in NCA.

Tatmadaw will do the part that the Tatmadaw can do without hesitating and Tatmadaw will give priority in safeguarding the security and benefit of ethnic nationals added the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief.

Similarly Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief said the Tatmadaw will protect and safeguard all nationals living in Myanmar and then responded to discussions made by each groups. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Mobile medical teams provide emergency health care to villagers in N-Rakhine



Mobile health care members providing medical treatment to the children in Maungtaw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

AUTHORITIES in Maungtaw have sent mobile health care teams to areas, which have seen stability, to provide emergency care to villagers.

“We resumed the emergency health care services which stopped since the terrorist attacks occurred in August,” said Dr Tun Tin, Director of the Public Health Department, “We have sent the mobile medical teams to villages in Buthidaung and Maungtaw districts immediately”.

diately”.

With more than 50 mobile medical teams, the department is providing health care services to about 100 villages.

A mobile health service group had provided health care service to Laungdon and Pantawpyin villages in Maungtaw Township yesterday and will continue to provide health care service to remaining villages it is learnt. — Naing Lin Kyi, Thant Zin Win ■

Funeral ceremony of presiding reverend Sayadaw Bhaddanta Arzeya of Dhammodaya Buddhist Literature Institute, Kengtung held

FUNERAL ceremony of presiding reverend Sayadaw Bhaddanta Arzeya, Agga Maha Pandita title holder was held at the Phaya Koesu Hillock, Kengtung in the afternoon of October 15.

Present at the ceremony were Reverend Sayadaws led by Abidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Dhamma Siri, Vice-Chairman of State Maha Nayaka Association, Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Daja Dr Bhaddanta Pannya Nanda, Loilem, Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika

Daja Bhaddanta Pannya Sarmi, Tachileik, Abidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Jotika, Hokhon Pariyatti Monastery Kengtung, C-in-C of the Defence Services, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Tin Aung San, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Khin Aung Myint and high-ranking officials from Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army), Commander of Triangle region Command Major General Aung Zaw Aye, Speaker of Shan State Pyithu Hlut-

law and responsible officials from Shan State Cabinet, and laypersons.

Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services and party pay homage to the body of the Sayadaw by covering cloth of velvet. Afterward, disciple Sanghas, C-in-C of Defence Services and party and laypersons brought the body for cremation.

Following that, Senior General and Tatmadaw officials, Shan State Hluttaw Speaker and Cabinet members donated robes to Sanghas. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation leaves for Switzerland

AT the invitation of Switzerland Federal Department of Foreign Affairs a Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation led by Vice Senior General Soe Win, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Commander-in-Chief (Army) left Yangon for Switzer-

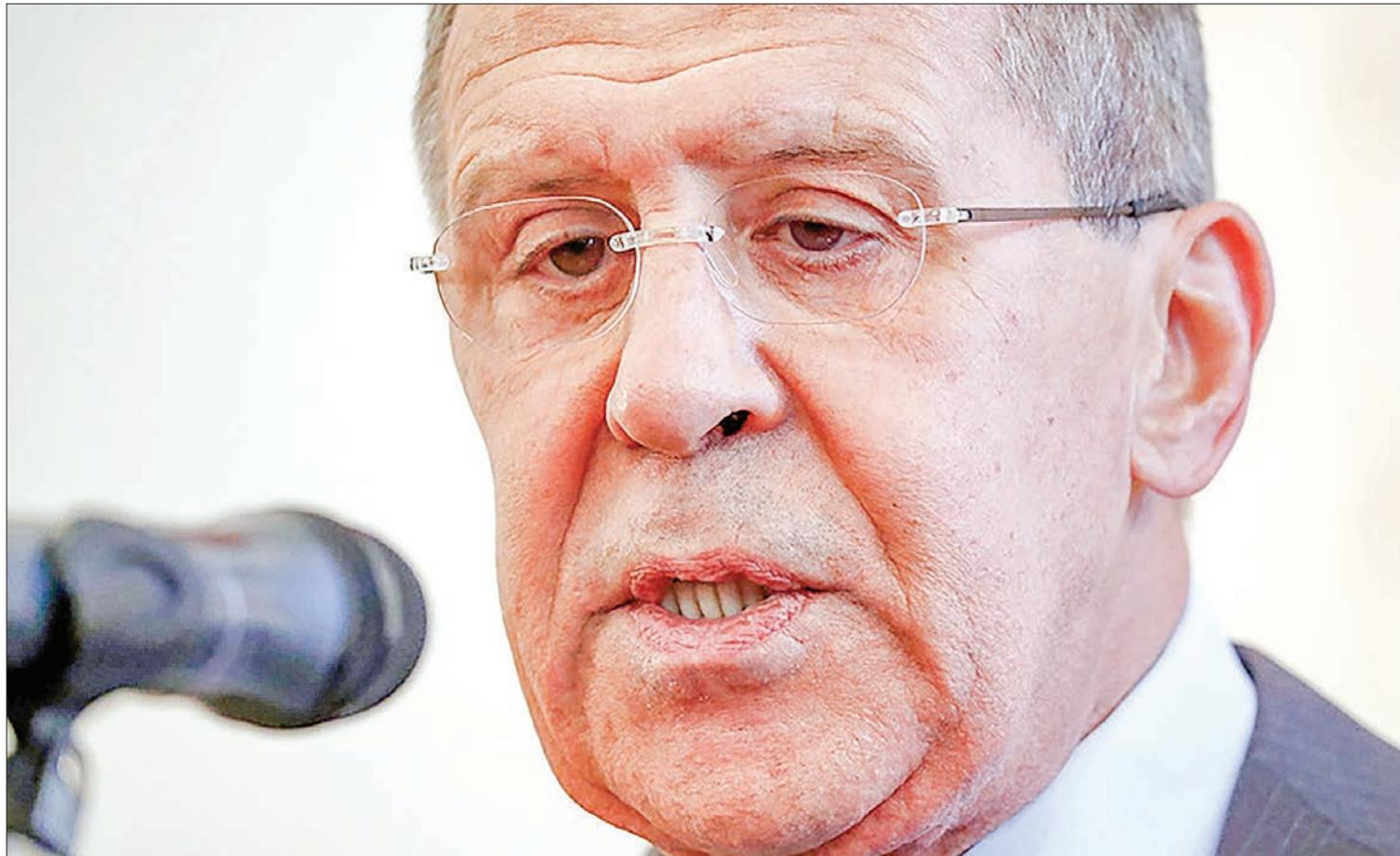
land by air yesterday morning. The Tatmadaw delegation was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Thet Pone and military officers, the Deputy Head of the embassy of Switzerland to Myanmar and

