

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 221, 6th Waxing of Nadaw 1379 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Friday, 24 November 2017



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi greets Bangladesh Foreign Minister Mr. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor receives Bangladesh Foreign Minister

STATE Counsellor and Union Minister of Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received the Foreign Minister of the Peo-

ple's Republic of Bangladesh Mr. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed promoting bilateral relations and other possible areas of cooperation between the

two countries as well as the repatriation of displaced persons from Rakhine State.—Myanmar News Agency ■

NATIONAL

Message sent by State Counsellor for introduction of the book on health standards, version 01

PAGE-3

NATIONAL

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the People's Republic of Bangladesh signed the Arrangement on Return of Displaced Persons from Rakhine State

PAGE-7



NATIONAL

Ceremony for introduction of health standards

PAGE-3

NATIONAL

Video message of His Holiness Pope Francis to the people of Myanmar

PAGE-6

NATIONAL

Strength lies in differences, not in similarities: Prof. Dr. Aung Tun Thet

PAGE-7

NATIONAL

Rakhine State Minister and officials inspect rice harvesting and land for new villages

PAGE-11



BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

Awarded by FinanceAsia 2017

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw agrees formation of two new ministries

2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 6th regular session 11th day meeting was held yesterday afternoon at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall in Hluttaw building, Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker confirmed the Myanmar Companies bill, announcing that it would be sent to the President for his signature to make the bill into law.

Next, U Zaw Thein of Wake-ma constituency, U Oo Hla Saw of Mrauk U constituency, Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Lt-Col Kyaw Tun and U Aung Thihe of Seikpyu constituency discussed the matter of becoming a member country of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) sent by the President.

In his discussion on the matter, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin said there are many political and economic benefits for My-



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

anmar if it becomes a member of IORA, urging the the Hluttaw to approve it.

After seeking approval from MPs, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced that the Hluttaw agreed the motion.

Afterwards, Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced

the Hluttaw agreeing to appoint and assign the duties of Anti-Corruption Commission chairman to U Aung Kyi, secretary to U San Win and members U Soe Tint, U Aung Lwin, U Han Nyunt, Daw Myat Myat Soe, U Aung Than Myint, U Khin Maung Myint, U Myo Myint,

Daw Aye Aye Mu, U Zaw Win and Daw Lei Lei Thwin that was sent by the President.

Formation of two new ministries, Ministry of the Office of the Union Government and Ministry of International Cooperation sent by the President was supported by U Soe Thane of Kayah constituency 9. Union Attorney General U Htun Htun Oo also explained the benefit of forming the two new ministries.

After obtaining the approval of the Hluttaw on formation of the two new ministries sent by the President, the Speaker announced that Pyidaungsu Hluttaw agreed establishing two new ministries.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker also announced further that in addition to the agreement by the Hluttaw to form the two new ministries, there was no objection to appoint U Kyaw Tin as Union Minister for International Cooperation and this appoint-

ment is confirmed and agreed by the Hluttaw.

With regards to the objection by U Soe Thane of Kayah constituency 9 on appointment of U Thaug Tun as Union Minister for the Ministry of the Office of the Union Government, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker noted on complete evidence being not provided in the objection and announced the decision of the Hluttaw to continue with the appointment according to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw law, rule and the Constitution.

Afterwards, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw's agreement on the appointment of U Thaug Tun as Union Minister for the Ministry of the Office of the Union Government.

2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 6th regular session 12th day meeting will be held on the morning of 24 November. —Myanmar News Agency

Pyithu Hluttaw

Roads, bridges to be inspected by third party

The second Pyithu Hluttaw sixth regular session ended after its 16th day meeting was held yesterday morning in Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall.

Replying to a question by U Tin Ko Ko Oo of Bilin constituency on arrangements made for road and bridge construction works to obtain adequate engineering, machinery, expert workers, completion on schedule and standards, Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin said when Ministry of Construction conduct road and bridge works, quality assurance teams are formed to inspect the construction group and quality of the materials used. In addition to inspection by the ministry, the auditor general's office also conducts inspections of the records as well as field inspection. Coordination letters were sent to states and regions chief ministers to implement a Third Party system in 2017-2018 fiscal years. At the present moment, there are no firm institutions to conduct Third Party system and Chief Ministers were informed of assigning this duty to Myanmar International Consultant Engineering Group, a chapter under Myanmar Engineering Society. Furthermore committees were formed for re-

sponsible officials to manage a timely receipt and full usage of materials in the work sites.

A design team from the road and bridge department designed the work after conducting a field visit and works were conducted according to the design. Arrangements and instructions were made to responsible engineers so that they can have the reserve funds, estimates and designs shown for inspection. Next, U Kyaw Aung Lwin of Sedoktara constituency raised a question on plans to construct an all-weather earth road connecting Phyingyi Village, Sedoktara Township with Ngaphe-Sedoktara-Saw district connecting road. Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin answered that the road connecting to the district connecting road is 6 miles, 2 furlong long and due to the poor quality of the earth along the route of the road, earth-work will be costly. Budget for this road will be requested for this road starting from FY 2018-2019 and depending upon budget allocation, it will be conducted explained the Deputy Minister.

Other questions by U Maung Maung of Htigyaing constituency, U Nyan Hein of Thanbyuzayat constituency and Daw Cho Cho

Win of Mawlaik constituency were also answered by Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin. A motion by Dr. Daw Thet Thet Khine of Dagon constituency urging the government to inform the public transparently about the incomes from extractive sector and put into the union budget fully as suggested by Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) to which Myanmar was admitted as a Candidate in 2014 was then discussed by U Oo Hla Saw of Mrauk U constituency, U Naing Htoo Aung of Natogyi constituency, U Bo Gyi of Chauk constituency, Dr. Daw Khin Sithu of Loikaw constituency, U Tint Soe of Hpakant constituency, U Lwin Ko Latt of Thanlyin constituency and U Kan Myint of Thayet constituency.

In his discussion on the motion, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win said a tripartite group consisting of 7 government representatives, 7 private sector representatives and 9 civil society organisations representatives totaling 23 representatives was formed to publish EITI report and work according to set standards and criteria.

SEE PAGE-3

Amyotha Hluttaw

School buildings in Rakhine to be upgraded: Ministry of Education

The quality of school buildings in Rakhine State and their replacement or upgrading was one of several issues discussed at yesterday's meeting of the Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw.

