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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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PHOTO: MNA

IMF: Myanmar
economy is
rebounding,
future is bright

AN International Monetary Fund (IMF) report released yesterday showed that Myanmar's economy is rebounding and its future remains favourable, though more reforms are needed to accelerate growth, according to the report.

An IMF team led by Mr. Shanaka J. Peiris, an expert on finance in Asia, visited Myanmar from November 6th – 17th to conduct discussions on the state of Myanmar's economy. At the conclusion of this visit, Mr. Peiris said there have been challenges, but the country's economy is stable and has good potential for growth.

"The economy stabilised in 2016/17. The new government saw a challenging first year with lower-than-expected growth of 5.9 per cent in 2016/17 mainly due to weak agriculture production

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ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting held

ASEM Senior Official's Meeting and related meetings were held at Myanmar International Convention Center 1 (MICC-1) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

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Myanmar delegation votes against OIC's unfair Resolution on Myanmar at the Third Committee of the 72nd United Nations General Assembly

THE Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) submitted a draft resolution entitled "Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar" at the Third Committee of the

Seventy-second Session of the United Nations General Assembly which is being held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 16 November 2017.

As the resolution was unfair to Myanmar, the Myanmar Delegation called for vote on the resolution. Myanmar Permanent Representative U Hau Do Suan delivered a general

statement before the vote and responded on the outcome after voting.

In his general statement, the Myanmar Permanent Representative demonstrated My-

anmar's strong opposition to the draft resolution by calling for vote on the resolution as a whole, taking into account of the following reasons:

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BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

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Pyithu Hluttaw

2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 6th regular session 13th day meeting held

THE sixth regular session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw 13th day meeting was held yesterday morning in Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall.

At the meeting, three Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representatives who hadn't taken the oath of office were sworn in in front of Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint and signed the oath.

Responding to a question by U Myint Han Tun of Budalin constituency on the joint venture conducted by June Pharmaceutical and Ministry of Industry, Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho said Sagaing June Pharmaceutical & Foodstuff Industry Ltd joint venture was formed by Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries and June Pharmaceutical in No. 3 Pharmaceutical Factory (Sagaing) under Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries of Ministry of Industry with the permission of President Office and Myanmar Investment Commission. The joint venture company was formed with share ratio of 80 per cent from Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries and 20 per cent from June Pharmaceutical. The joint venture agreement



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint. PHOTO: MNA

was signed for 10 years from 1 April 2012 to 2022 and the agreement was according to the comments and suggestion of Union Attorney General office and Myanmar Investment Commission.

Eighty per cent share of Ministry of Industry's Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries include the main factory and related areas of four Spirulina algae stations and the land, buildings, machinery, vehicles, office and other fixed assets, valued at Ks 6,748 million of fixed assets transfer value as of 1 April 2012. The 20 per cent share of June Pharmaceutical is

an investment of Ks 1,687 million for the expansion, upgrade, repair and maintenance of building, vehicles and machinery and for operating capital. The agreement includes the schedules of payment for proceeds from the Spirulina produced. During the five years of joint venture operation, Ministry of Industry has received a profit share of Ks 214.252 million and as of date, 26 products of Spirulina algae were being produced and distributed said the Union Minister.

In his reply to the question raised by Dr. Daw Khin Soe Soe

Kyi of Pyay constituency on loan programs for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho said SMEs are the base for Myanmar's economic development and arrangements are made to provide loan from government funds and through loans and aid from partner international organisations to increase production, investment and money circulation in SMEs. Two Step Loans for SMEs were made by six private banks to which Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has provided Japanese Yen 5,000 million of Government of Japan's ODA Loan through Myanmar Economic Bank. In order to provide these loans systematically, bank loan acquisition committee for SME was formed. There are two methods to make loan to SME and they are Two Step Loan of Government of Japan's ODA Loan and Credit Guarantee Insurance (CGI) system.

SMEs can apply to these six banks for Two Step Loan and a preliminary selection will be made by loan assessors of these banks. Myanmar Economic Bank will also inspect whether the Two

Step Loan is according to the set guidelines and the loans will be made to the SMEs by the relevant bank. The amount of loan depends on the relevant bank's assessment of the SME and the bank's policy.

To obtain loan with CGI system, Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection assess the SMEs applying for loan and provide recommendation to Myanmar Insurance and private banks. Arrangements are made to set up a SME Fund Management Board that will provide assistance to agriculture businesses as a priority, set up capital to provide loan to SMEs widely and easily, set up SME fund and work to acquire international assistance and SME loans can soon be made easily and quickly said the Union Minister.

Questions raised by U Thet Naung of Lahe constituency, U Khun Than Htoo of Hsihseng constituency, Daw Ni Ni Myint of Taungup constituency and Daw Tin Tin Oo of Kyunsu constituency were then answered by Ministry of Education Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun. —Aye Aye Thant ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

National honorary athletes promoted in civil service jobs

THE continued employment of sportspersons in civil service jobs and the types of currency used in border trading were among the issues discussed yesterday at the Amyotha Hluttaw's meeting yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

At 13th day meeting of 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 6th regular session held yesterday, Dr. Win Thein, Chairman of Union Civil Service Board replied to the question raised by Dr Kyaw Than Tun (Canton) of constituency in Mandalay Region, "National honorary athletes including Myanmar Selected Sportspersons who have graduated and are working under various ministries have been being promoted depending upon their brilliances in accord with the prescriptions of Civil Service Law and Civil Service Regulation. In regard to promotion, for Ministries and Organizations to follow rules and regulations in parallel from article 23 to 30 of Civil Service Law and from article 26 to 50 of Civil Service Rules and Regulations had strictly been prescribed.



Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

Under the prescriptions included law and rules and regulations, if the staff member is satisfactorily well qualified with educational designated qualification, competency in jobs, service age and period in the present rank/position and capacity in the job, they are legitimate to promotion in accord with the designations. Plus, if he or she is assumed to be highly qualified with capacity and capability, he is legitimate

to enjoy further promotion as the recommendation of the respective examination board for qualification."

Afterward, U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance replied to the question raised by U Sai Aung San of constituency 12 in Shan State, "Previously, exports and imports were operated by dollar currency alone in the big cities near border areas designated

as legal trade zone in Myanmar. With a view to making border trade activities improve, Myanmar currency—Kyat, American dollar and currency of partner country were allowed to be used at Myanmar-China border area and Myanmar-India border area. Similarly, at Myanmar-Thailand border area in Shan State and Kayin State Myanmar currency—Kyat, American dollar and Thailand currency—Baht were allowed to be used for the development of exports and imports under the notification 6/2000 of the Ministry of Commerce, hence allowances to open Myanmar Kyat, US\$ and Thailand Baht accounts at the Myanmar Economic Bank (branches) at Myanmar-Thailand border area."

Deputy Minister added, "Only after negotiations had been made between the banks from both sides, inter-payment through Yuan, Baht and Rupee accounts can be made. Those currencies are not yet international currencies, use of those

currencies are not yet allowed to be used inland, it was allowed as an exception to make export/import convenient in border areas' banks. Myanmar Economic Bank is making the service of opening accounts—Yuan accounts at Muse, Bahmo, Myitkyina, Kunlon banks (branches) at Myanmar-China border area, Thai Baht accounts at Tachileik, Myawady, Dawei, Myeik and Kawthoung banks (branches) at Myanmar-Thailand border area, Rupee accounts at Tamu and Tidan banks (branches) at Myanmar-India border area."

Concerning the questions raised by U Zaw Min Latt (a) U Ko Latt of constituency 2 in Shan State, Dr. Khin Maung Win of constituency 11, in Taninthai Region and U Ko Ko Naing of constituency 8 in Sagaing Region, Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint and Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin and Dr Win Thein, Chairman of Union Civil Service Board replied respectively.—Aung Ye Thwin ■

8th Model ASEM 2017 held

AT the opening ceremony for the 8th Model ASEM 2017, a related meeting of the Asia-Europe Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister for Education, pointed out the correlation of education, equality and economic growth.

"Education is of great importance for the socio-economic development of a nation and the alleviation of poverty and equality between men and women. The present meeting is a workshop which practically introduces diplomatic relations, negotiation and international relations among youths", Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said.

Present at the opening ceremony were 98 youths from Asian and European countries and 56 Myanmar youths from regions and states.

"In accord with the theme of 8th ASEM and 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting -- 'Strengthening Partnership for Peace and Sustainable Development,' -- discussions should be made in familiar terms by upgrading patience, mutual understanding and trust among the communities with differences in politics, economy and culture. For strengthening sustainable development, the Ministry of Education has been bringing about high-quality education by laying



Participants of the 8th Model ASEM pose for a documentary photo in Nay Pyi Taw on 17 November 2017. PHOTO: MNA

down the National Education Strategic Plan (2016-2021). The plan was based on the policies destined for acquisition of opportunities for school-aged children to receive academic learning at schools, reduce the dropout rate, increase of rates of continuous learning and the elimination of segregation. A primary and middle school education, free of charge, is being implemented in the country, achieving net school enrollment rate at 98.1 percent in 2017-2018 academic year."

The Union Minister went on to say that education should be available for all children, including those who are physically challenged.