head of cooperation department Mrs. Carine Carey and officials. Vice Senior General Soe Win was accompanied by Lt-Gen Min Naung from the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and Tatmadaw senior officers. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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

Lavrov points to some countries geopolitical interests hampering war on terror



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. PHOTO: TASS

SOCHI — The world community is unable to unite in the war on terror now since some states are pursuing their own geopolitical goals, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Monday during the Festival of Youth and Students in Sochi.

“The world situation remains tense and unpredictable, and new challenges emerge, in addition there is an upsurge of international terrorism that threatens the entire international community,” Lavrov told a panel discussion “Global Politics and

Its Agenda: How to Protect the World.”

“No coalition can be truly achieved now. Some governments pursue their own geopolitical interests,” the top diplomat pointed out.

According to Lavrov, political

systems are being exported without taking into account traditions. “The practice of unilateral sanctions has seriously undermined international law,” he stressed, voicing concerns over “the loss of mutual trust, which won’t be easily restored.”—Tass ■

UK PM May heads to Brussels expecting “constructive” meeting — spokesman

LONDON — British Prime Minister Theresa May is expecting a “constructive” meeting in Brussels on Monday with senior European Union officials as part of her attempt to achieve a smooth exit from the bloc, her spokesman said on Monday.

May will meet EU Commission head Jean-Claude Junck-

er and chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier at 1630 GMT for talks over dinner after deadlock in Brexit talks appeared to dash her hopes that an EU leaders’ summit later this week could launch negotiations on future trade ties. The meeting comes after May attempted to revive talks last month in a speech in Florence, where

she promised Britain would honour its EU commitments. “This is about reflecting upon Florence and the constructive way it’s been received and that we want to continue to move forward in a constructive manner,” the spokesman told reporters. When asked if May would flesh out details of what Britain is prepared

to offer in terms of a financial settlement, the spokesman said: “The PM set out her position in the Florence speech in relation to the settlement, and that’s where we are.” May will also speak to French President Emmanuel Macron and Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar on Monday, the spokesman said.—Reuters ■

Man arrested for employing under-age girl in “JK” dating service

TOKYO — A man has been arrested for hiring a female senior high school student to work for a dating service which saw her allegedly provide sexual services to a 45-year-old male customer, police said on Monday.

The arrest was the first of its kind in Japan under an or-

dinance that came into force in Tokyo in July making it illegal for girls under the age of 18 to work in a so-called “JK” services.

Yutaka Tanaka, 27, was arrested last Saturday on suspicion of hiring the 17-year-old girl without confirming she was

of legal age. The police accused Tanaka of making her available to go on a walk with the man and Tanaka reportedly told police, “It is true that I have been sending girls to take a walk (with men).”

The girl eventually engaged in sexual activities with

the customer at a hotel in Tokyo’s Ikebukuro area, costing him 30,000 yen (\$268).

The police define JK businesses as those that clearly indicate customers are served by girls, or in which girls in school uniforms or gym clothes offer services.—Kyodo News ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Catalan government will not respond to Madrid’s order on Thursday — TV3

MADRID — Catalan authorities will not respond on Thursday to the Spanish government’s order that they clarify whether they have declared independence from Spain, Catalonia’s TV3 reported on Monday, citing sources.

Catalan head Carles Puigdemont failed on Monday to respond to an ultimatum to answer “yes” or “no” and Madrid has now given him until Thursday to change his mind - saying it would suspend Catalonia’s autonomy if he chose secession.—Reuters ■

Woman dies in Ireland as a result of Storm Ophelia — RTE

DUBLIN — A woman has died in the southeast Irish county of Waterford on Monday after a tree fell on her car as a result of Tropical Storm Ophelia, national broadcaster RTE said, quoting the local council office.

RTE said the woman was the sole occupant of the car and was pronounced dead at the scene as the storm began to batter Ireland’s southern coast. A spokeswoman for the council could not immediately be reached for comment.—Reuters ■

Death toll from Portugal wildfires rises to 27

LISBON — At least 27 people died in a massive wave of wildfires raging in central and northern Portugal on Sunday and Monday in the worst such calamity since a blaze killed 64 people in June, civil protection told a news briefing.

Patricia Gaspar, a civil protection service spokeswoman, told reporters firefighters were still battling 145 fires and 32 of the blazes were considered as serious. At least 51 people have been injured in the fires, she said.—Reuters ■

Iraq forces seize Kirkuk outskirts in advance on Kurdish-held territory

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraq's central government forces launched an advance early on Monday into territory held by Kurds, seizing a swathe of countryside surrounding the oil city of Kirkuk in bold military response to a Kurdish vote last month on independence.