U Win Maw Tun, Deputy Minister for Education, replied to a question raised by U Kyaw Than of constituency 10 in Rakhine State.

"The Ministry of Construction is carrying out the tasks of constructing school buildings in Manaung township in Rakhine State with the lump sum fund in FY 2017-2018 — Ks179.3 million. The State Primary School in Thein Gone Village was found to have a one-storeyed school measuring 40 by 30 feet with a corrugated iron-sheet roof and timber wood walls, attended by 19 school-children, whereas the State Primary School in Kokko and Kyundone villages had a one-storey school building measuring 25 by 15 feet with a corrugated iron sheet roof and timber wood walls,

which was attended by only 18 students. The said schools are found to be in poor condition, thus arrangements of building schools will be carried out under Type—C in FY 2017-2018."

Concerning the question raised by U Ngun Hay of constituency 1, in Chin State, the Deputy Minister added, "The Ministry of Education upgraded schools in Chin State — one SPS, three SMSs (Branches), four SMSs, one SHS (Branch), one SHS—10 in total. BEMS (Branch) situated in Zay Thit Qr of Haka has only 135 middle school students and it is only one mile away from no/2 BEHS in Haka, so it was not included in the priority list for now."

As regards the question raised by U Win Maung of constituency in Magway Region, U Hla Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Irrigation clarified.

Afterward, Hluttaw representatives discussed the 2nd Amendment of Civil Service Law.

SEE PAGE-12

Message sent by State Counsellor for introduction of the book on health standards

23 November, 2017

First of all, I send my heartfelt wishes to you all — the citizens including those present at the ceremony of introduction of the book on health standards, to be blessed with physical and mental well-being.

In trying our best to firmly stand on the path to development of a Federal Democratic Union, peace plays an important role. At the same time, we aim at assuring the people better public health. Especially, we will prioritise upgrading fundamental health care for people who are socio-economically disadvantaged and people living in rural and remote areas. For coverage of health care on a nationwide scale, the Ministry of Health and Sports has drawn up the Myanmar

National Health Plan (2017-2021), laying down priority plans. In implementing the Plan, the Ministry of Health and Sports will cooperate with the People.

According to the research findings, cases of chronic diseases such as hypertension and diabetes are increasingly being found in Myanmar. It was found that healthy living practices were rarely found among the public. Instead, smoking, chewing betel quid, drinking liquor and other habits which can harm health are mostly found among the public. So, it is urgently needed to change current social living patterns. Besides, it has been found that constant monitoring on problems of infectious diseases, mortality of mothers and infants and health

development of teenagers is still needed.

In implementing these plans, cooperation of related Ministries, partner organizations, together with the Ministry of Health and Sports is urgently needed. Similarly, it is of great importance for the public to have vast knowledge on health. Firstly needed are correct information and facts on health to be within the reach of the public. On the receipt of these facts and information as well, we need to make efforts to make sure that the public understand the information well and are able to make the right decisions. Now that the book on health standards Version 01, which the whole nation can apply will be distributed, it must be presumed that a foundation has been laid

for upgrading health knowledge of the people. For lifting health knowledge, those who give health care are just instructors. It is incumbent upon the people to practise good health habits. Easy and simple health practices must start from the family.

We firmly believe that it will be successful in a short period of time provided that volunteers, philanthropists, public-oriented organisations, national health care teams, media and artists will take part in unity and with enthusiasm.

I hereby urge you all to collectively make concerted efforts so that our citizens will have a high level of knowledge about health.

(Unofficial Translation)

Ceremony for introduction of health standards

A ceremony for the introduction of health standards compiled to effectively and broadly carry out the sharing health knowledge among the people and a ceremony for the opening workshop was held in MICC-2 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Present at the meeting were First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative, Union Ministers of Information, Education and Health and Sports and their wives, responsible officials from related ministries, heads of public health departments of Regions and States, representatives from national health teams, UN organisations, INGOs and NGOs, civil societies and invited guests.

At the ceremony, the message sent from the State Counsellor was read out by Dr. Pe Myint, Union Minister for Information. Afterward, Dr. Myint Htwe, Union Minister for Health and Sports said, “So as to lift up the health standards of the



First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin looks at the poster displayed at the ceremony for introduction of health standards. **PHOTO: MNA**

public, three special priority projects are being implemented. Adaptability of curriculums and syllabus of medical institutes, its related universities, two nursing universities, and 50 midwife training schools are

being made. Similarly keeping medical ethics, nursing ethics and development of teachers' skills and acquisition of enabling teaching environments are being prioritized. In addition, Dr. Stephen Paul Jost, res-

ident representative of World Health and Ms. June Kunugi, resident representative of UNICEF made speeches and posed for a documentary photo together with those present at the ceremony.—MNA ■

Supplementary Protocol and Exchange of the Instruments signed

H.E U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for Office of the State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and H.E Mr. Md. Shahidul Haque, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh exchanged the Instruments of Ratification on the Treaty relating to the demarcation of the land section of the boundary north of the Naaf River of Myanmar and Bangladesh in Nay Pyi Taw on 23 November 2017.

In addition to the exchanging of the Instruments of Ratification, H.E. U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and H.E Mr. Md. Shahidul Haque, Foreign Secretary of the People's Republic of Bangladesh signed the supplementary Protocol of the Naaf River Boundary (2007).—Myanmar News Agency ■

Roads, bridges to be inspected by third party

FROM PAGE-2

Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance is assigned as a chairman and a retired director general from Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation as an expert is assigned as a vice-chairman in the group.

A report is to be submitted by 2018 March and the report will include incomes from oil and nat-

ural gas sector, mining sector, jade and gem sectors for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 fiscal years. In an earlier report, income for jade and gem include only the income from emporium and in this report it will include mine mouth tax as well as all incomes from jade and gem sector. Scoping study is to be conducted on forest sector income and work conducted and if it is concluded in time, it will

be included in the report as an annex. It is also agreed to work toward including facts on Myanmar pearl production and trade as preliminary finding.

Once the report is confirmed the public will be informed transparently through press conferences. Work will be conducted by accepting advises and suggestions. As works will be done according to standards and norms

set in 2016 EITI Standard, the Union Minister explained for the motion to be put on record.

Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win also explained about the motion. Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win and Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win then submitted to the Hlut-

taw to put the motion on record and Dr. Daw Thet Thet Khine of Dagon constituency who tabled the motion submitted to confirm the motion.

Due to differences in opinion, the motion was decided by vote. As 325 were for the motion, 68 were against and 3 abstain, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint announced the confirmation of the motion. —Aye Aye Thant ■

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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ACTING CHIEF EDITORAye Min Soe,
ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**EXPATRIATE CONSULTANT EDITOR**Mark Angeles,
markangeles@gmail.com**SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**

Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORSKhin Maung Oo,
editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Khin Maung Win (Chief Proof Reader),
Zaw Min, zawmin.gnln@gmail.com**INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR**Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**LOCAL NEWS EDITORS**Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com**TRANSLATORS**Khaing Thanda Lwin,
Hay Mar Tin Win,
Ei Myat Mon
Zaw Htet Oo
Kyaw Zin Lin
Kyaw Zin Tun**REPORTERS**May Thet Hnin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
mayreporter.mm@gmail.com
Tun Aung Kyaw,
reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAMTun Zaw (Chief of Computer Team),
Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin**EDITORIAL SECTION**(+95) (01) 8604529,
Fax – (+95) (01) 8604305**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.comPrinted and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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Over 300 tons of jade from Phakant to be displayed at Gems Emporium

By Ko Moe

Over 300 tons of jade cut from the same stone that was discovered in Hpakant, Kachin State will be showcased at Gems Emporium, said U Min Thu, the secretary of Myanmar Gems Enterprise.

"The weight of the massive jade stone was estimated to be more than 200 tons at the time of discovery. The stone has since been cut into several pieces and has finally been properly weighed at over 300 tons. Currently, local and foreign experts are making necessary inspection assessments and then we will try to sell that jade stone as soon as possible," he added.

The jade stone was unearthed in October, 2016 at Mat Lin Chaung mine, which is jointly operated by the Min-

Jades from Phakant displaying at Gems Emporium. **PHOTO: MNA**

istry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and the Yandanar Taung Tann Gems Company.

Preparations to display the jade, which are in large pieces, are being done at a very fast

pace, organisers said.

"Currently, we are polishing the jade stone. We have not had enough time to make it ready to showcase the stone at the Gems emporium, which will be held in December. Another problem is

that it needs to be carried under the sufficient guard of security vehicles. Moreover, we have to observe the market situation", said U Min Thu. As it is so huge, we had to bring in the foreign experts to assist in estimating the price, it is learnt. The quality of the jade stone is classified into five levels such as A, B, C and etc.

At present, the stone is being stored in a warehouse which is 15 acres wide in Nay Pyi Taw, under tight security. The stone is currently valued at over Ks 10 billion. The government has collected over Ks 2 billion as extraction tax from this stone.

The profit will be shared between the government and the Yandanar Taung Tann Gems Company. The government will get 25 per cent and the company will get 75 per cent. ■

Industrial zones to be implemented in Taninthayi region

CHINA entrepreneurs will implement an industrial zone in Taninthayi region with the cooperation of the local entrepreneurs. Currently, they are discussing the matter with the regional government, said an official from Directorate of Investment & Company Administration (DICA).

The industrial zone will be constructed on a 6,676- acre plot of land in Myittar Township, Taninthayi region. The project will jointly be implemented by

China Power Investment Company and Myanmar local companies. "Currently, we have already chosen the location. Then, we will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)," said the official from DICA.

Moreover, another Chinese company will also invest around US\$ 28 million to construct the industrial zone on a 250-acre plot of land in Maubin Township in Ayeyawady region with the cooperation of the local entrepreneurs. The private sectors

have to lead in implementing the future industrial zones. It will offer the entrepreneurs to provide water and electricity, and to have a smooth transportation in the industrial zones, said an entrepreneur from Hlaingthayar industrial zone. Recently, DICA branch offices are being opened across the country. Also, DICA branch offices have been granted authority to give permission to the local and foreign investments which do not exceed Ks 6,000 million and US\$ 5 million.

DICA will grant investments mainly in the following sectors: agriculture; livestock and aquatic food production; export promotion; import substitute industry; electricity; transportation; education; health; low-cost housing and the industrial zones, said U Aung Naing Oo, the Director-General of DICA.

There are 19 industrial zones and three special economic zones in Myanmar, according to the Ministry of Industrial.— Min Thu

Awareness about illegal trade in wildlife animal parts to be provided

AUTHORITIES will launch an awareness campaign and distribute posters about the illegal trade of wildlife animal parts and the sale of wildlife animal curries in Kyaiktiyo Pagoda in Mon State at the end of November, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

Kyaiktiyo, a pilgrimage site, is not appropriate place to sell wildlife animal meat curries and wildlife animal parts. Therefore, authorities will conduct a poster campaign and give awareness talks in cooperation with the forestry department, Myanmar police

force, Township General Administration Department, the pagoda's board of trustees and the Wildlife Conservation Society (Myanmar Programme).

The awareness campaign will be conducted with the aim of reducing the sale and illegal trade of animal parts and an-

imal curries in the Kyaiktiyo pagoda area.

Authorities will give a warning to traffickers for the first offense and then take legal action against them in accordance with the law for a second and subsequent offences.— GNLM ■

Vehicle catches fire in eastern Shan State's Tachilek

A fire broke out in a car on Bogyoke Road in Yanaungmyae Ward, Tachilek Township in eastern Shan State at 6 am today. The fire started from an oil pipe that is connected to the engine. The firefighters led by the Head of District Fire Services Department U Tun Naing Oo and the Commander of Town-

ship Fire Brigade U Aung Zaw Lin took around 20 minutes to bring the fire under control but unfortunately the vehicle was completely destroyed.