"Special education is specifically being implemented for disabled students and those experiencing many difficulties. For those who cannot attend classes regularly and who are very weak in learning results, programmes

for supplementary teaching are under implementation. With the arrangements of Regions and States, 49 ethnic languages are being taught. The Ministry of Education has formed the Department of Alternative Education. The Basic Education System is being transformed into a KG+12 System. Neo-curriculums destined for higher-order thinking skills and deep learning will replace the learning-by-rote system and will provide 21st Century skills. For acquisition of better employment, great capacity is important. Accordingly, the Ministry of Education is encouraging applied research which will fulfill regional requirement and labour market requirement, simultaneously implementing a high-capacity education system which can produce intellectual graduates with competitive powers and cooperative habits."

"The State is upgrading

a green national economy to create green employment opportunities, and implementing the sector of renewable energy. Responsibility and accountability are important for the conservation of a natural environment, protection against the greenhouse effect, and reduction of risks of natural disasters. Youths will get good habits of taking responsibility for peace and sustainable development hand in hand with each other among societies from this meeting," said by the Union Minister.

Afterward, Asia-Europe Foundation Executive Director Ambassador Karsten Warnecke gave a welcoming speech and posed for photos.

At the meeting, Ms. Leonie Nagarajan, Director of ASEF Education Department, led the discussions, with Ambassador Paul Seger of the Embassy of Switzerland in Myanmar, Resi-

dent Representative Mr. Achim Munz of the Hanns Seidel Foundation Myanmar and Professor Daw Chaw Chaw Sein of Yangon University's International Relations Department discussing The Role of Influence of New Actors in Public Diplomacy.

Present at the meeting were Union Ministers Lt General Ye Aung, U Ohn Win and Dr Win Myat Aye, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin, chairmen of international relation committee, Hluttaw representatives, vice-chairman of national curriculum committee, permanent secretaries, directors-general, rectors, deputy directors-general, university students from 8th Model ASEM 2017, invited guests, special guests and responsible officials.

The 8th Model ASEM 2017 will continue until 19 November 19 at MICC-2 in Nay Pyi Taw. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar delegation votes against OIC's unfair Resolution on Myanmar at the Third Committee of the 72nd United Nations General Assembly

FROM PAGE-1

The Government of Myanmar, in cooperation with the International community including the United Nations, has been working seriously to resolve the issue of Rakhine State. The humanitarian situation was triggered by the terrorist attacks in the region.

The issue of Rakhine State and the humanitarian situation has been discussed at the United Nations Security Council and the Human Rights Council.

Now the OIC is exerting political pressure on Myanmar by submitting the unfair resolution at the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. Myanmar opposes any at-



Permanent Representative U Hau Do Suan. PHOTO: MNA

tempt to politicize the issue.

Myanmar opposes unconstructive approaches of country specific resolution under the pretext of promotion and protection of human rights.

The Government of Myanmar has put its utmost efforts for national reconciliation and peace as well as addressing the issue of Rakhine State. The OIC failed to sufficiently recognize these efforts.

After the adoption of the resolution due to a majority vote in favour, the Myanmar Permanent Representative responded as follows:

Myanmar shall not relent in its efforts to build the country as a peaceful and harmonious democratic federal union. Myanmar will implement all its commitments, including promotion and protection of the rights of its people, in good faith and without fail.

Myanmar opposes the attempts to infringe the sovereignty of a nation by

misusing the norms and procedure of the United Nations.

This ill-intentioned, selective and politically motivated resolution will not help Myanmar efforts for solving the issue of Rakhine State, but would rather lead to further deteriorate the situation.

Myanmar will not accept any attempt of political pressure on the nation under the guise of humanitarian issues.

Myanmar would not be bound by the resolution.

Myanmar thanks the Member States who voted against the draft resolution or abstained or not participate in the voting under the enormous political pressure.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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you submit a text longer than 500 words
please be aware that your letter will be
edited.

Framework, ToR, SOP Work Group meeting

Issues concerning format, procedures and terminology were discussed yesterday in a work group meeting at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Nay Pyi Taw.

Framework, Terms of Reference (ToR), and Standard operating procedure (SOP) were among the issues debated.

During the meeting, the head of a group representing the government, U Khin Zaw Oo, said yesterday's meeting was held for the successful holding of Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong (Third Session). Framework, discussion and coordination will be made for change and improvement that are in line with the work process. Changes and additions are also required in ToRs and this will be done too. Furthermore SOPs related to ToRs will have to be worked on. The forthcoming conference is important and would like all to work in unity.

The head of the group representing ethnic armed organ-



The Framework, ToR, SOP Work Group meeting being held in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

isations Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win said political discussion on framework is important for the political dialogue to succeed. Responsible persons from each group are requested to discuss together for the establishment of a framework that is appropriate to the current political situation.

Next, head of the group representing political parties U Myint Soe said the political

parties group had participated actively in the past in discussing political framework. It will do the same now with an aim toward achieving concrete answers in national level political discussion and peace congress. Our aim of establishing a union system based on democracy and federal system is to be achieved through the present democracy path.

Afterwards, structure, de-

cision making concept, composition and national dialogue of political discussion framework were discussed by the meeting attendees. The meeting will be continued on 18 November it is learnt.

The meeting was attended by representatives from groups representing the government, ethnic armed organisation, political parties and officials. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Free legal aid available for needy

LEGAL Clinic Myanmar (LCM), a legal organisation, said it is providing free legal aid to poor people who are in need of help, said Advocate Daw Hla Hla Yi, director of the LCM.

With the aim of promoting and strengthening rule of law, democracy and human rights in the country, the LCM has offered free legal services and

social supports especially to people whose rights have been violated and those who have unfairly been treated since its establishment in 2011, she added.

"We stand for justice by providing 24/7 legal services to people who face cases particularly regarding land, women, child and labor issues free of charge in cooperation with both state

actors and non-state actors," she said.

The LCM also promotes awareness of legal rights and legal awareness trainings to break citizens' silence particularly regarding land, women, child and labour issues. Since 2012 to date, nearly 800 legal trainings have been given to public.

"The training programmes

really support to general people to understand their legal rights and responsibilities," Daw Hla Hla Yi continued.

Currently, the LCM has opened six branch offices across the country. Its headquarters is located in Yangon's Sanchaung Township. Anyone may dial 09 33376993 and 0933376994 for free legal aid. —Thi Thi Min ■

Tomato cultivation successful in Pinlaung region

TOMATO cultivation is successful in Pinlaung region which is implemented with Mya Sein Yaung project fund of the fiscal 2016-2017, according to Pinlaung District Rural Development Department.

Pinlaung District Rural Development Department has provided the loans from Mya Sein Yaung project fund to 93 villages with an aim to create the job opportunities for the local people from the villages and to reduce the poverty in the region. Then, U Myo Aung, the officer of the Chin State Rural Department and an official from the District and Township Rural Department



check around the tomato field at Kuzan and Lawti villages.

"Over the last 40 years, Tamu, Chintaung, Lalay and upper Chindwin region from Chin State have bought tomatoes from the Monywa region. Currently, Chintaung region grows the

tomato on a manageable scale under the Mya Sein Yaung project. Every year, the cultivators yield the million viss of tomato and supply to Kalay market. Chintaung tomato is widely cultivated in Kuzan, Phalon, Luban, Parthae, Lonehot, Lauttee vil-

lages in Pinlaung Township. A Taung Htaung tomato plant can produce between three viss and 10 viss", said a tomato grower from Pinlaund Township.

The project is a multi-agenda driven rural development initiative that seeks to increase employment opportunities and household incomes; reduce rural poverty; facilitate the conduction of self-sustaining livestock breeding activities; ensure replete food stocks and nutrition for those in rural areas; improve basic village infrastructure; develop rural commodity manufacturing enterprises; and improve the capacity of villagers themselves.—U Cin Sawm Tuang ■

More than US\$400 million of FDI flows into Mon State

MON State attained estimated foreign direct investments of US\$436 million from 11 countries as of end of October in the current fiscal year.

The foreign investment went into the energy, manufacturing, services, electricity and industrial sectors, according to Mon State Directorate of Investment and Company Adminis-

tration.

Kachin, Kayah, Chin and Rakhine states and Magway Region failed to attract foreign investments in first half of this fiscal year, according to a recent announcement of Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC).

Far-flung areas such as Kachin, Kayah and Chin states have rare opportunities to at-

tract foreign investments. Magway Region and Rakhine state have higher probabilities of attracting investments.

In the incumbent government's period, MIC set three different zones in which the entrepreneurs will enjoy the benefits of tax exemption and relaxation from three to seven years. The zones that provide

tax breaks are: places still weak in development, identified as zone 1; places which are fairly developed, known as zone 2; and places which are well-developed, called zone 3, according to an announcement of MIC with the approval of the Union Government.

Zone 1 is granted tax holidays of seven consecutive years,

whereas the investors in zone 2 can enjoy tax exemption for five straight years. Zone 3 will have a three-year consecutive tax break. Eight townships in Mon State are included in zone 2.

Myanmar hopes to attract \$6 billion in FDI this fiscal year. More than \$4.5 billion of investments have been received so far. —Mon Mon

Price for taxis not licensed in Yangon declines

Recent news that taxis licensed outside of Yangon would not be allowed to operate in the city has caused the price for those vehicles to decline, according to yesterday's report of Myawady Daily. Next year, only City Taxis will be allowed to run in Yan-

gon Region, it was recently announced. This caused non-Yangon licensed taxis to be sold on the auto market at reduced prices. The prices for non-Yangon licensed taxis plunged by Ks1.5 to 3.5 million depending on car brands and models, car

merchants said.