The government said its troops had seized Kirkuk airport and had taken control of Northern Iraq's oil company from the security forces of the autonomous Kurdish region, known as Peshmerga.

The military action was the most decisive step Baghdad has taken yet to rein in the independence aspirations of the Kurds, who have governed themselves as an autonomous part of Iraq since the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003 and voted on 25 September to secede.

"We call on the Peshmerga forces to serve under the federal authority as part of the Iraqi armed forces," Prime Minister Haidar Abadi said in a statement which was read out on television. He ordered security forces "to impose security in Kirkuk in cooperation with the population of the city and the Peshmerga", the

statement said.

State television said Iraqi forces had also entered Tuz Khurmato, a flashpoint town where there had been clashes between Kurds and mainly Shi'ite Muslims of Turkmen ethnicity.

The Kurdish regional government did not initially confirm the Iraqi advances, but Rudaw, a major Kurdish TV station, reported that Peshmerga had left positions south of Kirkuk.

US forces which have worked closely with both the federal forces and the Kurdish Peshmerga to fight against Islamic State called on both sides to avoid escalation.

The US-led task international force in Iraq was "closely monitoring (the situation) near Kirkuk; urge all sides to avoid escalatory actions. Finish the fight vs. #ISIS, biggest threat to all," a spokesman said on Twitter.

Bayan Sami Rahman, the Kurdish regional government's representative in the United States, tweeted a plea for Washington to "use (its) leadership role to prevent war".

The action in Iraq helped spur a jump in world oil prices



Iraqi people gather on the road as they welcome Iraqi security forces members, who continue to advance in military vehicles in Kirkuk, Iraq on 16 October, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

on Monday.

Baghdad considers last month's Kurdish independence referendum illegal, especially as it was held not just in the autonomous region itself but in territory in northern Iraq, including Kirkuk, which the Kurdish Peshmerga occupied after driving out Islamic State fighters.

The Kurdish secession bid was strongly opposed by neighbours Iran and Turkey. Washington, allied with the Kurds for decades, had pleaded in vain for them to cancel the vote, arguing that it could lead to regional war and the breakup of Iraq.

Abadi's government has been under strong pressure from Iran-backed militias from Iraq's Arab Shi'ite Muslim majority to take military action to crush the

Kurdish independence bid.

The government said its forces, including the elite US-trained Counter Terrorism Service, had moved almost unopposed into the industrial zone just south of Kirkuk and the oil, gas, facilities located south and west of the city.

Iraqi oil industry officials said there was no disruption to production from the facilities of the North Oil Company, which is based in Kirkuk and one of the two main oil companies that together provide nearly all of Iraq's government revenue.

The city of Kirkuk itself remained under Kurdish control, 12 hours after the start of the Iraqi operation, but two routes in and out were under control of the Iraqi forces.

"We have no orders to enter the city, just to secure the surroundings," a military commander involved in the operation told Reuters, adding that the Kurdish forces had pulled out in an orderly manner from the position taken by the Iraqi forces. Another military commander said: "Kurdish leaders we consider our brothers have agreed to hand over control of North Oil and North Gas company facilities that belong to the state." Although Iraqi officials portrayed the Kurds as retreating without a fight, Kurdish officials said Peshmerga had clashed with the "Popular Mobilisation", Shi'ite forces trained and armed by Iran that operate alongside regular Iraqi troops.—Reuters ■

Militants kill six in attack in Egypt's Sinai —security sources

CAIRO — Four Egyptian policemen and two civilians were killed and 22 others were injured in an attack by militants on a security post in North Sinai province on Monday, security sources said.

Egypt is fighting an insurgency against militants affiliated with Islamic State in the northern part of the Sinai Peninsula where hundreds of security forces have been killed since 2013.

Witnesses said five SUVs, each carrying four armed militants, fired at security forces nearby MarGerges Church and a branch of National Bank of Egypt, in Arish, the capital of North Sinai.

"The militants fired shots randomly in the street as if they

were celebrating with some of them raising their black flags (of Islamic State) and they roamed the streets for about 20 minutes then disappeared," said Alaa Lotfy, a shop owner in the area who witnessed the clashes.

The militants stole some money from the bank, one security source said. The bank, which has closed its other branches in the city, has not commented.

Attacks targeting security forces have been common since Egypt's Islamist president Mohamed Mursi was ousted in 2013 following mass protests against his rule.

At least 24 militants and six soldiers were killed on Sunday in attacks on military outposts in North Sinai.—Reuters ■

US-backed militias in final push against IS in Raqqa

RAQQA, Syria/BEIRUT — The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) expect to wrest control of Raqqa, the last major Syrian city held by Islamic State, from the militants by the end of Monday, an SDF field commander said.

The US-led coalition backing the alliance said, however, it could not give a timeline for the battle.

The field commander said the SDF was carrying out "clearing operations" against Islamic State.

A political leader in the SDF, Ilham Ahmed, also said on Monday that she expected the end of the campaign against Islamic State in Raqqa to be announced in "hours or days".

US-led coalition spokes-

man Ryan Dillon said he could not put a timeline on the operation. The coalition is supporting the SDF on the ground with intelligence, air strikes and combat advisors.

"We have conducted some strikes in the last 24 hours, but I suspect that that will pick up here very soon with the SDF advancing into the final remaining areas of the city," Dillon said.

The SDF assault, launched on Sunday, is targeting the "no more than 200-300" foreign militants remaining in the city, SDF spokesman Talal Selo said on Sunday.

Raqqa was the first big Syrian city that IS seized when it rampaged through Syria and Iraq and declared a caliphate in 2014. Raqqa became an opera-

tions centre for attacks abroad and the stage for some of its bloodiest attacks

The SDF has been trying to take the city from Islamic State since June. Dillon said about 3,500 civilians had left the Islamic State-held parts of the city in the past week. A convoy of Islamic State militants and their families left the city on Sunday in an evacuation deal brokered with tribal elders. IS militants in return allowed safe passage out of the city for civilians trapped in Raqqa.