The car owner has been charged with negligence of causing a fire by Tachilek Myoma Police Department.—District IPRD ■

Firefighters extinguish the burning car in Tachilek. **PHOTO: IPRD**

Licences for over 160 jewellery mining blocks to expire next month

LICENCES for more than 160 jewellery mining blocks in Khamti in Sagaing Region, Mogok in Mandalay Region, Lonekhin and Hpakant in Kachin State and Mongshu in Shan State will expire next month, according to an announcement of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

Mining licences for approximately 140 jewellery blocks are due to expire this month. The aforementioned ministry has already announced no licences will be extended or renewed for mining operations. New licences to extract gemstones will not be granted until by-laws to the Myanmar Gemstones Law have been formulated. The former mining blocks will be regarded as vacant land. Those mining blocks are located in Khamti in Sagaing Region, Mogok in Mandalay Region and Lonekhin, Mohnyin, Nantayaseik, Mongshu



PHOTO: AUNG SHINE OO

and Hpakant in Kachin State. The ministry has also announced an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for used mining blocks and EMP is to cover all mining sites (approximately 15,000) across the country. The Union and state governments will make power sharing for future land utilization.

Currently, EMP for mining sites in Lonekhin and Hpakant

has been developed Licences for more than 300 mining blocks for precious minerals and metals have expired in September. And more than 2,500 jewellery mining blocks were also shut down their operations due to the expiry of licences in August. Mining licences for approximately 2,210 precious minerals and metals have expired between 1 April and the end of July. —Ko Htet

Border trade amounting to over US\$ 4.4 billion

THE value of border trade from 1st April to 10th November this fiscal year was down by US\$178 million when compared to that in the same period of last fiscal year. Border trade from 1st April to 10th November this fiscal year hit US\$4.48 billion_ US\$ 2.802 billion in export and US\$ 1.683 billion in import, according to the official statistics of the ministry of commerce. Myanmar is trading with her neighboring countries_ China, India, Bangladesh and Thailand. Sino-Myanmar border trade is carried out through Muse, Lweje, Kanpikete, Chin Shwe Haw and Kengtung gates while Myanmar is carrying out border trade with India via Tamu and Reed. The country's border trade gates with Bangladesh are Sittway and Maungtaung as well as Thailand via Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthaung, Myeik, HteeKhee, Mawtaung and Maese. The decrease in export through border trade is due to the major decrease in Muse

border trade camps, which performed the largest trade out of all 16 border trade camps. The border trade value as of 10th November in the current FY was US\$ 3.14 billion in Muse, US\$111 million in Lweje, US\$313 million in Chin Shwe Haw, US\$60.3 million in Kanpikete, US\$1.1 million in Kengtung, US\$45.9 million in Tachilek, US\$524 million in Myawady, US\$100 million in Kawthaung, US\$131 million in Myeik, US\$3.12 million in HteeKhee, US\$3.8 million in Mawtaung, US\$0.37 million in Maese, US\$6.7 million in Sittway, US\$6 million in Maungtaung, US\$20 million in Tamu and US\$20.8 million in Reed. Myanmar mainly export agricultural products, animal products as well as forest products, minerals, fishery products, manufactured goods and other products while capital goods, raw industrial materials and consumer products are imported into the country. —GNLM



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Unit 4-5, SY Building on 78th Street, Between 29th Street & 30th Street, Mandalay.
2SH9 (B), Taunggyi Business Center, 4-Miles, Taunggyi-Hopone Street, Kangyi Quarter, Taunggyi.

Tel: (01) 654810 to 654819 & (01) 654844 to 654848
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Tel: (067) 25331, (09) 49201190
Tel: (02) 36014, 39857, 39816, 39617-19
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The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission

Nay Pyi Taw
Notification

November 23, 2017

1. In Political Parties Registration Act, section 5/F and section 13 and Political Parties Registration (Regulation) 13/A it is strictly prescribed that political parties which will organize across the Union are required to organize at least 1000 party members, whereas those which will organize only in their respective Regions or States are under obligation to organize at least 500 party members. In case the amounts have decreased, the party concerned must organize to meet the designated requirement.
2. However, due to failure to abide by the prescribed rules and regulations, the Union Election Commission informed the political parties of following as prescribed in rules and regulations as regards the situations on the volume of the party members under the letter issued 5/Na Nga Ya—Supervision (2)/Ka Ma Ya dated on 26th October 2017.
3. And, political parties are issuing announcements and declarations for the public to be well convinced of parties' stances and attitudes, of which the Union Election Commission essentially must have known. Thus, Union Election Commission has sought only a duplicate of these announcement and declarations which had already been issued to be sent to the Union Election Commission under the letter issued 5/Na Nga Ya-Supervision (1)/Ka Ma Ya dated on 25th October. The Union Election Commission absolutely makes no restriction, prevention, prohibition against political parties' declaration and announcements, so as not to do so.
4. Some parties and individuals issued statements without constructive views and disclosure to news media, over performances of the Union Election Commission in accord with the prescription included in the law.
5. Accordingly, statements of some parties without solid evidences may cause misunderstanding toward the Union Election Commission among the public.
6. The Union Election Commission issued the notification that all political parties are required to abide by rules and regulations described in paragraph 1, as the Union Election Commission had performed its duties in accord with the prescriptions included in rules and regulations.

Union Election Commission

Video Message of His Holiness Pope Francis to the People of Myanmar



Dear Friends

As I prepare visit Myanmar, I want to send a word of greeting and friendship to all its people. I look forward to this time we will have together. I am coming to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, a message of reconciliation, forgiveness and peace.

My visit is meant to confirm the Catholic Community of Myanmar in its worship of God and it witness to the Gospel which teaches the dignity

of every man and woman. At the same time I wish to visit the nation in a spirit of respect and encouragement for every effort to build harmony and cooperation in the service of the common good.

We are living at a time when religious believers and people of good will everywhere sense the need to grow in mutual understanding and respect and to support each other as members of our one human family. For all of us are God's children.

I know that many people in Myanmar are working hard to prepare for my visit and I thank them. I ask everyone to pray that my days among you will be a source of hope and encouragement to everyone. Upon you and your families, I invoke the divine blessings of joy and peace.

We urge the international community not to put such a pressure on Myanmar: Hungary's Minister for Foreign Affairs

Following is the interview with Mr. Peter Szijjarto, Hungary's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade. MNA

Q: What would you say are the main priorities between Hungary and Myanmar's friendship?

A: Geographically we are very far away countries so we have to build bridges and people to people contacts. That's why we offer scholarship programs for Myanmar students to study in Hungary. We have always supported the democratic transition here in Myanmar. The world is getting smaller so what happens on this side of the world will have a direct impact on the other side. That's why the sovereignty, peace and economy of your country is important for us.