But there is still a market for these vehicles, merchants said. Those who wish to operate car rental businesses in other townships come to the Yangon car market to purchase those cars.—GNLM



Firefighters work to extinguish a fire at Kandawgyi Palace hotel in Yangon on 19 October 2017. The State-owned Myanma Insurance provides Ks692 million for the hotel fire incident. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI (PANITA)**

Myanma Insurance pays Ks692 mln for fire at Kandawgyi Palace Hotel

THE State-owned Myanma Insurance gave compensation yesterday morning for the main building and the club area that were engulfed by the Kandawgyi Palace Hotel fire, which broke out in the early morning hours of 19 October.

"Natural disasters such as fire, flood and strong wind is

an unpredictable threat, which can be covered by insurance. Having insurance takes liability to certain amount of loss. Myanma Insurance is the only state-owned enterprise, which was established in 1952. We provide services for 29 types of insurance to the public", said Daw Sandar Oo, managing di-

rector of Myanma Insurance.

Four buildings of the hotel were insured, two of which were destroyed or damaged by the fire. The managing director of Myanmar Insurance indemnified Ks692 million for constructive loss of hotel building and partial loss of the club.—Saw Wai Yan

More than 100 Individual Trading Cards issued for trade over 7 months

A total of 106 Individual Trading Cards (ITCs) were issued between 1st April and 3rd November in the current fiscal year, according to a recent announcement of the Commerce Ministry.

Trade with the use of ITCs at border trade camps hit over Ks24.9 billion as of 3rd November, comprised of Ks1.9 billion in exports and Ks22.9 billion in imports, according to the statistics provided by the Commerce Ministry.

Individual trading card holders mostly conduct trade with neighbouring partners at Myawady with estimated values of Ks19 billion.

The border trade values with ITCs as of 3rd November this FY were over Ks1.1 billion in Tamu, over Ks18 million in Muse, Ks815 million in Tachilek, over Ks56 million in Lweje, over Ks4 million in Chinshwehaw, over Ks1.26 billion in Kanpikatee, over Ks467 million in Kawthoung, over Ks521 million in Reed, over Ks349,700 at Htantalan Township, over Ks1.37 billion in

Mawtaung and Ks112 million in Keng Tung, according to the official statistics of the Commerce Ministry.

The trade values with ITC were over Ks737 million from 21st Nov 2012 to 31st March 2013, over Ks6.6 billion in 2013-2014 FY, over Ks9.3 billion in 2014-2015 FY, over Ks6.4 billion in 2015-2016 and over Ks18.9 billion in 2016-2017 FY.

The Trade Department has issued 1,366 cards so far, with 292 cards from 21st Nov 2012 to 31st March 2013, 261 cards in 2013-2014 FY, 317 cards in 2014-2015 FY, 146 cards in 2015-2016, 248 cards in 2016-2017 FY and 101 cards as of 20 Oct this FY 2017-2018.

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

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Trade Mark Ads

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Participants of the ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting have the documentary photo taken in Nay Pyi Taw on 17 November 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting held

ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting and related meetings were held at MICC-1 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The Preparatory Sub-group Meetings of the ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting of the ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting were held in the morning and the 3rd Meeting of ASEM Pathfinder Group on Connectivity was held in the afternoon.

Myanmar ASEM SOM Leader, H.E U Kyaw Zeya, Ambassador delivered welcome remarks at the Opening Ceremony of ASEM SOM.

In the evening, Myanmar

ASEM SOM Leader hosted a welcome reception for the ASEM Senior Officials and delegation at MICC-1.

Delegations from the ASEM Member States comprising 51 Asian and European countries, ASEAN Secretariat, European Union and Asia-Europe Foundations are attending the ASEM SOM meetings and related Meetings held in Nay Pyi Taw.

The ASEM foreign ministers meeting will take place in Na Pyi Taw, Myanmar, on 20-21 November.

It will bring together for-

eign affairs ministers from Europe and Asia as part of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

Foreign ministers will discuss how to address key challenges affecting both continents, such as security, trade, climate change, sustainable development goals and connectivity.

This meeting will kick-start the preparations for the 12th ASEM summit which will be hosted by the EU in Brussels in October 2018.

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) was established in 1996 as a forum for dialogue and co-operation between Europe and Asia. It aims to strengthen the relationship between the two continents.

ASEM brings together 53 partners, including the EU, 30 European countries (28 EU member states, Norway, Switzerland), 21 Asian countries, and the ASEAN Secretariat.

The ASEM summit is organised every two years, in Asia and in Europe alternately, to set out the priorities of the partnership. Ministerial meetings are organised in between the ASEM summits, including one meeting of Foreign Affairs ministers. —Myanmar News Agency

Major tasks of Asia Europe Foundation-ASEAF

- To promote mutual understanding and collaboration between the people of Asia and Europe through intellectual, cultural, and people-to-people exchanges;
- ASEF works in 6 thematic areas: Culture, Education, Governance, Sustainable Development, Economy, and Public Health.
- In 2015, ASEF implemented 31 projects and held meetings between the communities from ASIA and Europe and boosted cooperation between them promoting the connectivity between the two communities.
- Secretariat of ASEF was represented by an executive director and deputy executive director.
- The Board of ASEF appoints the Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director every four year alternately from Asia and Europe.
- Current Executive Director is Mr. Karsten Warnecke from Germany and Deputy Executive Director is Mr. Sun Xiangyang from China.

ASIA EUROPE FOUNDATION - ASEF

- Asia Europe Foundation (ASEF) is the sole organization formed by ASEM (Asia - Europe Meeting)
- To promote the mutual understanding among ASEM member countries, the 1st summit meeting of ASEM decided to form Asia Europe Foundation (ASEF).
- Asia Europe Foundation was founded in 1997 and the office is located in Singapore.



Over 100,000 children in Buthidaung to be vaccinated against encephalitis

OVER 100,000 children under the age of 15 will be vaccinated in Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State, including those in rural villages, regardless of race or religion, medical officials said yesterday.

The Ministry of Health and Sports has been administering vaccinations against encephalitis to children under 15 on a nationwide scale since 15 November. According to the health centre in Buthidaung township, it is also vaccinating against encephalitis to children under 15 in northern Rakhine, which will amount to well over 100,000, officials said.

“Buthidaung township is made up of seven wards and 419 villages. Out of them, there are some villages in which particu-

lar ethnics are separately living. Within some villages Muslims are living separately, and in some villages Muslims and ethnics live side by side. Children from age 9 months to 15 — over 9,000 children in Buthidaung and over 90,000 in rural areas of Buthidaung, will be vaccinated against encephalitis regardless of race, religion and status.”

After the events of the ARSA extremist terrorist attacks in Buthidaung, transport and communications in the area became worse, but medical staff are continuing their efforts to vaccinate against encephalitis by forming vaccination teams in cooperation with related departments. As a first priority, a total of 7,530 children under the age of 15 in



A nurse vaccinates the child against encephalitis in Buthidaung. **PHOTO: HAN LIN NAING**

Buthidaung were vaccinated against encephalitis, according to Buthidaung Health Centre.

For having children vaccinated against encephalitis, pamphlets were given out to the peo-

ple in marketplaces, signboards erected at schools and junction places, announcements made and educational talks given.

Encephalitis has been known to break out in 24 Asia-Pacific

countries including Myanmar. By having individuals, especially children, vaccinated against encephalitis, they can be immune from the disease forever, it was learnt.—News Team



Harvesters are seen at a paddy field in MraukU, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

Monsoon paddy harvested in MraukU, Rakhine State

THE harvesting work of the model plot no.39, owner no (151/1) in Maybon Township, MraukU District, Rakhine State which produces sowing seeds was carried out on 12 November.

Total 103 people including head of the department U Tun Aye Khaing and officials, township's departmental officials and farmers involved in the harvesting work and an acre yield-

ed 109.56 baskets. The harvested paddy, Sin Thwe Latt can grow in the areas of salt water. Therefore, the seeds will be distributed to the areas where salt water intrudes.—Myanmar news Agency

Veterinary service provides in Maungtaw, Rakhine State

THE veterinary team has vaccinated the cattle and goats in the villages including Tha Si, Yan Aung Myay and Ywet Nyo Taung ethnic villages in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State.

So far, total 284 cattle and 643 goats were vaccinated including one goat at Tha Si Village near Pan Taw Pyin camp,

two goats at Yan Aung Myay Village near Khone Taing camp and one cow and one goat at Ywet Nyo Taung Village near Nga Khue Ya camp. During the veterinary trip, no ownerless cattle and goats were found and all cattle and goats with owners were vaccinated.—Myanmar News Agency



PHOTO: MNA

We will overcome difficulties with our hands joined hand in hand!

4TH Central Level Meeting on Security and Law Enforcement between Myanmar and Bangladesh Border Guard Forces was held in Nay Pyi Taw on 15th November, issuing the joint statement. And, it agreed to implement the process to be done further.

Bi-lateral cooperation through negotiation on security and rule of law between Myanmar and Bangladesh, based on Rakhine State Affair carries more specific meaning than regular routines on border areas between two countries. Due to the Rakhine State Affair which took place Myanmar suffered a lot, and it caused a big problem and a great burden for Bangladesh. Meanwhile, it is firmly believed that bilateral cooperation through negotiation will bring about better consequences.