Asked if the US-led coalition will target the convoy of IS-fighters and families, Dillon said: "We're not going to strike a convoy that has a multitude of family members or civilians on it".—Reuters ■

Pope implicitly criticises US for leaving Paris climate accord

ROME — Pope Francis implicitly criticised the United States on Monday for pulling out of the Paris agreement on climate change, praising it as a means to control the devastating effects of global warming.

The United States is the only country out of 195 signatories to have withdrawn from the accord, which aims to cut emissions blamed for the rise in temperatures.

US President Donald Trump announced the decision in June shortly after visiting the pope, a strong supporter of the deal. At the time a Vatican official said the move was a “slap in the face” for the pope and the Vatican.

“We see consequences of climate change every day,” the pope said in an address to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) at its headquarters in Rome.

“Thanks to scientific knowledge, we know how



Pope Francis talks with Food Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Director General Jose Graziano da Silva during his visit at the FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy on 16 October, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

we have to confront the problem and the international community has also worked out the legal methods, such as the Paris Accord, which sadly, some have abandoned,” he said.

Under the deal, United States had committed to reducing its own emissions by 26 to 28 percent, compared with 2005 levels,

by 2025. Many world leaders have criticised Trump for deciding to pull out.

In his Spanish-language address to the UN agency, Francis denounced “negligence toward the delicate equilibriums of the ecosystems, the presumption of manipulating and controlling the limited resources of the

planet, and the greed for profit.”

Agriculture ministers and diplomats from the Group of Seven (G7) world power nations attended the gathering, which marked FAO’s World Food Day. “We can’t be satisfied by saying ‘someone else will do it,’” the pope said.—Reuters ■

Bill Clinton called to break Northern Ireland political impasse — source

BELFAST — Former US President Bill Clinton, who played a central role in brokering peace in Northern Ireland, may travel to Belfast this week to try to break a months-long political impasse, a source close to the talks said.

Northern Ireland has been without a devolved administration since its collapse in January, raising the prospect of direct rule being reimposed from London, potentially destabilising a delicate political balance in the British province.

Clinton was due in Belfast on Monday to meet the parties but the trip was postponed as Tropical Storm Ophelia began to batter Ireland’s southern coast and moved towards Northern Ireland.

Depending on the weather, Clinton, who is scheduled to receive an Honorary Doctorate at Dublin City University

on Tuesday, could travel to Belfast later that day.

“He’s keen to help,” the source told Reuters.

Clinton travelled to Belfast in March to speak at the funeral of Martin McGuinness when he urged politicians to finish the work started by the Irish Republican Army commander who became a cornerstone of the peace process.

The main impediment in the talks between Irish nationalists Sinn Fein and the pro-British Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) is disagreement over the rights of Irish language speakers.

The British and Irish governments, who are facilitating the talks, have expressed cautious optimism that the region’s power-sharing government can be restored this month but the parties have said there are still challenges to be addressed.—Reuters ■

Merkel: State defeat hasn’t weakened us before coalition talks

BERLIN— German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Monday played down suggestions that a regional election defeat for her Christian Democrats (CDU) had made her job of forming a three-way national coalition harder.

The Social Democrats (SPD) won Sunday’s vote in the northern region of Lower Saxony with 36.9 per cent. Merkel’s conserv-

atives slumped to 33.6 per cent — roughly in line with forecasts but their poorest showing in the rich agricultural province in nearly six decades. “I don’t see the Lower Saxony election result as weakening us in this (coalition) task,” Merkel said, adding that regional issues had played a big role in the campaign there.

Lower Saxony is home to carmaker Volkswagen,

which is enmeshed in a diesel emissions scandal.

Three weeks after Merkel’s conservatives recorded their worst national election result since 1949, the chancellor is about to begin what look set to be tricky coalition discussions with the liberal Free Democrats (FDP) and the Greens. Merkel said her conservative bloc was heading into the talks

knowing it was the strongest of the three groups, while acknowledging negotiations would be challenging. “We’ll have sufficient conflicts anyway. No one is under any illusions about that,” Merkel said.

Policy areas over which the three parties are expected to clash include migration, climate protection and euro zone reform.—Reuters ■

Facebook helps children to fight cyber bullying in UK schools

LONDON— Facebook said on Monday it would fund young “digital safety ambassadors” in every secondary school in Britain to help students tackle cyber bullying and other online dangers.

The US company is partnering charities The Diana Award and Childnet International to train young people to act as

mentors in 4,500 schools over the next two years, it said.

Facebook’s head of global safety policy Antigone Davis said the social network had already developed safety features on the platform, such as online reporting tools, and it was now taking that commitment offline.

“We’ve heard from

kids that actually three out of four of them would prefer to talk to somebody their own age about these issues, so giving young people the skills they need to be that kind of a mentor is really important to us,” she said.

Nearly all cases of cyber bullying were linked to people known to victims from school or other parts

of their lives, she said.

As well as giving children the tools to cope with bullying on platforms such as Facebook, Instagram or Snapchat, the programme will also tackle online grooming and other dangers.

It will receive 1 million pounds (\$1.33 million) of funding from Facebook.—Reuters ■

Myanmar Port Authority “Notice of High Tide”

Exceptionally high spring from 20.00 feet to 20.20 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of October 19th to October 22nd 2017.

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

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV MCC MERGUI VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC MERGUI VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT
(S’PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

Exports of Russia's S-400 missile systems

MOSCOW — The Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation announced that Russia and Saudi Arabia reached agreements on the supplies of S-400 missile systems to Riyadh.