Q: How do you consider an appropriate role for the international community here in Myanmar?

A: I understand that your country has been struggling with tremendous challenges. There are many countries with challenges but yours is not one we envy, to be honest. We urge the international community not to put such a pressure on you

which could have an impact that forces you on the road back from where you've come. We hope you can handle these challenges otherwise there might be a huge migration out from here and based on the Asian experiences so far, such a kind of migratory wave would not stop in the neighborhood but head to Europe and that is something we don't want to experience anymore.

Q: How can Myanmar benefit from Hungary's international development cooperation?

A: I understand that agriculture, water management and the food industry are pretty crucial here to develop the remote areas as well. Hungary has offered a tied-aid credit program for the government of Myanmar based on which Hungary is ready to provide you with a long-term loan of 18 years with very low interest rates to finance here investments to modernize the crucial sectors.

Q: What do you think are the



Mr. Peter Szijjarto,
Hungary. PHOTO: MNA

challenges for Myanmar's democratization process?

A: Hungary had its transition process concluded in 1990 and we had to fight for freedom, independence and sovereignty a lot. It's not without reason Hungarians are still called freedom fighters. I'm pretty sure your leaders, who have a wide experience in governing a country in a way along democratization, will do their best. Your State Counsellor who enjoys a wide

international reputation, will be able to help you overcome the challenges and go along this long road to democracy.

Q: There have been some negative reports by the international media on what's happened in Rakhine State recently. What is Hungary's view and opinion on that?

A: Well, Hungary had also been under heavy media attacks over the last seven years, so if you believed everything the international media wrote about Hungary you wouldn't want to make an interview with me. If there is a country that's aware that international media should be handled carefully then we know it.

When there was an influx of illegal migration to Hungary, around 40,000, in order to comply with our European obligations and guarantee the security of the country, Hungary built a fence on our borders. A group of illegal migrants attacked that border very aggressively and after one and a half hour the

Hungarian police had to react to protect the country and they used tear gas and such. Next minute, an international media lied that the Hungarian police attacked innocent refugees. No one said the Hungarian police was under attack from the territory of another country for one and a half hour. So we know how media can misinterpret what has happened. So that's why I'm careful with media reports concerning your country. What I can tell you is that I hope your government can endeavour through these challenges.

Q: How optimistic are you about the future of Myanmar?

A: Well, this country was among the worst performing economies and now it's starting to develop. We Hungarians know that this kind of progress is not cheap nor free. We know you had to suffer and make a lot in order to reach this stage. I will tell you that you should continue your democratization process because that will definitely lead you to success. —MNA ■

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the People's Republic of Bangladesh signed the Arrangement on Return of Displaced Persons from Rakhine State

At the invitation of U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor, Mr. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, visited Myanmar from 22 to 23 November 2017.

During the visit of the Bangladesh delegation, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor, U Kyaw Tint Swe and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh Mr. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali co-chaired the Ministerial Meeting to discuss the Arrangement on the Return of Displaced Persons from the Rakhine State at the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor on 22 November 2017 at 1600 hrs. An agreement was reached on the Arrangement, and both Governments concurred that it should be signed as soon as possible.

U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the



Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe and Bangladesh Foreign Minister Mr. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali sign the Arrangement on Return of Displaced Persons from Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor and Mr. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh signed the Arrangement on Return of Displaced Persons

from Rakhine State at the Meeting Room, Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor on 23 November 2017 at 1400 hrs.

The Arrangement was

based on the Joint Statement signed by the Foreign Ministers of the Government of the Union of Myanmar and the People's Republic of Bangladesh in 1992 and contained the

general guiding principles and policy arrangements to systematically verify and receive the displaced persons from Rakhine State.

Western countries as well as the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), had portrayed the matter as an international issue by passing resolutions at the UN Human Rights Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations. The Security Council also issued a Presidential Statement on the issue.

The principled position of Myanmar is that issues that emerge between neighbouring countries must be resolved amicably through bilateral negotiations. The present Arrangement, which had been agreed to by both countries based on their friendly and good neighbourly relations demonstrate the steadfast position of Myanmar and is a win-win situation for both countries.—Myanmar News Agency

Strength lies in Differences. Not in similarities: Prof. Dr Aung Tun Thet

Forum on Diversity Management in the Age of Globalization was held on 22 and 23 November at Mingalar Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw. Following is the discussion at the first day forum by Prof. Dr Aung Tun Thet.

We must accept the diversity. The youth must accept the differences. What we need to be deserved is we need to accept differences. A very short quotation by President Kennedy is "We can make the world safe for us." The most basic common thing is we live in one planet, there is no other planet for us, human being. We breathe the same air and there is no parent who doesn't think of their children's future. No matter who you are we are all mortal. We must be culturally sensitive. As we cherish our culture we must also respect others culture. We are a member of the United Nations so we must be internationally focused and we must go beyond our national boundaries. We must focus on the future and not on the past. We have the power to shape our own future. We have multiculturalism and in this room there are people from many different cultures, different beliefs but we



Prof. Dr Aung Tun Thet. **PHOTO: MNA**

also have common behaviors and common beliefs and we need to recognize and respect all diverse groups. We must embrace diversity to develop the nation.

Mutual respect is important and we must validate cultural expression and contribution. I hope that at the end of the symposium we can have our collective wisdom used to develop our societies. The new government is encour-

aging the inclusive approach. I'm so heartened to see the young people because we have so many talents and capabilities and to use that for the development of the country we need a wholesome inclusive environment.

We have people who are so well educated and we have illiterate people but we are together, we are the same. I just want to tell the international guests here that

if you stand right in front of Sule Shangri-La Hotel on Sule Pagoda road you will see Sule Pagoda and on your right you will see a mosque and on your left you will see Emmanuel Church. We are not about exclusion, please understand us that we are culturally and religiously sensitive.

Today I want to introduce Total Quality Diversity (TQD). When I worked

for the UN, it was an honor to work in Africa and Asia, Latin America and Europe. I see different people and the beauty is that they are so diverse. Myanmar is also beautiful with its 150 ethnic groups. When all is said and done and everyone looks like you, then

you've done it wrong. None of you in this room are the same as me because if all of you are the same as me, life would be boring. Everyone is talking about rights but no one is talking about responsibility.