On 24th October Ministerial Meeting between Ministries of Home Affairs, Myanmar and Bangladesh was held with a view to making more cooperation on security and rule of law in the border area between Myanmar and Bangladesh,

Both of border guard forces are required to regularly perform the tasks of exchanging news and information on human trafficking, border trespassing, illegal drug trafficking and exposing terrorists and fugitives to transfer ...

were specifically performing for fighting against terrorists and terrorist organizations, pledging that none of the terrorists be allowed to exist on their land. It has also been learnt that ARSA terrorist organization, its terrorists and fugitives will be found out and to be informed to Myanmar and exchange of news and information will also be carried out specifically, it was learnt. These can be said to be situations of fineness.

Both of border guard forces are required to regularly perform the tasks of exchanging news and information on human trafficking, border trespassing, illegal drug trafficking and exposing terrorists and fugitives to transfer, but due to possible risks of ARSA terrorist attacks bilateral cooperation is more needed for security and rule of law in border areas between the two countries.

Meetings which had already been held described that both countries would like to fight against terrorism. But, terrorists and those who instigated to cause chaos and riots caused crises and difficulties for both countries, making Myanmar face communal pressures. Whatever it is, it is a bilateral affair between Myanmar and Bangladesh, so we firmly believe that we will be able to overcome threatening dangers by cooperating more friendly in the border areas. ■

signing two MoUs and 10 agreements. The present meeting was attended by the high-ranking officials on security, defense, foreign affairs, labor and immigration, releasing the statement on 9 joint-performances.

At the present meeting, in addition to performances on security and rule of law between Myanmar and Bangladesh, Myanmar authorities handed over latest news and information, lists of terrorists and fugitives to be arrested by Bangladesh for repatriation to Myanmar authorities and recorded photos. Myanmar demanded for urgent repatriations of the wanted. Bangladesh as well asserted that they

Skilled workers, employments and job opportunities

By Khin Yadananar

JUST after passing academic learning sector, acquisition of job opportunity is becoming a matter of importance for youths. According to the reports released by ILO, one of the most important factors to grasp such an opportunity is to be well qualified with working skillfully in employments. Myanmar is a country full of labor forces, and two thirds of the populace belongs to the workable group. For all of them to acquire job opportunities and to enjoy salaries, wages and benefits they deserve, there are still requirements to be done. Though abundance of laborers is an advantage, shortage of competent and efficient workers caused inability to acquire salaries, wages and benefits deserved, according to the forecasts of the experts.

Do sure things only!

U Win Naing, of JPE Everest Agency said, "Most youths are not well-convinced of what they want to become. Hobby and interest are more important than willingness. They should choose their own career starting from which ways and means they will use for their existence and survival. These days many youths tend to follow suit, attending classes as done by many. They are found to lack judgment in making own decisions concerning what to do and what not to do.

Presently, Yangon, Mandalay and all cities see private classes, basic and applied trainings and courses conducted by governmental departments for youths to acquire jobs and employments of great promises. Opening and graduation ceremonies of such trainings are ubiquitous, but sorrowfully enough, there is a rarity of examination and discovery of quality assessment of those who complete such trainings.



PHOTO:PHOE KHWAR

Good merits in skillful field

For emergence of skilled workers, the Ministry of Labor, Immigration and Population is opening competency trainings. U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, director of the Ministry of LIP said, "Generally, skilled workers enjoy more opportunities than general workers. There are ranks depending upon their skills. To reach a status of a skilled worker in vocational spheres, they must undergo trainings in which basic trainings are being conducted and practical trainings. Another requirement is invention/innovations.

U Aung Htay Win, deputy director-general of Labor Directorate said that youths should their quality by working for the jobs interested, learning vocational trainings of great prospects in the coming decade and practicing jobs to get more skill.

Mr. Antonio Rinaldo of ILO Myanmar said, "One should not restrict one's competency and skills. Occasionally, a worker needs to fulfill skills they need. Refresher courses and workshops are

essential among workers. But weakness is being found in assessing as to whether these are effective, they are related to each other, those who complete trainings can have effective results in jobs. I think that there should be assessments as to whether courses and trainings being conducted are effective or not, so that they will become skilled laborers."

In selecting employments

Job opportunities are increasing more than ever. Jobs can be found out through labor offices, media and social media. For this, anyone should have fulfilled skills needed, said by U Aung Htay Win.

So as to become internationally standardized skilled laborers and to acquire a good employment one should search for and make efforts step by step. In making assessments of one's capacity and qualities and skills of workers is generally assessed. With the advancement of skill success in jobs is great. So employers should give trainings adaptable to their

employees. Simultaneously it should be reviewed quality and effectiveness of trainings. Later these years, trainings are becoming abundant but their results are unsatisfactory. Mr. Antonio Rinaldo added that workers should choose trainings which can bear fruits.

A leading participant in the discussion "youth and job opportunity" held on November 5 in Yangon reviewed that employments which give many job opportunities in Myanmar are experts on human resources, management jobs, sales and marketing and statistics personnel.

Grasp job opportunities through free vocational trainings

The Ministry of Labor, Immigration and Population is opening schools for skill training for skill development of workers in Myanmar, under 1950 employment and training act. Now there are 5 schools like this in the country—basic welding course, air-conditioner repair works, basic electrical course, lathe and moldings works.

The 2013 Employment and Skill Development Law is believed to be reliable for the workers for their development. Meanwhile, Labour authorities have been conducting vocational training for the people in ethnic areas jointly with international organizations. On completion the trainings, the workers are ready to be examined for their vocational skills to get the certificates at four levels.

Vocational training is aimed at assisting Myanmar migrant workers, who are seeking job opportunities in ASEAN countries, as Myanmar is a part of the ASEAN economic community.

International Labour Organization's survey showed that the demand is high for skilled labour in electronic field, carpenter, infrastructure, hotel and tourism, garment and social and human resource sector.

More than 30,000 jobs created in October, 2017

Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population created more than 30,000 jobs nationwide in October, 2017.

Meanwhile more than 15,557 Myanmar migrant workers officially accepted overseas jobs in seven countries in October, according to the figures released by the ministry.

More than 370 workers were officially sent to Malaysia; 30 to Singapore, 494 to the Republic of Korea, more than 14,200 to Thailand, nearly 400 to Japan, six to UAE and 5 to Carter.

Concerted efforts are being made by the ministry to create more employment opportunities for both domestic and overseas job hunters through a new online labour exchange management system, which serves as a bridge between employers and employees. ■

Translated by
Khin Maung Oo

Time to stop the careless use of antibiotics – the lives of millions depend upon it"

By Ms Katinka De Balogh,
Senior Animal Production Health Officer, Food and
Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

THIS week is Antibiotic Awareness Week (AAW). The main take away message is seek expert advice to use antimicrobials responsibly.

We've all seen it and many of us have been guilty of it.

A sick child, a sore throat, a trip to the doctor – and a prescription for an antibiotic. The problem with that scenario is that many antibiotics are prescribed when, most likely, the malady is caused by a virus – not a bacterial infection – and thus will have no effect nor cure.

In livestock production and agriculture we see a similar pattern. Rather than using antibiotics to treat bacterial illnesses, which is fine, they are too often used as a hedge, a safeguard or preventative measure to best ensure the valuable animal doesn't get sick in the first place.

The problem with the casual use of antibiotics is they lose their effect over time as the bacteria they are meant to counter simply adapt to overcome the antibiotic. Antimicrobials is the wider term given to drugs used to prevent and treat parasitic, bacterial, viral and fungal infections. While, antibiotic resistance is the ability of bacteria to survive treatment with antibiotics, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is the general term for drug resistance of microbes.



PHOTO:PHOE KHWAR

Globally, AMR is becoming a core political, social, and economic problem due to being a critical public health threat. The implications could never be more real in Asia where, if no immediate action is taken, by 2050 about five million people are projected to die every year of conditions linked to bacterial infections that have become resistant to antibiotics. The figure will be more than estimated cancer fatalities.

Today the irrational use of antibiotics in animal, agriculture and human health sectors play a major role in this emerging health crisis. Widespread dissemination or spread of resistant bacteria or "superbugs" and genes occurs in the environment and food systems.

For example, several studies have shown that antibiotic resistant bacteria are found in drinking water supply systems in several countries in the region, which is of great concern. Indiscriminate use of antibiotics in livestock and

aquaculture for treatment and growth promotion has been shown to hasten this emergence and spread of antibiotic resistant pathogens in food and the environment.

For human health, this year's AAW theme means seeking advice from a qualified healthcare professional before using antibiotics. For animal health, the best way to reduce antibiotic use is to promote farm management aimed at preventing infection through good practices in livestock production, aquaculture farming and crop production.

While such actions contribute to reducing or preventing animal diseases, their implementation also strongly complement work on food safety, animal welfare, environmental protection as well as the promotion of climate smart practices. Because of its complexity, AMR mitigation in food and agriculture cannot be addressed by a single sector or strategy, but through various disciplines working together to contribute to producing safer foods and creating a better environment for all.

There is hope in tackling AMR. The Global Action Plan (GAP) on AMR has been developed and was endorsed by all countries to addressing the threat of AMR by involving various sectors such as agriculture, public health, the environment and other relevant sectors. During the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2016, Political leaders endorsed in a special session the Political Declaration on AMR.