Currently, the S-400 systems are in service only in Russia. The contracts on the supplies of S-400 Triumf systems (NATO reporting name: SA-21 Growler) have been signed with four countries, including Saudi Arabia.

China

In July 2014, then-Kremlin chief of staff, Sergey Ivanov, told reporters that China could become the first foreign customer of the S-400. Shortly after, Russia's Zvezda TV channel reported about China's plans to buy at least six S-400 divisions worth more than \$3 bln.

On 26 November, 2014, Vedomosti business daily reported, citing sources close to the Russian Defence Ministry, that Moscow signed a contract to supply the S-400 to China. On 27 October, 2015, Director General of Rosoboronexport, Russia's arms exporter, Anatoly Isaykin told reporters that it would supply the S-400 to China "within the timeframe set by the contract." Neither the sum of the deal nor the exact date was an-



S-400 air defense systems near Moscow. PHOTO:TASS

nounced.

In November 2015, Russia's Presidential Aide for Military-Technical Cooperation Vladimir Kozhin confirmed to journalists that the contract had been signed. In March 2016, Director General of the Rostec state corporation Sergey Chemezov said China had made an advance payment for the supplies of these missile systems.

In June, he said the Chinese army would obtain these systems not earlier than 2018. On 26 April, 2017, the press ser-

vice of the Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation confirmed that the contract started being implemented.

India

On 15 October, 2016, after talks between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the BRICS summit in Goa an agreement on S-400 supplies to India was signed.

Neither the sum nor other details of the deal were unveiled. Earlier, Indian mass media reported

about the country's plans to buy five S-400 divisions.

Turkey

In November 2016, the talks between Turkey and Russia on the S-400 came to light. In March 2017, Rostec CEO Sergey Chemezov told reporters that the Turkish side expressed its wish to get a Russian loan on purchasing armaments, including the S-400.

On 25 July, 2017, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced that "certain documents" as part of a deal on buy-

ing Russia's S-400 were signed. The Russian side confirmed on 12 September, 2017 that the contract was inked. President Erdogan said that Ankara had made an advance payment under the contract. Turkey became the first NATO member-state purchasing Russia's S-400. Russian Presidential Aide Kozhin stressed that giving to Turkey production technologies for S-400 systems was out of question. No details on the number of divisions were provided.

According to Kom-

mersant business daily, Turkey paid more than \$2 bln to buy four S-400 divisions. Turkish Undersecretary for Defence Industry Ismail Demir later said the delivery of S-400 systems would begin within two years.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu told the Aksam daily in an interview that Ankara could give up plans to buy the S-400 if no agreement on joint Russian-Turkish production of this system was reached.

Russia's Defence Ministry representatives earlier said the S-400 could be exported to Belarus and Kazakhstan. No such supplies have been officially reported.

On 28 August, 2017, the head of the Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation, Dmitry Shugayev, told Kommersant that about a dozen of bids to buy the S-400 were being considered.

In September, Russian Presidential Aide for Military-Technical Cooperation Vladimir Kozhin said in an interview with TASS that there was a waiting list of likely buyers eager to have this system. According to the official, countries of Southeast Asia, the Middle East and some member-states of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) showed interest in the S-400.—Tass ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV BLPL TRUST VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BLPL TRUST VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of BSW where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BANDA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BANDA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

As Hollywood struggles with sexism, female-led story ends London film fest

LONDON — The London Film Festival closed on Sunday with a violent and profanity-laden dark comedy featuring Frances McDormand, as a small-town mother seeking justice for her murdered daughter, tipped for an Oscar nod.

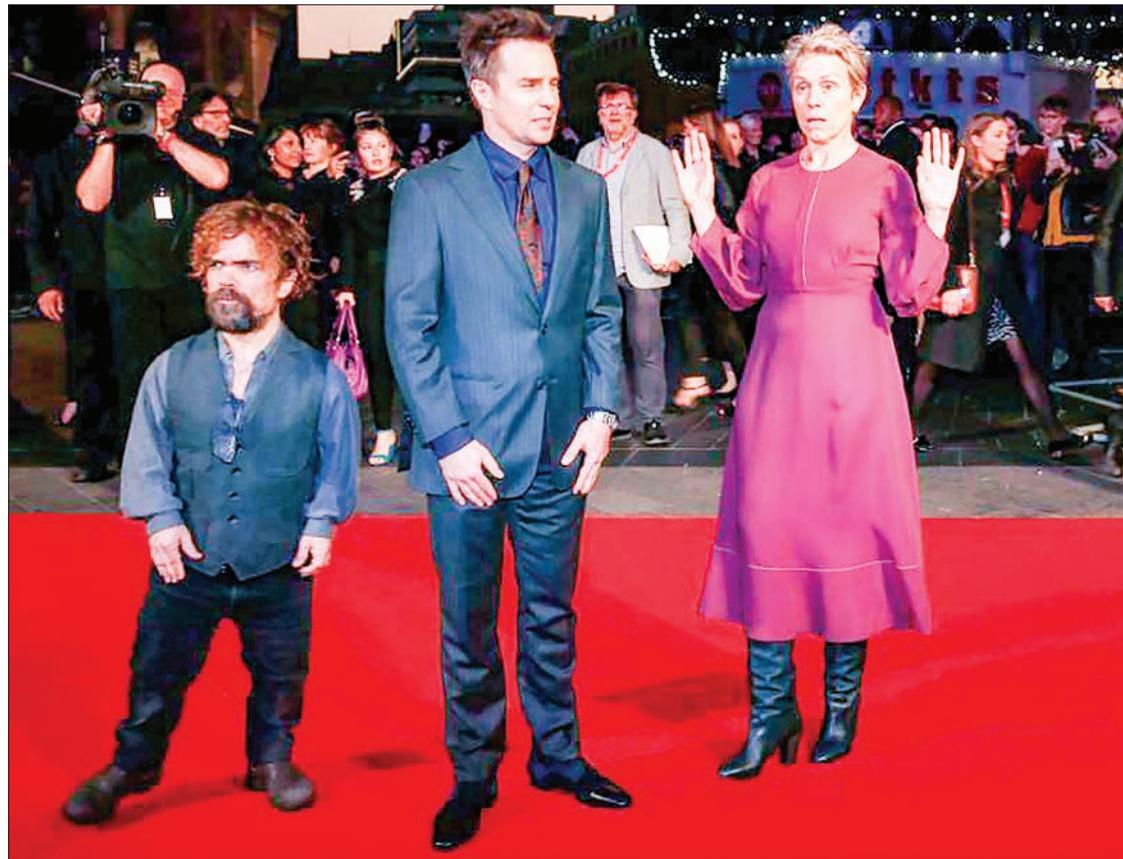
At the end of a movie fortnight overshadowed by a cascade of allegations against Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein, writer-director Martin McDonagh said he was happy to close the festival with “Three Billboards Outside Ebbing”, calling it “a proper cool film” with a woman at its heart.