Rights always is accompanied by responsibilities. The challenge is great but so is the reward. Strength lies in differences, not in similarities. If we combine all the difference-

es in our country then we can create a beautiful future for our country. Like Dr. Kofi Anan said, "We may have different religions, languages and colored skin but we all belong to one human race."

Strength lies in Differences. Not in similarities.—MNA ■

We may have different religions, languages and colored skin but we all belong to one human race.

Visions on ASEM of the State Counsellor

At the opening ceremony of 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the State Counsellor, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi made an opening address. Over the present situations of the world, the State Counsellor said, "Conflicts around the world are giving rise to new threats and emergencies; illegal migration, spread of terrorism and violent extremism, social disharmony and even the threat of nuclear war. Conflicts take away peace from societies, leaving behind underdevelopment and poverty, pushing people even countries away from one another." Here in her speech, challenges of conflicts and natural disasters were vividly pointed out.

The State Counsellor also addressed, "All countries even the developed and powerful have to cope with constraints and difficulties.

The mechanism of ASEM in which regional and international issues are frankly discussed brings about a unique opportunity for policy-makers in Asia and Europe.

be said that the theme of 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting, 'Strengthening partnership for peace and sustainable development' reflects well the State Counsellor's approach towards global issues.

It is the concept of the State Counsellor that aligned cooperation among private sector, civil societies and the people including relations between governments based on cooperation and mutual respect must be lifted, and we firmly believe that it is encouraging spirits of sympathy and mutual understanding to develop in the minds of people from different communities. The 2nd Plenary Meeting which will upgrade peace and sustainable development at the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting reflecting the above-said principles will be held, as will the Plenary Meeting to find ways and means for upgrading efficiency and connectivity of ASEM for 3rd decade. Last but not least, we humbly present our presumption that the statement of the State Counsellor saying "The mechanism of ASEM in which regional and international issues are frankly discussed brings about a unique opportunity for policy-makers in Asia and Europe," is revealing the essence of ASEM.

May all people ever achieve food safety

To provide its people with safe food, Myanmar is making efforts for promoting food safety and proper hygiene practices by providing education programmes for food handlers.

According to the WHO data, around 2.2 million people die every year, due to food-borne diseases. By handling, preparation, and storing food according to internationally-prescribed standards, food-borne health risks could be avoided. If any of the stakeholders in the food chain did not adhere to standards the food might become poison.

Safe food underpins but is distinct from food security. Food safety is an area of public health action to protect consumers from the risks of food poisoning and food-borne diseases, acute or chronic. Unsafe food can lead to range of health problems: diarrhoeal disease, viral disease (the first Ebola cases were linked to contaminated bush meat); reproductive and developmental problems, cancers. Food safety is thus a prerequisite for food security.

New threats to food safety

are constantly emerging. Changes in food production, distribution and consumption (i.e. intensive agriculture, globalization of food trade, mass catering and street food), changes to the environment, new and emerging bacteria and toxins, antimicrobial resistance—all increase the risk that food becomes contaminated. Increases in travel and trade enhance the likelihood that contamination can spread,

Food control division of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Department under Ministry of Health, Myanmar is mainly concerned with food safety and quality, pre-market assessment as well as post-market surveillance, source says. Food control activities are conducted in line with the National Food Law, regulations, orders and directives, complies with Codex guidelines and standards. Myanmar is an active participant in ASEAN Task Force on Codex Committee.

We welcomed an initiative launched recently by IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, to help food producers



A vendor sells chicken in downtown Yangon. PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAH

address and improve food safety practices, develop the country's agribusiness, and open new export markets, hoping that Myanmar can learn from the experiences of countries around the world with IFC's help.

Agribusiness is a key sector for Myanmar's economy, accounting for about 38% of gross domestic product (GDP) and 23 percent of exports. Myanmar need to make efforts for further increase exports and diversify opportunities in new markets for the country's producers.

As a first step, IFC — in cooperation with the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) — organized a first of its kind public awareness event in Yangon. The event, which brought together more than 60 government representatives, leading food producers, retailers and industry experts, underlined that addressing food safety in a systemic and sustainable way has a clear business case, helping companies to increase sales, reduce costs and minimize risks.

IFC has over 15 years' experience of providing food safety advisory services to agribusiness and retail clients globally. This work has helped 150 IFC clients from 30 countries attract \$290 million in investments and generate over \$230 million in new sales. Further, clients ben-

efit from improved efficiencies and cost savings, contributing to stronger brand value.

"Investment in food safety management systems is a prerequisite for the growth of Myanmar's agribusiness, and ultimately, benefits consumers with safer food and health," said Vikram Kumar, IFC country manager for Myanmar.

"Implementing internationally accepted food safety systems in the country can improve competitiveness among food producers in both

its export and domestic markets, contributing to a stronger brand and preparing them for new markets."

Myanmar is aspiring to open its agribusiness sector to global markets. Over the past two years, the World Bank Group has supported the government in reforming the food safety framework. IFC also helps client companies introduce an internationally recognized food safety system and works with governments and industry experts to build

local capacity through training programs and workshops.

IFC's advisory work on improving Myanmar's food safety practices, reforming regulations, and improving the business environment in the agribusiness sector is supported by Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia, the Department for International Development of the U.K. and Japan.

May all ever achieve positive food safety.—GNLM with the World-Grain.com

POEM

At the Roadside Magic Show

When I was a kid,
I happened to watch a roadside magic show.
Mercilessly the magician poked
sharp iron spikes after spikes
into an oily, four-cornered box of toddy palm strips
with a man jammed tightly inside.
The scene set a thrill to the spectators, including myself.

Now Myanmar is like the man inside the box,
being poked by sharp, inhuman spikes after spikes,
tangible and intangible,
from within and outside.

Yet, as, after the show,
appeared the man from inside the bamboo box
with not a scratch on his body.
So does Myanmar survive safe and sound
when the fake photos of pathos are blown away,
and the false, distorted news has come to a halt.

Love of peace
is at the core of the hearts of Myanmar people,
We value humanism highly,
But terrorism finds no room here.