The GAP sets out responsibilities for national governments, for the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), as well as for other national and international partners in responding to AMR.

FAO, WHO and OIE have pooled resources and efforts to address AMR across the human, animal and ecosystem domains following the so called 'One Health' Approach.

Since September 2016, FAO has further initiated activities in the Asia Pacific region to harmonize AMR surveillance and review AMR policies. In addition, efforts have focused on raising public awareness about AMR in the food and agriculture sector. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Kingdom's Fleming Fund have actively supported FAO AMR projects to assist countries and the region in addressing this global threat.

Governments and their citizens need to take responsibility when it comes to the use of antibiotics. For instance, prescription drugs should only be taken or applied based on advice of health professionals. This holds true in the animal sector where antibiotics should mainly be used to treat infection.

While antibiotic resistance might not be directly visible, we need to make sure that the antibiotics we have are used prudently and all efforts are made to reduce the use of antibiotics as much as possible. Once they stop working, it will be already too late. ■

Dinner hosted in honor of 11th Asia-Europe Foundation Journalists' Seminar

A dinner was hosted in honor of 11th Asia-Europe Foundation Journalists' Seminar yesterday evening in Tungapuri Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw.

The dinner was attended by Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, Permanent Secretary, senior departmental officials, media representatives from member countries of Asia-Europe Foundation and Myanmar media representatives.

In his welcoming speech at the dinner, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint said the guests in attendance had made huge effort in taking a long journey to join this event and he warmly welcome and thank them on behalf of the organizers of the event.

"Today is an auspicious day for our country and our people. It is a rare chance in a hundred year for a member country to host this kind of seminar. It is a pleasure and honor to deliver this welcoming speech. We are honored and happy for the



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint hosts the dinner in honour of 11th ASEF Journalists. **PHOTO: MNA**

guests coming in person to attend the 11th Asia-Europe Foundation Journalists' Seminar and share their experiences."

"Myanmar is still in an early

stage of democratic transition and is facing a number of challenges in various areas including media. I hope we can learn and share experience from you for

the mutual benefits and common interests in the upcoming seminar. And from this seminar, I am looking forward to further cooperative efforts among us

for the development of mutual understanding and friendship that should be an important obligation of every media professional."

"Thank you again for coming. My profound appreciation is on the fact that many of you had travelled long distances serves to remind us just how important our work is. In conclusion, I want to say once more, welcome to Myanmar. And I would like to request all of you to feel at home during your stay in Myanmar. I wish all the success of the seminar and let me request you, ladies and gentlemen, to join me in a toast for the health of all the participants and for the success of the seminar" said the Union Minister.

The Union Minister and the attendees then had dinner together and afterwards, Asia-Europe Foundation Director Ms. Leonie explained about the program of 11th Asia-Europe Foundation Journalists' Seminar.—Myanmar News Agency ■

World Diabetes Day ceremony held

A CEREMONY to mark World Diabetes Day 2017 was held with the theme, "Women and Diabetes -- Our Right to a Healthy Future" at the Ministry of Health and Sports in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The aim of World Diabetes Day is to promote a better understanding of diabetes and its adverse effects and to share the knowledge of prevention and treatment of diabetes.

Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Health and Sports Professor Dr. Thet Khaing Win delivered an opening speech at the ceremony in which he stressed the importance of early detection and prevention.

"According to 2012 statistics issued by the International Diabetes Federation, there are 1.7 million diabetics aged between 20 and 79, and then nearly two millions people at risk of developing diabetes. Diabetes prevention and treatment works are needed because diabetes can result in other diseases such as coronary artery disease, strokes, foot amputations, and glauco-

ma, all of which can be fatal or lead to becoming disabled" Dr. Thet Khaing Win said.

With women comprising over half of the world's population, they are key in the family planning for better health, including preventing from diabetes, he added.

Mothers-to-be should develop healthy habits such as choosing healthy foods and lifestyles that includes exercise, which can prevent hypertension, diabetes and obesity. If all women do this, a healthy environment for babies will be created, and will ensure the good health of the baby while it is still in the womb, Dr. Thet Khaing Win said.

Professor Dr. Than Than Aye, chair of the Myanmar Hormone Diseases Specialist Subject Association, and Professor Dr. Ko Ko, Professor/Head of the Department of Hormone Diseases Specialist, University of Medicine-2, Yangon, gave educational talks on health and provided free medical checkups to attendees.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Second coordination meeting to hold 3rd Asia-Pacific Water Forum

TO ensure the success of the upcoming 3rd Asia-Pacific Water Forum in Yangon, a second coordination meeting of the steering committee was held yesterday morning at Yangon Region government office meeting hall.

At the meeting, the chairman of the steering committee and Minister for Transport and Communication U Thant Sin Maung said the heads of states of Asia-Pacific countries will be discussing water-related matters, which requires the forum to be held in such a way as to raise the country's image and stature.

Thus prior preparation is important and committees need to make detailed preparatory works.

The deputy chairman of the steering committee, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, said security will be increased before and during the forum and added that making preparations in advance is critical for a successful forum.

The secretary of the steer-



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein delivers the opening remark at the 3rd Asia-Pacific Water Forum. **PHOTO: MNA**

ing committee then explained about matters discussed in the first coordination meeting and officials from related ministries, sub-committees and secretariat group explained the status of work done and discussed future works.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Transport and Communication U Thant Sin Maung, Yangon Re-

gion Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region ministers, departmental officials and water related experts.

Asia-Pacific Water Forum was first held in Japan in 2007. The 2nd Asia Pacific Forum was held in Thailand in 2013 and the 3rd Asia-Pacific Water Forum will be held in Myanmar in December.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Cash donated to UEHRD



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye (Third from left) accepts cash donated by Myanmar-American Medical Education Society for Rakhine State presented by U Kyaw Tin. **PHOTO: MNA**

Dr Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement as well as deputy chairman of Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine State -UEHRD received cash yesterday donated to UEHRD for Rakhine State.

At the ceremony, Union

Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint handed over K20 million donated by the PPD, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin US\$ 10,000 donated by Myanmar-American Medical Education Society based in New York and Ambassador of Tinor-Leste to Myanmar US\$ 8,000 to Dr Win Myat Aye.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Bago Region Chief Minister pledges to assist development in Rakhine

BAGO Region Chief Minister U Win Thein said the Bago Region government will assist and coordinate in all sectors with human, financial, moral and technical resources for Rakhine State Maungtau District regional development works and for reconstruction of damages and losses caused by terrorist attacks.

U Win Thein made the remark at a stake driving ceremony held yesterday evening to construct 64 village houses in Kainggyi Mro village in southern Maungtau region. The Bago Region government is taking the responsibility to build these homes.

The reason for coming to Rakhine is because the State Counsellor had told ethnic nationals to assist another who is facing difficulties in all sectors starting with human, financial, moral and technical resources in the Rakhine State affairs. Reconstruction of this region will start with construction of villages and schools. The construction of houses needs to be completed before the rain comes. This will be followed by assistant and coordination for economic works.



Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein greets ethnic people in Kainggyi Village, Maungtau, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MIN HTAT**

64 houses in Kainggyi Village will be built by Bago Region government. The money for this work comes from the (region) government, businesses, public servants and the public. Once the livelihood matters are re-established, human, financial, moral and technical assistant will be provided for agriculture, livestock breeding and fishery sector development as required by the (Rakhine) state government said the Bago Region Chief Minister.

At the stake driving ceremony Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein, Rakhine State minister for social affairs Dr. Chan Thar, state government secretary U Tin Maung Swe, CB Bank Chairman U Khin Maung Aye sprinkled stake driving “Mingalar” water, cordially met and encouraged ethnic Mro villagers. Afterwards they visited Alethan-kyaw south of Maungtau region where a new air strip will be built.—News Team ■

Rakhine State Investment Committee holds its Meeting 2/2017

RAKHINE State Investment Committee held its coordination meeting 2/2017 at the meeting room of Rakhine State Investment Committee Office in Sittway at 9 am yesterday.

At the meeting, Rakhine State Chief Minister, U Nyi Pu, Chairman of Rakhine State Investment Committee addressed, “Committee members need to carry out the tasks in accord with frameworks, rules and regulations laid down by Myanmar Investment Commission so that entrepreneurs can have mutual trust with our committee. I want you to implement projects destined for the development of the State by bringing about opportunities for investors.”

Following that, Dr Nyi Nyi Maung, secretary to the Rakhine State Investment Committee explained concerning orders and directives prescribed Myanmar Investment Commission, with members of the combined negotiation committee discussing difficulties encountered by investors.

U Nyi Pu, Chief Minister said, “With regard to the investments, entrepreneurs may have some necessities. We are to negotiate with them so that investments can be made promptly. In combination with technicians, experts and entrepreneurs if workshops will be made people will broadly know about investments to be implemented in Rakhine State, including the global community. Provided that investments can be successfully implemented we can fetch foreign income not only for Rakhine State but also for the nation. So, I would like to urge our national entrepreneurs to apply the acquired opportunity to the full so that we can bring about success for the nation.”