“I mostly wanted to write a really strong female lead for a film so I came up with this idea of a very angry mother who goes to war with her local police department,” McDonagh told Reuters on the red carpet in London’s Leicester Square.

“Once I thought that Frances would be the perfect person for it, it wrote itself almost.”

McDormand shot to global fame in “Fargo”, another small-town black comedy, as a North Dakota police chief, a role that won her the Best Actress Oscar in 1997.

In “Three Billboards Outside Ebbing”, her character de-



Actors Peter Dinklage, Sam Rockwell and Francis McDormand arrive for the UK premiere screening of “Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri”, on the closing night of the British Film Institute (BFI) London Film Festival at the Odeon, Leicester Square in central London, Britain on 15 October, 2107. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

cides to confront the police chief, played by Woody Harrelson, by hiring advertising hoardings to berate him for failing to find the culprit who raped and murdered her daughter.

“McDormand’s perfor-

mance is every bit as commanding as her Oscar-winning work in ‘Fargo’ 21 years ago,” Daily Telegraph critic Robbie Collin said in his five-star review of this “gut-twisting, cinder-black comedy” which won the top prize at

the Toronto International Film Festival.

Harrelson, who starred in Martin McDonagh’s last movie, “Seven Psychopaths” said of the British-Irish filmmaker best known for “In Bruges”: “He’s

turned into a real master of his craft and I think he has just gotten better each time.”

A day after the Academy of Motion Pictures expelled Weinstein over allegations of sexual harassment, some actors were more forthright than others over the scandal.

Clarke Peters, who plays an African-American police chief in the small Missouri town beset by racial tensions in “Thee Billboards”, said Hollywood “should go into a room and reassess their humanity”.

Abuse in the film industry was not limited to one individual, Peters said, adding: “We all get accosted in one way or the other.”

“They have this wonderful machine to communicate to all of these people, why use it in such a despicable way?” The New York Times and The New Yorker have published allegations from a number of women that Weinstein sexually harassed or assaulted them in incidents dating back to the 1980s, including three who said they had been raped.

Reuters has been unable to independently confirm any of the allegations. Weinstein, 65, has denied having non-consensual sex with anyone.—Reuters ■

WWE signs first woman wrestler from Arab world in global push

DUBAI — World Wrestling Entertainment Inc. signed its first female performer from the Arab world on Sunday, smashing cultural taboos as the US-based pageant seeks to pile drive its way into lucrative foreign markets.

Shadia Bseiso, a Jordanian versed in jiu-jitsu, dreams of encouraging more Arab women to take up sports — and of one day maybe even crashing a metal chair over WWE mega-star John Cena.

“Female athletes are finally getting the credit they deserve. The world is more open to that, and in terms of how the region will react to it, I’m hoping its going to be very positive,” said Bseiso. While women exercising in public is rare in the Arab world and the local entertainment industry often relegates them to docile roles, big companies such as Nike have stepped up advertising geared towards female

athletes. Still, the high octane physicality and outrageous storylines of professional wrestling remain a novelty in the region.

Speaking to Reuters in the WWE’s Dubai office, Bseiso said she made sure to tell her parents about her colorful career choice in person. After announcing she would join the ranks of the WWE, they paused in disbelief for a moment, she said, worried for her safety in the often bruising shows.

They support her fully, she added, as she now heads to the company’s Orlando, Florida, training center for grueling in-ring training and what WWE calls “character development” — transformation into one of their trademark big personalities.

She has a Jordan-themed persona in mind, she says, declining to elaborate. For decades a quintessential if curious emblem of Americana, professional wrestling has now won die-hard fans in



Shadia Bseiso, who was signed by World Wrestling Entertainment Inc. as its first female performer from the Arab world, gestures during an interview with Reuters in Dubai, UAE on 15 October, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

the Arab world and beyond, and features widely in apparel and toys. WWE’s reach deeper into new demographics makes plenty of business sense for the \$1.5 billion Connecticut company, which has also recently signed several Indian and Chinese athletes in the hope of snaring millions of potential new devotees.

“Recruiting Shadia to join our developmental system underscores WWE’s ongoing commitment to building a talent ros-

ter as diverse as our fan base,” said Paul “Triple H” Levesque, WWE Executive Vice President and himself a popular wrestler.