Zaw Tun

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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



KYEL SIN THAR SERVICES CO., LTD.
No.517, Thein Phyu Rd, Mingalar Taung Nyunt Tsp, Yangon
Tel: +95-9-261109917-9 Email: kstcenture@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/kstcenture/

A vendor sells vegetable in Yangon. Photo: GNLM/Phoe Khwar

Introduction of Census Atlas Report

A CEREMONY to introduce the Census Atlas Report based on the population in 2014 was held yesterday morning at Max Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the ceremony, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population Permanent Secretary U Myint Kyaing and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Myanmar Country Office Deputy Representative Ms. Kaori Ishikawa delivered opening remarks, and then UNFPA Deputy Representative handed over the

Census Atlas Report to the Permanent Secretary.

The Census Atlas Report shows salient facts from published reports related to the census in easy-to-see maps that include unique facts of Myanmar in eight chapters such as education, labour, migration, disability etc. it is learnt.

The Population Department had published reports on the 2014 population and household census and as a first step published a Preliminary Results

(Census Volume 1) in August 2014, Census Main Results in May 2015, report on Occupation and Industry in March 2016 and "Census Report Volume 2-C: The Union Report: Religion" on July 2016.

Based on the 2014 population and household census data, 13 detailed research reports and census result map reports were published and are posted in the Population Department website www.dop.gov.mm, it is learnt. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Introduction of Census Atlas Report 2014 ceremony held in Nay Pyi Taw on 23 November 2017. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Discussion on Bagan-Siem Reap direct flights

At the invitation of the Cambodian Minister of Tourism, a representative team led by the Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung attended the Cambodia Travel Mart 2017, it is learnt.

The opening ceremony for the travel mart was held in Sokha Siem Reap Resort and Convention Center on the morning of 17 November, where Cambodia Tourism minister Dr. Thong Khon delivered an opening speech. Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung and officials in attendance cut a ceremonial ribbon to open the event.

About 150 travel and tour companies from 16 countries exhibited in the travel mart, where four booths represented Myanmar. Myanmar was awarded an Exhibitor's Award of Excellence for the Best Booth Decoration, it is learnt.

After the opening ceremony, a signing ceremony for Implementation of Action plan (2017-2020) for Myanmar and Cambodia cooperating in tourism work was held and Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and Cambodia Minister of Tourism signed the action plan.

The action plan includes programmes on increasing the market, Siem Reap-Bagan-Siem Reap direct flights by airlines, development of human resources, arranging friendship trips between the two countries and plans to cooperate in sharing bilateral information and experience.

In the afternoon, representative teams led by Union Minister and Cambodia Minister of Tourism discussed matters to



Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung and Cambodia Minister of Tourism signed the action plan including Siem Reap-Bagan-Siem Reap direct flights. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**



Union Minister U Ohn Maung, Cambodia Tourism Minister Dr. Thong Khon and officials cut ribbon at the ceremony. **PHOTO: MNA**

be done for Bagan-Siem Reap direct flights.

In the evening, the Union Minister and the representative team was hosted to a dinner in front of Bayon Temple in Siem Reap, it is learnt.

Together with the Cambodia Travel Mart programme, a FAM (familiarization) Trip programme between Myanmar and Cambodia was held from 16 to 20 November in Siem Reap, Cambodia and includes officials from the Minis-

try of Labour, Immigration and Population, Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Myanmar Tourism Federation and Myanmar Tourism Entrepreneurs Association. During the trip, Angkor Wat, Banteay Srei Temple, temples, and other places of interest for tourism were studied and discussions on increasing tourism in the two countries were held. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Office of the President Order 29/2017

5th Waxing of Nadaw, 1379 ME
23 November, 2017

Appointment of Union Ministers

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 232 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 12 of the Union Government Law, the following persons have been appointed as Union Ministers of the Ministries shown against each of their names.

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| (1) U Thaung Tun | Union Minister
Ministry of Office of the Union
Government |
| (2) U Kyaw Tin | Union Minister
Ministry of International Cooperation |

Sd/
Htin Kyaw
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

U Thaung Tun who has been appointed as Union Minister, Ministry of the Office of the Union Government has a Master's degree in International Public Policy (MIPP). He was born in Taungzun township in 1947. He is a retired Ambassador from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and presently he is serving as National Security Advisor to the Union Government. He is married with one daughter.



U Thaung Tun.

U Kyaw Tin who has been appointed as Union Minister of the Ministry of International Cooperation has an M. Sc. (Math) and a post graduate diploma (Environmental Management) (Germany). He was born in Wuntho in 1955. At present he is serving as Minister of State for Foreign Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He is married with two children.



U Kyaw Tin.

Rakhine State Minister and officials inspect rice harvesting and land for new villages

RAKHINE State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and Rakhine state government officials inspected the status of Agricultural Mechanization Department (AMD) systematically harvesting ownerless monsoon paddy with harvesters the harvested rice and land for building new houses for ethnic nationals in Maungtaw Township yesterday.

First, the State Minister and state government officials inspected the status of Agricultural Mechanization Department (AMD) systematically harvesting ownerless monsoon paddy with harvesters in Sabal Khone Village in Maungtaw Township and the State Minister remarked the officials to complete the work in time.

Then, State Minister and party also inspected the houses constructed at the repatriation camp in Taung Pyo Let Wei Town and lands to rebuild a new village for Min Thit Village which has eroded by tides and place for building the schools in



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and officials inspect harvesting monsoon paddy field in Maungtaw. **PHOTO: MNA**

the new village. The new village will be built beside Taungpyo-Kyeinchaung road.

Next, State Minister and party also inspected places for constructing new houses by Daw Khin Kyi Foundation at the land where a new village of Khonhtaing (Mro) will be rebuilt.

Afterward, State Minister also inspected new houses constructed near Thittone Nhar Kwasone village and a new road building in Thaman

Thar village.

State Minister U Nyi Pu and party also checked building being constructed for Hindu people who were temporarily at a refugee camp in No.1 Basic Education High School in Maungtaw.