Dr Nyi Nyi Maung said, “Which kinds of difficulties do you have for making investments in Rakhine State, for example difficulty on land? Chairman of the MIC had already instructed. As regards committee’s authorities and orders to be applied, I explained to committee chairman and mem-



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu addresses the meeting of Rakhine State Investment Committee in Sittway in Rakhine State on 17 November 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

bers. We are moving on to target for creation of job opportunities and giving technical knowledge, which are aims of the commission. Had we achieved opportunity for job creation will unemployment problem be solved, by itself. Here, we have investors

to implement as soon as possible. We will invite them. If they have difficulties will link with the ministries to get their cooperation. We will make efforts to bring about benefits for the nation and the people. We are implementing to bring about

the investment with responsibility and accountability.”

Present at the ceremony were U Nyi Pu, Chief Minister and Chairman of Rakhine State Investment Committee members, it was learnt.—Tin Tun (IPRD) ■

Ministries sign MoU with Eni Foundation

THE Ministry of Health and Sports, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and the Eni Foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) yesterday morning in Park Royal Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw.

The Eni Foundation is an organisation committed to increasing access to clean water and irrigation, improving maternal and child care, and teaching farmers how to modernise their agricultural methods.

At yesterday's ceremony, a video of highlights of the first 10 years work of the Eni Foundation was shown, followed by speeches from Ministry of Health and Sports Permanent Secretary Prof. Dr. Thet Khaing Win, Eni Foundation Chairman Mr. Domenico Noviello and secretary Dr. Filippo Uberti.

The Memorandum of Understanding was then signed by Department of Public Health Director General Dr. Tha Tun Kyaw, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Deputy Permanent Secretary U Hla Tun, Eni Foundation Chairman Mr. Domenico Noviello and secretary Dr. Filippo Uberti.

The MoU was signed with the aim of the Eni Foundation supporting the Myanmar government in child and maternity health care and preventing nutritional deficiencies in cooperation with Ministry of Health and Sports, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation it is learnt. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Thura U Shwe Mann receives Singaporean Ambassador

PYIDAUNGSSU Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Chairman Thura U Shwe Mann yesterday afternoon received H.E. Mr. Robert Chua Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar, who is concluding his tour of duty in Myanmar, at the Hluttaw Building (I-11) in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the Commission Chairman expressed thanks to the outgoing ambassador for his efforts for assisting Myanmar and said that the Ambassador is good companion person for Myanmar, Singapore is also a good companion nation for Myanmar and asked for assistances in the works of Myanmar-Singapore bilateral friendship and to promote cooperation. —MNA ■



Thura U Shwe Mann bids farewell to outgoing Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Robert Chua in Nay Pyi Taw on 18 November 2017. PHOTO: MNA

Scattered rain and thundershowers expected in Taninthayi Region, Kachin and Mon states

Scattered rain and thundershowers are expected in Taninthayi Region, Kachin and Mon states in two days as weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the North Bay and partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal, according to the Myanmar Daily Weather Report issued by Department of Meteorology and Hydrology at yesterday evening.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neigh-

boring area for today is partly cloudy, for Yangon and neighboring area is isolated rain or thundershowers and degree of certainly is 80% and Mandalay and neighboring area likelihood of isolated rain or thundershower and degree for certainly is 60%.

Outlook for weekend is likelihood of isolated rain and thundershowers in nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay regions.

According to the observations at

(15:30) hrs MST on 17th November, the depression over Northwest Bay of Bengal off South Odisha Coast (India) has continuously moved Northeast wards weakened into a low pressure area and lay over Northwest Bay of Bengal off North Odisha Coast (India), West Bengal Coasts. Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5 - 7) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts. —GNLM ■

IMF: Myanmar economy is rebounding, future is bright

FROM PAGE-1

and exports, and temporary suspension of some construction projects in Yangon. The fiscal consolidation to about 3 percent of GDP deficit in 2016/17, from the election year deficit of about 4 ½ percent of GDP, helped to reduce central bank financing of the deficit and imbalances. Inflation moderated to 6.8 per cent, and the current account deficit fell to about 3.9 per cent of GDP in 2016/17 from 5.1 per cent 2015/16. The current account deficit continues to be mainly financed by FDI, with the real exchange rate and international reserves (at 3.2 months of prospective imports) broadly stable.

"The medium-term macroeconomic outlook remains favorable. Growth is expected to rebound to 6.7 percent in 2017/18 mainly supported by a recovering agriculture sector and exports. Higher fiscal spending anticipated in the second half of 2017/18 due to buoyant tax revenues and the revenue-neutral supplementary budget will also support growth. However, the near-term growth trajectory is moderately weaker than

previously expected, reflecting a subdued pick up in domestic investment and uncertainties related to the Rakhine state crisis particularly for tourism. Over the medium term, growth is expected to gradually pick up toward the estimated potential rate of about 7.0 - 7.5 percent, reflecting continued large FDI inflows and an improvement in public investment spending and efficiency. In line with development needs, the current account balance is expected to remain in deficit, given buoyant imports associated with FDI and government expenditure.

In order to maximise economic growth, however, the country must resolve internal conflicts such as the crisis in northern Rakhine State, protect itself as much as possible from volatile global markets and natural disasters, and improve its infrastructure.

"The banking sector needs to adjust to important new prudential regulations after a period of rapid credit growth. The internal conflict and humanitarian crisis in Northern Rakhine state could affect development finance and investor

sentiment, although the direct economic impact appears to have been largely localized so far. Additional risks stem mainly from external sources including commodity prices, potentially volatile global financial markets, and exposure to spillovers from China. Flood effects have been moderate this year, but natural disasters remain an ever-present risk. On the upside, implementation of a more detailed strategic reform plan and higher infrastructure investment would raise potential growth.

"Myanmar's initial phase of economic liberalisation led to an impressive growth takeoff and poverty reduction; now a second wave of reforms is needed to sustain the momentum. Reforms should be focused on agriculture, the banking system and gradual interest rate liberalisation, infrastructure, trade, natural resource management and the legal framework, including further opening up the economy to joint foreign ventures (amendments to Companies Act). A well-sequenced second wave of reforms and greater public investment efficiency would help the

economy further integrate with global value chains and foster inclusion.

The country should continue its efforts to upgrade its banking and financial sectors in line with international standards, Mr. Shanaka J. Peiris said.

"Myanmar continues to work towards safeguarding financial stability. The banking system is adjusting to the issuance of necessary key prudential regulations to upgrade the regulatory framework towards international standards. Staff advised the authorities to implement the regulations in a way that supports financial stability. Further progress in financial sector and interest rate liberalisation must proceed at a pace commensurate with the central bank's capacity to regulate and supervise."

The IMF team met with the governor and deputy governors of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM), the union minister and the deputy ministers of the Ministry of Planning and Finance (MoPF), senior government officials, parliamentary members, private sector representatives, and the financial community. —GNLM ■

Visitors to UK hits August record after Brexit fall in pound

LONDON — The number of visitors to Britain hit a record high in August but fewer Britons travelled abroad, the latest sign of how the fall in the value of the pound after last year's Brexit vote is helping Britain's tourism industry.

The number of overseas residents coming to the country in August rose by an annual 5 per cent to 3.9 million, the highest number for any August and the second highest for any month.

By contrast, the number of British residents going abroad during the month — normally the busiest of the year for holiday travel — fell by 3 per cent to 8.9 million, official data showed.

The pound fell sharply after the referendum decision to leave the European Union in June 2016, pushing up inflation for British households — and



Tourists make their way across Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge on the Causeway coast, north of Belfast in 2015. The bridge is suspended 30 metres above sea level and was built 350 years ago by salmon fishermen, according to conservation organisation National Trust. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

making holidays abroad more expensive too — but leading to lower prices for

foreign tourists.

The combination of more foreign visitors to

Britain and more Britons spending the summer at home was a factor behind

a pick-up in the country's economic growth in the third quarter, Howard

Archer, an economist with EY Item Club, a forecasting body.

“It is notable that there were reports that UK retail sales were boosted in August by more people taking holidays at home as well as spending by tourists,” Archer said.

In the first eight months of the year, the number of overseas visitors to Britain rose by 8 per cent while Britons travelling abroad rose too, up by 3 per cent, the ONS said, based on preliminary data.

Foreign visitors to Britain spent 2.8 billion pounds in the country in August, a record for any month and an increase of 3 per cent from the same month last year. Spending by Britons abroad rose by 1 per cent during the month to 6.2 billion pounds. —Reuters ■

Items that survived US A-bombs to be displayed in Oslo

HIROSHIMA — Five articles including a bag and a watch from the atomic bomb museums in Hiroshima and Nagasaki will be put on display in Oslo in commemoration of this year's Nobel Peace Prize awarded to an antinuclear weapons organization, the Hiroshima museum said Friday. The items that survived the US nuclear bombs dropped on the two Japanese cities in August 1945 will be shown at the Nobel Peace Center in the Norwegian capital for a year from the Nobel award ceremony on 10 December as part of the exhibition for the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. The Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum in western Japan has offered to lend a bag and a safety hood that belonged to Yukitoshi Masuda, who went missing aged 13 after the atomic bomb exploded in her city on 6 August.

The museum in Nagasaki is providing a set of ro-

sary beads found in a house ruined by fire following the nuclear bombing as well as a watch that stopped ticking at 11:02 a.m. when an atomic bomb was dropped over the southwestern Japan city on 9 August.

The Kyoto Museum for World Peace at Ritsumei-kan University will lend a student's lunchbox that was exposed to the atomic bombing in Hiroshima.