Bseiso insists the quirky genre has room to expand if only fans could find a hero from home. “As it is, the WWE’s incredibly popular in the Middle East, but I think having athletes from the region who grew up here - it will change things. You finally have someone to root for.” —Reuters ■

Joss Whedon brought good taste to ‘Justice League’: Affleck

LONDON — Actor Ben Affleck says writer-director Joss Whedon brought a lot of knowledge on the sets of “Justice League”.

The 53-year-old director took over the DC film after Zack Snyder left the project in wake of his daughter’s sudden death.

The actor, who will reprise his role as Bruce Wayne/Batman from the film “Superman v Batman: Dawn of Justice”, says Whedon helped define the tone of the movie like any able storyteller.

“Joss just brought to the movie what good directors bring, which is good taste. An instinct for realism and for finding the humanity in the characters and the humanity in the conflict, then making it accessible and relevant. I think that’s one of the things he did so well with Avengers, frankly.—PTI ■

Oway announces office relocation, expansion

OWAY, one of the market leaders in Myanmar's tourism, has moved its office to No. A-3, Min Ye Kyaw Swar Street, Min Ye Kyaw Swar Business Building, Lanmadaw Township in Yangon. The new office opening ceremony is held on 14th October 2017.

The Oway new office is located near the St. John Bus

Stop and Pyay road railway station, sharing the same roof with St. John City Mall.

Representatives from Oway partner companies and airlines, royal customers and media attended the opening ceremony. The ceremony includes special sales event for Oway Travel's 5th Anniversary and luck draw for walk-in customers.—GNLM ■



The Oway new office opening ceremony held in Yangon on 14th October 2017. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

World's largest pink diamond expected to fetch up to \$30 million at auction

LONDON — “The Pink Raj”, an intense pink diamond described by experts as the world's largest, is expected to fetch up to \$30 million (£22.57 million) when it is auctioned in Geneva next month.

The stone, which weighs just over 37 carats, was displayed by auction house Sotheby's in London this week.

“It is a wonderful shape. It is a cushion modified diamond, with a lot of brilliance, a lot of facets, when you move it around and sort of have it on your finger,” Sotheby's senior jewellery specialist Daniela Mascetti told Reuters. The rough diamond was mined in 2015 and is being auctioned by an anonymous owner. Previous sales for smaller pink diamonds have yielded more than \$1 million per carat at auction. A 24.78 carat intense pink diamond sold for more than \$46 million — a record price per carat for pink diamonds — in November 2010 in Geneva.—Reuters ■



Yokitomo Shimotai is pictured with “garlic coffee” he invented, in Ninohe, Iwate Prefecture, on 25 September 2017. The drink looks and tastes like coffee but is made entirely of garlic. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Japanese man invents “coffee” made entirely of garlic

AOMORI, (Japan) — “Garlic coffee” can be a boon to coffee-loving pregnant women abstaining from it as a man in northeastern Japan invented the drink that looks and tastes like coffee but is made up entirely of locally grown garlic.

“My drink is probably the world's first of its kind,” said 74-year-old Yokitomo Shimotai, who was a coffee shop owner in Aomori Prefecture.

“It contains no caffeine so it's good for those who would like to drink coffee at night or pregnant women.”

Shimotai, who launched the

drink's sale in January, said the drink was accidentally made from a cooking blunder about 30 years ago, when he burned a steak and garlic while waiting tables at the same time at his shop. He mashed the scorched garlic with a spoon and mixed it with hot water.

When he drank it, he was surprised at its “coffee-like taste” with bitterness. Shimotai began researching the drink after retirement, aimed at turning it into a product.

After repeating trials and errors on the optimal way to make it, he created a “coffee” he

can be satisfied with about five years ago by using an electric furnace to roast the garlic. After cooling it, the garlic is smashed up and dripped. Shimotai took a patent on the method in 2015, and opened a workshop in neighboring Iwate Prefecture.

While his drink has an aroma of roasted garlic, it will not cause bad breath because it is thoroughly grilled, according to Shimotai.

The drink is currently available at two souvenir shops in Aomori Prefecture, or by ordering by telephone. —Kyodo News ■

Stars of British art world donate works for Grenfell fire survivors

LONDON — A group of Britain's most successful contemporary artists has donated valuable works to sell at a charity auction for the survivors of the Grenfell Tower fire, which killed about 80 people at a London social housing block in June.

Home to a close-knit, multi-ethnic community, the 24-storey tower in a deprived housing estate was reduced to a charred ruin by the inferno that engulfed it in the middle of the night.

Many survivors have yet to be rehoused and are still living in hotels.

The charity auction, to be held at Sotheby's on Monday, includes works by A-list artists including Wolfgang Tillmans, Antony Gormley, Tracey Emin, Sarah Lucas, Mark Wallinger and Rachel Whiteread.

The proceeds from the auction, which Sotheby's estimates will range between 700,000 and 1 million pounds, will be divided equally among 158 surviving families. Film producer Hamish McAlpine, an art collector who was one of the driving forces be-

hind the auction, said the Grenfell tragedy had had a huge emotional impact on Londoners, including the city's vibrant artistic community.

“Grenfell touched their souls,” he said in an interview at Sotheby's in an airy gallery where the donated artworks are on display. “It's a very emotive subject for people in London.”

It would normally take six to nine months to organise an auction on this scale, but McAlpine and art consultant Katie Heller were able to put this one together in about 10 weeks thanks to the positive response from almost all the artists.

McAlpine said famous artists were constantly bombarded with requests to donate works for charity and could not always give, but in this case almost everyone had agreed immediately.

“There has been an extraordinary generosity within the artists' community,” he said. “To give a work that's worth hundreds of thousands of pounds, for free, it really is a magical thing.”