A member of Masuda's bereaved family said, “We believe he is pleased (for the display). As Hiroshima residents, we never want such (a tragic) event to happen again.” Liv Astrid Sverdrup, director of the exhibition, said she selected items that could evoke their owners and background stories in the hope of inspiring a will in people to abolish nuclear weapons.

The director visited Hiroshima on Wednesday to discuss articles with museum staff from Hiroshima and Nagasaki. —Kyodo News ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV FSL SANTOS VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FSL SANTOS VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.11.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AIPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SOUL OF LUCK VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SOUL OF LUCK VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.11.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/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

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV ANAN BHUM VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.11.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.11.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

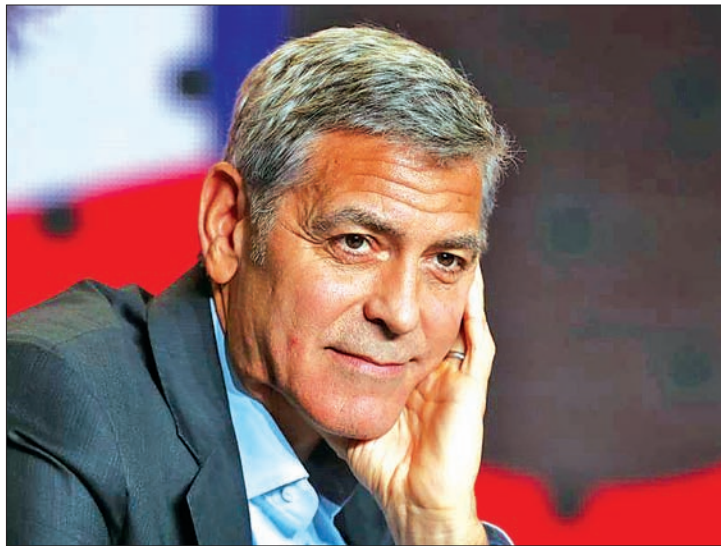
George Clooney makes TV return with 'Catch-22,' two decades after ER

LOS ANGELES — George Clooney will make his return to television in a serialized adaptation of "Catch-22," Paramount Television said on Thursday, nearly 20 years after he left hit show "ER" to become one of film's biggest names.

Clooney will direct and star in the six-episode series, based on US author Joseph Heller's darkly comedic 1961 novel "Catch-22," for Viacom Inc's Paramount Television and Anonymous Content, shooting in early 2018, the studio said.

The show has not yet been acquired by a network for distribution but is likely to draw eager bidders given Clooney's involvement.

"Catch-22" follows a US soldier named Yossarian during World War Two, who is infuriated that his own army keeps raising the number of missions that a soldier must complete to be released from



George Clooney attends a news conference at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) in Toronto, Canada, on 10 September 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

duty. Yossarian's only way to avoid the missions is to declare insanity, but the only way to prove insanity is a willingness to embark on dangerous missions, thus creating the novel's absurd 'catch-22.'

Clooney, 56, will play Yos-

sarian's commander, Colonel Cathcart. No other cast has yet been announced.

The actor's move to television comes on the heels of Oscar-winning stars such as Reese Witherspoon, Nicole Kidman, Julia Roberts, Robert

De Niro and Michael Douglas, who have all taken on small screen projects in recent years.

More than 400 scripted TV shows are currently produced every year in the United States across traditional broadcast and cable networks and services such as Netflix, Amazon, Hulu and newcomer Apple, contributing to what many have said is 'a new golden age' of television.

Clooney broke out as an actor on television series such as "The Facts of Life," "Roseanne" and as part of the original cast of medical drama "ER" in 1994, playing Dr. Doug Ross. He left "ER" in 1999 and since then has carved a successful career with films such as the "Ocean's Eleven" franchise, "Up in the Air" and "Gravity."

He most recently directed and co-wrote Paramount Pictures' dark comedy-thriller "Suburbicon."—Reuters ■

David Lynch shuts down rumours of 'Twin Peaks' season four

LOS ANGELES — Director David Lynch has put the rumours to rest that suggested the fourth season of "Twin Peaks" may follow. Recently, the show's co-creator Mark Frost answered some queries of fans regarding the reboot of the 1991 drama, 16 years after the series ended.

Speaking about his book on the series, "The Final Dossier", Frost said the novel does not end off season four, while adding he was "undecided" about another season. Lynch, however, seemed uninterested about the prospect of a fourth installment.

He told Variety, "There's nothing to talk about."

"Twin Peaks" was revived this year and hit the TV screens in a new avatar on 21 May.

Lynch hinted earlier this year that he may never direct a film again.—PTI ■

London theatre says 20 men made allegations against Kevin Spacey

LONDON — The Old Vic theatre in London said on Thursday it had received 20 separate allegations of inappropriate conduct by Kevin Spacey from 20 men who came into contact with him at the theatre, or in connection with it, between 1995 and 2013.

The theatre was reporting on the findings of an investigation it launched on 31 October.

Richard Miskella, a lawyer from the firm Lewis Silkin who conducted the investigation on behalf of the Old Vic, said that it had encouraged 14 of the men to talk to the police because of the nature of the allegations.

He did not say whether any of them had done so.

Mexican actor Roberto Cavazos alleged two weeks ago that Spacey had behaved inappropriately towards him when both were working at the Old Vic. It was not clear whether Cavazos was among the 20 men identified in the Lewis Silkin investigation.

Reuters was unable to independently confirm any of the allegations.

Spacey has made no public comment about the allegation from Cavazos or about any alleged misconduct related to the



Actor Kevin Spacey. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Old Vic, where he was artistic director from 2004 to 2015.

His Los Angeles-based lawyer could not be reached by telephone and did not immediately respond to a request for comment from Reuters.

The Old Vic said it had asked Spacey to participate in its investigation but had received no response from him. It said it was not able to say whether the allegations were true or not.

Spacey is one of several prominent names in entertainment to face allegations of sexual misconduct following complaints by multiple women

against Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein.

Spacey first became embroiled in the wider scandal when actor Anthony Rapp accused him on 29 October of trying to seduce him in 1986, when Rapp was 14 and Spacey was 26.

Spacey said he did not remember the incident but apologised to Rapp, saying that if it happened it would have been "deeply inappropriate drunken behaviour".

In the most recent public statement from Spacey's representatives on 2 November, they said that he was "taking the time

necessary to seek evaluation and treatment", without giving further details.

Miskella said the alleged incidents relating to the Old Vic ranged from behaviour that made people feel uncomfortable to sexually inappropriate behaviour. He said the allegations had come from 16 former members of staff and four others. Miskella gave no names or details about the allegations because those coming forward had done so with the promise of confidentiality.

More than 50 women have said that Weinstein sexually harassed or assaulted them over the past three decades and the Hollywood producer has been expelled from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Police in New York, Los Angeles, Beverly Hills and London have said they are investigating allegations of sexual assault or rape by Weinstein.

Weinstein has denied having non-consensual sex with anyone. Reuters has not been able to independently verify allegations made against Spacey or Weinstein.—Reuters ■

Old songs are here to stay, says Sudesh Bhosle

THANE — Renowned singer Sudesh Bhosle has said even though the younger generation has a different taste for music, the songs of yesteryears will stay evergreen.

"The great music directors like Lakshmikant Pyarelal, Kalyanji-Anandji, RD (Burman), and many more have given us memorable songs and the songs by great singers like (Mohammed) Rafi, Mukesh are still in the memory of Indians and they will never be extinct," Bhosle told reporters here last night.

According to the singer, songs of yesteryears are appreciated and respected in foreign countries too.

Bhosle will perform here tomorrow to celebrate megastar Amitabh Bachchan's 75th birthday. He said he was proud to be "the voice of Amitabh Bachchan".

Asked about the ongoing controversy over Bollywood movie "Padmavati", he said it was for the government and the censor board.—PTI ■

Golden leaf cut from Napoleon's crown goes under hammer in France

PARIS — A golden laurel leaf cut from the crown of French emperor Napoleon Bonaparte will be auctioned near Paris on Sunday.

The small 10-gram decoration — worth less than \$500 if melted down for its metal — is expected to reach around 300 times that, auctioneer Jean-Pierre Osenat said.

Its value “certainly isn’t based on the weight of the gold, but on the weight of history,” he added.

Napoleon famously crowned himself emperor at Notre Dame cathedral in 1804, placing the Roman-style laurel wreath on his own head, even though Pope Pius VII was there presiding over the coronation. The man whose empire once stretched from Barcelona to Hamburg said he owed his authority to himself and not to God.

The leaf on sale on Sunday however never made it to the ceremony.

Before it started,



An auctioneer displays a gold laurel leaf from French Emperor Napoleon's imperial crown at the office of the Osenat auction house in Paris, France, on 15 November 2017. The leaf will go under the hammer on Sunday and is expected to fetch between 100,000 and 150,000 euros. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Napoleon complained the crown was too heavy, leaving its creator Martin-Guillaume Biennais to remove six leaves.

Each of Biennais’ six daughters received a leaf. The one under auction has stayed in the family ever since. The crown, inspired by the laurel wreath worn by Roman emperor Julius Caesar,

contained more than fifty leaves and was melted down in 1819.

“This small leaf represents the grandeur of the story of Napoleon,” Osenat said. He said the leaf was expected to fetch between 100,000 and 150,000 euros (\$118,250 - \$177,375) at the auction house that bears his name in Fontainebleau,

outside Paris. Bidders will also have a chance to buy a silk court waistcoat with gilded silver embroidery worn by the emperor and a powder box belonging to his wife Josephine. Napoleon’s famous bicorne hat was sold at auction in 2014 to a South Korean bidder for 1.9 million euros, nearly five times the asking price.—Reuters ■

Chinese researchers win "Nobel Prize" of supercomputing application

DENVER, (the United States) — A Chinese team using the world's fastest supercomputer to simulate a devastating earthquake won the 2017 ACM Gordon Bell Prize on Thursday.

The Association for Computing Machinery said using the Sunway TaihuLight, the fastest supercomputer, the team developed software that was able to process data at the speed of 18.9 quadrillion calculations per second, and create 3D visualizations related to a devastating earthquake that occurred in Tangshan, a city in northeastern China, in 1976.

“The team's software

included innovations that achieved greater efficiency than had been previously attained running similar programs on the Titan and TaihuLight supercomputers,” the association said.

The award was presented at the 2017 Supercomputing Conference in Denver in the US state of Colorado.

“Although earthquake prediction and simulation is an inexact and emerging area of research, we hope that the use of supercomputers may lead to better prediction and preparedness,” He Conghui, one of the 12-member Chinese team, told Xinhua.

Chinese supercom-

puter Sunway TaihuLight, located at the National Supercomputer Center in Wuxi in China's eastern province of Jiangsu, is nearly three times faster than the Tianhe-2, the supercomputer that previously held the world record for speed.

The Gordon Bell Prize, carrying a purse of 10,000 US dollars and awarded at the annual supercomputing conference, was established in 1987 by Gordon Bell, an American pioneer in high-performance and parallel computing.

It tracks the progress of parallel computing and rewards innovation in applying high-performance computing to challenges

in science, engineering, and large-scale data analytics.

“It was very impressive ... The progress has been very strong and will continue,” Bell said, commenting on China's progress in supercomputer applications.

This is the second time that Chinese researchers scooped the “Nobel Prize” of supercomputing applications.

Last year, Chinese researchers won the award for developing a method for calculating atmospheric dynamics that can be used to improve global climate models as well as weather predictions.—Xinhua ■

Sponsor of monk and donor of pagoda,
ordination hall, monastery and pond
U Than Aung
(78) years
Advocate and Notary Public

Son of late U Tun Khin and late Daw Thaw residing at Thein Village, Myingyan District, Mandalay Region, son-in-law of late U Ba Hmu and late Daw Pyay residing at Simekhone Village, Myingyan District, Mandalay Region, younger brother of late Daw Mainkhalay, late Daw Tin, late Daw Khin and Daw Htin, beloved husband of Daw Myint Myint Kyi residing at No. 615-J, Pyay Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon Region, father of U Thiha Aung(TAS Co., Ltd) and Daw Khin Sabei Moe(Hiang Kie Coffee Myanmar Co., Ltd), U Thura Aung(eTrade Myanmar Co., Ltd) and Daw Thida Kyaw Myint Thein, Lt. Col Hla Myo residing in Nay Pyi Taw and Dr. Htin La Pyay Wun, grandfather of Mg Hein Linn Htet, Ma Shwe Eain Linn, Mg Htoo Myat Linn and Ma May Linn Let Myo, U Than Aung Passed away at resident of Simekhone Village, Myingyan District, Mandalay Region at 1:15PM on 14 November 2017(Tuesday).

The funeral ceremony will be held at Yeway Cemetery at 3:00 PM on 18 November 2017 (Saturday).

Buses will leave No. 615-J, Pyay Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon at 12:00 Noon.

The week mourning service will be held at No. 615-J, Pyay Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon, at 7:00am, on 20 November 2017(Monday).

Bereaved Family

Bones of contention: Australia returns ancient Aboriginal remains for outback burial

SYDNEY — The 40,000-year-old remains of an Aboriginal man that prompted a drastic rewrite of Australian history were returned to his ancestral homeland on Friday after four decades of examination in the country's capital.

The discovery of “Mungo Man” in 1974, named after the dry outback lakebed where the fully intact skeleton was found, doubled the known length of humans’ presence on the continent from 20,000 to 40,000 years.

But the bones’ removal to Canberra for study, roughly 600 km (370 miles) east of Lake Mungo, had angered the indigenous community there.

“We’ve been waiting all those years to get him back and I’m so glad he is back, to put him in his resting place,” said Joan Slade, an elder of the Aboriginal Ngiyampaa people at a ceremony welcoming the remains back to her ancestral country.

The skeleton, along with 104 other remains, arrived in a black hearse with the black, yellow and red Aboriginal flag paint-

ed on its side. A traditional smoking ceremony, with green gum-leaves burned over a small fire, welcomed the remains back to the red soil and saltbush scrub of Lake Mungo.

“This, today, is one of those catalytic moments... it makes us, the traditional owners, custodians of our culture,” said elder Michael Young.

“They will be kept in a secret, safe place so that we can pass on to the next generations the legacy that these people have given us.” Though subsequent discoveries have pushed back even further the date of humans’ first arrival in Australia, the finding of Mungo Man was at the time a huge advance for understanding human history.

His burial, with limbs stretched out, hands crossed across his groin and covered in an ochre drawn from some 200 km away, helped prove the ancient age of Aboriginal civilization — the world's oldest continuing culture — dating back around the time Neanderthals occupied Europe.—Reuters ■

Myanmar national football teams to play Mongolia in friendly

In preparation for upcoming international matches, the U-21 and U-23 national football teams will play friendly matches with the Mongolia national football team at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon next week, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

The Myanmar U-21 team will play a friendly against Mongolia at 6pm on 24 November at Thuwunna Stadium, while the U-23 team will play a friendly against Mongolia at 6pm on 26 November.

The Myanmar U-21 team will be headed by its head coach U KyiLwin and the U-23 will be handled by its head coach GerdZeise respectively.

The Myanmar U-23 team is preparing for the M-150 Cup that will be hosted in Thailand from 9 to 15 December. Myanmar U-23 is in Group B together with Vietnam and Uzbekistan.

The Myanmar U-21 team is preparing for international matches and tournament including the Vietnam U-21 In-



Myanmar U-23 national footballers seen at the international friendly match against Cambodia at Phnom Penh Olympic Stadium in Cambodia on 9 November. **PHOTO:MFF**

ternational Challenge Cup and the 2019 SEA Games that will be hosted in the Philippines.

The Mongolia national football team represents the Republic of Mongolia in international

football under the Mongolian Football Federation.

Founded in 1959, the association was inactive between 1960 and 1998 when the team did not feature in any interna-

tional competitions. The Mongolian Football Federation is a member of the Asian Football Confederation and the East Asian Football Federation. —KyawZin Lin ■

Six Vietnamese football teams advance to Asian tournaments' final rounds

HANOI — Viet Nam is finalizing financial and training plans for six football teams to well compete in the final rounds of Asian Football Confederation (AFC) tournaments in 2018, the Viet Nam Football Federation said on Friday.

This is the first time Viet Nam has had up to six teams which have secured berths to the tournaments' final roads, the federation said, noting that they will compete at the coming AFC Asian Cup, AFC Women's Asian Cup, AFC U-23 Championship, AFC U-19 Championship, AFC U-16 Championship and AFC Futsal Championship. —Xinhua ■



Chelsea's Willian. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Chelsea's title defence 'difficult' due to in-form City, says Willian

LONDON — Champions Chelsea face a stiff challenge to defend their Premier League title from in-form leaders Manchester City but will fight till the end in the race, midfielder Willian has said. City have won 10 of their opening 11 league games and sit at the top of the table, nine points ahead of fourth-placed Chelsea. "It's difficult," Willian told BBC's Football Focus. "Manchester City are playing very well but I think we can fight for the title until the end." —Reuters ■



Roger Federer of Switzerland hits a return during the singles group match against Marin Cilic of Croatia during the Nitto ATP World Tour Finals at O2 Arena in London, Britain, on 16 November 2017. Roger Federer won 2-1. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Federer one step closer to eighth ATP Finals title

LONDON — Roger Federer won his third consecutive match at the ATP Finals after fighting back from one set down to beat fifth seed Marin Cilic at the O2 Arena here on Thursday.

The second seed needed one hour and 54 minutes to win 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-1 to finish Group Boris Becker play 3-0. It's the 10th time Federer has ended group play unbeaten. The six-time ATP Finals champion thus extended

his unbeaten run to 13 matches, including eight indoors, dating back to his Swiss Indoors Basel title run. The 19-time Grand Slam champion will take on either David Goffin or Dominic Thiem from Group Pete Sampras, where Grigor Dimitrov has secured the first place. "I played very well so really happy to be playing at this level right now," Federer said on court after his 55th ATP Finals win. —Xinhua ■

S Williams to marry Ohanian in New Orleans

WASHINGTON — Tennis legend Serena Williams will marry Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian this week, local media reported on Wednesday.

The couple will wed in New

Orleans, People reported, with guests arriving on Wednesday. According to the Daily Mail, the wedding will take place Thursday at the city's Contemporary Arts Center.

The winner of 23 Grand Slam singles titles has been engaged to Ohanian, 34, since last December. She and Ohanian are parents to Alexis Olympia, who was born on 1 September. Wil-

liams, 36, has repeatedly said she will return to tennis. It remains to be seen whether it's at the Australian Open, which begins on 15 January, and she is the defending champion. —Xinhua ■