One of the works, “Lay the

Dust with Tears” by Tacita Dean, was created especially for the auction. A grey and black image made with charcoal on paper, it is evocative of billowing smoke.

Other works that already existed have been renamed by the

artists to honour the victims of the fire. “Red Lens for Grenfell” by Anish Kapoor is a thick acrylic disc, reminiscent of lenses used in lighthouses, while a black-and-white photograph by Sarah Lucas has been renamed “Eating a Ba-

nana (for Grenfell)”.

The most valuable artwork for sale is “Freischwimmer 193” by Wolfgang Tillmans, a very large green print. The estimated price range is 120,000 to 180,000 pounds. —Reuters ■



The Sculpture “Black Phoenix” by Paul Fryer which forms parts of a forthcoming charity auction for the survivors of the London Grenfell Tower fire, at Sotheby's in London, Britain on 12 October, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Myanmar Yachting team seen at the sea of Busan as the sailors undergo Busan Training Program. **PHOTO: MYANMAR YACHTING FEDERATION**



Busan Training Program to help Myanmar Yachting Team

Kyaw Zin Lin

SAILING team from Myanmar Yachting Federation has been training at the Busan yachting center under the Training Program of Busan since 11 October and they will continue training till Friday according to Myanmar Yachting Federation official page.

A total of five sailors from

Myanmar Yachting Federation including one team leader, two sailors from RS:One Sailing and another two from Laser Radial joined in this Training Program.

The Busan Yachting Center in Busan was constructed between June 1983 and May 1986 after receiving permission from the Busan Port Authority in early 1982. The venue hosted the

sailing competitions for the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul.

It has various facilities commemorating Olympics, such as Sculpture Park, Recreation Park, Strolling Path and some cafeterias.

In the vicinity are leisure water sport training schools such as a yacht school, wind surfing school, and scuba diving school. ■

Federer eyes ATP Finals title, top ranking after Shanghai triumph

SHANGHAI — Roger Federer is eyeing a seventh ATP Finals crown and has not ruled out pinching the world number one ranking from Rafa Nadal if he maintains the form that won him his second Shanghai Masters trophy on Sunday.

The 19-times grand slam winner claimed his 94th title and sixth this year with an emphatic defeat of Nadal in the Shanghai final and is hungry for a first ATP Finals win since 2011.

“London is my priority now and I really want to win the World Tour Finals,” the evergreen 36-year-old told Sky Sports. “I am very excited to have had the year that I have had and everything that comes from here is a bonus.

“Finishing the year as world number one is a long shot, and I don’t think it will happen but if I play like this, who knows? Maybe I will get close again.”

Shanghai was Federer’s first

tournament since the US Open and the confidence he gained from his opening matches helped him through a taxing schedule.

“It’s been a tough week, five straight matches is always a test and a challenge for anybody’s body, especially with the pressure rising,” he said.

“I felt I was playing well all

week and that settled my nerves because I was returning well from the (opening) match here against (Diego) Schwartzman.

“The serve only got better and I saved the best for last ... In a way, not surprising because I felt good all week—I was ready.” The Swiss next headlines his home Basel International starting on 21 October. —Reuters ■



Roger Federer of Switzerland lifts the trophy after winning against Rafael Nadal of Spain in Shanghai, China on 15 October, 2017. **PHOTO:REUTERS**

Myanmar falls in tough group of 2017 ASEAN Futsal Championship

Kyaw Zin Lin

Myanmar national futsal team will participate in 2017 ASEAN Futsal Championship that will be hosted in Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam starting from 24 October to 3 November.

Myanmar has fallen in the Group A together with Host Vietnam, Indonesia, the Philippines and Brunei. The grouping seems very tough for Myanmar as the two futsal strong teams; the host Vietnam and Indonesia were included in the same group.

The other Group B con-

sists of Thailand, Malaysia, Laos and Timor Leste. The Group B seems a bit ease as there are only four futsal teams including two ASEAN futsal power houses.

As a preparation for the upcoming tourney, Myanmar team trained in Thailand at the start of October along with playing friendly matches against Thai’s well known futsal clubs.

Myanmar team will be headed by its head coach U Htay Myint and the team will depart for Vietnam on 22 October said an official of Myanmar futsal team. ■



Indonesian goalkeeper Choirul Huda of the Persela Lamongan soccer club walks before a match against Semen Padang soccer club in Lamongan, Indonesia on 15 October, 2017. **PHOTO:REUTERS**

Indonesian fans mourn death of keeper in collision with team mate

JAKARTA — Indonesian soccer fans are mourning the death of Choirul Huda, the long-term goalkeeper and captain of top flight side Lamongan FC, usually known as Persela, following a collision with a team mate during a weekend match at their stadium in East Java.

Video footage showed Huda slamming into team mate Ramon Rodrigues in the 43rd minute of Sunday’s game in the Go-Jek Traveloka league. Rodrigues’ knee had accidentally collided with Huda’s chest in the incident, said the club’s media officer Andika Hangga Pramana. The 38-year-old was taken off the pitch on a stretcher after losing consciousness and a medical team at the stadium

attempted to resuscitate him, said Doctor Yudistiro Andri Nugroho, head of the emergency Care Unit at the Soegiri Hospital, Lamongan. Huda was taken to the hospital’s intensive care unit and given breathing assistance and cardiopulmonary resuscitation, but his condition deteriorated and he was pronounced dead at 4.45 pm, Nugroho said a statement. “We did all we could to restore the vital functions of Choirul Huda’s organs,” the doctor said. His fellow players had gone to straight to the hospital after the final whistle following their 2-0 win over Semen Padang and supporters later went to his house with candles, according to local media reports.—Reuters ■