The State Minister and party then inspected new classrooms being constructed by the government of Taninthayi Region and also viewed the drying harvested rice in Alethan Kyaw Village.— News Team ■

Monsoon paddy harvested in Rakhine state by Agricultural Mechanisation Department

AREAS of Rakhine State that were affected by terrorist attacks were facing difficulties to harvest monsoon rice and the Agricultural Mechanisation Department had deployed harvesters to harvest the monsoon rice. A total of 2,591 acres in Myothugyi, Ohntaw, Kanpu, Kyaungtaung, Alethankyaw, Nwayonetaung, Wah Cha, Tandar, Myinloat Kyikanpyin, Thihokyaung, U Daung, Laungdon, Aung Sit Pyi and Sabaegone villages in Maungtaw township were harvested from 26 October to 22 November.

Rice fields in seven village groups of Sittway such as Chaungnwe, Partalat, Thinganet, Kywitay, Kankawkyoung, Mingan and Naryeekan villages are reaped with machineries and it is learnt from the Department of Mechanised Farming that an estimated 121 acres have been finished from 30 October to 22 November. Similarly, 202 acres in Pyahla, Hsinyoshae, Myatye-

ikkyoung, Gwasone and LayHnyinthar villages from Mrauk U Township were harvested from 5 November to 22 November.

Also, 102 acres in Htaungshae, Kinseik, Mawywa, Pharpayaw and Taung Thaik villages, and U Soe Tint ward from Minbya Township were harvested from 7 November to 22 November; it is learnt.

A further, 100 acres in Phonenar, Lanmadaw, Daungtawyoee and Kardi villages from Kyauktaw township were harvested from 8 November to 13 November while 46 acres in Chinkharlein village from Rathedaung township was harvested from 8 November to 22 November.

Also, 126 acres in Chine Khar Line village from Yathedaung township was harvested from 8 November to 22 November. And 96 acres in Thapyuchaung village from Buthidaung township was harvested from 10 November to 22 November; it is learnt. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Announcement of Myanmar Investment Commission Invitation to invest within Kayin State

1. The Myanmar Investment Commission has been holding Investment Fairs, rotating yearly, across the States and Regions in order to promote and invite investment for balanced economic development. Accordingly, this year's Investment Fair will be held in Hpa-An Township, Kayin State on 24th November, 2017.
2. Investing in Kayin State would be beneficial for investors and also assist the development of the regional economy as Kayin State has great economic potential.
3. It is hereby notified that both foreign investors and Myanmar citizen investors are welcome to invest in the following investment areas in Kayin State:
 - (a) Electric power generation, transmission and distribution
 - (b) Bonded Warehouse
 - (c) Establishment of industrial estate
 - (d) Infrastructure for the transportation sector
 - (e) Industry
 - (f) Agriculture
 - (g) Hotel and Tourism
4. The Myanmar Investment Commission will provide necessary assistance to investors and scrutinize business proposals promptly for investing in these investment areas. For detailed information please contact the following address:

Myanmar Investment Commission
No. 1, Thitsar Street, Yankin Township, Yangon
Phone 95 1 658129
Fax 95 1 658137
Email - emeraldsanda20@gmail.com
invthree@gmail.com



လူငယ်
အားကစား
ပြိုင်ပွဲ

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Adventure Bagan Temple Marathon to be held in coming Saturday

By May Thet Hnin

Under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, the Adventure Bagan Temple Marathon will be held in the ancient city Bagan on Saturday in cooperation with Myanmar Voyages International Tourism Co. and Denmark-based Albatros Travel.

The Bagan Temple Marathon will start from the east of Htilominlo Temple at 6 am. A

total of 245 international runners from more than 30 countries including the United States, Australia, Britain, Denmark, France and countries from Asia and 93 amateurs from Myanmar will participate. This event will be led by an experienced referee group from Denmark.

The race route for the runners will take them on a voyage of discovery into an alluring and untouched land with beautiful temples and sacred pagodas scattered across the ancient city.

There will be three events for both male and female runners along new and old Bagan city, for a total of 26 miles for full marathoners, 13 miles for the half marathoners and 16 miles for the mini-marathon runners. The winners will be awarded lacquer club prizes.

The Adventure Bagan Temple Marathon started in 2013 and this is in its fifth time in Myanmar. ■



Amateurs including international runners will participate at the Adventure Bagan Temple Marathon to be held in Bagan on Saturday. The Adventure Bagan Temple Marathon started in 2013. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Pope Francis to visit Myanmar

At the invitation of U Htin Kyaw, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, His Holiness Pope Francis will pay an official visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in the near future.—Myanmar News Agency

Republic of the Union of Myanmar President's Office Order 30/2017

5th Waxing of Nadaw, 1379 ME
23 November, 2017

Anti-corruption Commission reformed

In accordance with the provisions stated in the Section 7 of the Anti-corruption Law, "Anti-Corruption Commission" has been reformed with the following persons.

(1) U Aung Kyi Union Minister (Retired) Ministry of Information	Chairman
(2) U Soe Tint Director (Retired) Union Auditor-General's Office	Member
(3) U Aung Lwin Director (Retired) Ministry of Home Affairs	Member
(4) U Han Nyunt Deputy Director-General (Retired) Union Attorney-General's Office	Member
(5) Daw Myat Myat Soe Director-General (Retired) Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development	Member
(6) U Aung Than Myint Director-General Union Attorney-General's Office	Member
(7) U Khin Maung Myint Advocate	Member
(8) U Myo Myint Advocate	Member
(9) Daw Aye Aye Mu Deputy Director-General (Retired) Union Auditor-General's Office	Member
(10) U Zaw Win Police Major-General (Retired) Ministry of Home Affairs	Member
(11) Daw Lae Thwin Director (Retired) Union Auditor-General's Office	Member
(12) U San Win Director (Retired) Union Attorney-General's Office	Secretary

Sd/
Htin Kyaw
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

School buildings in Rakhine to be upgraded: Ministry of Education

FROM PAGE-2

U Kyi Win of constituency 12 in Ayeyarwady Region said, "The wording, 'Tatmadaw men and Myanmar Police Force are civil service personnel, but according to the nature of duties performed, they must not be concerned with these legal affairs,' must be erased. Though natures of duties they perform are different from other service

personnel, it is strictly prescribed that every citizen has rights of equality, freedom and justice according to the Constitution. As they are said to be equal in legal affairs, they must enjoy equal rights as included in the Constitution, being the public service personnel. Any institutions and organizations do not have privileges. In the Civil Service Law, every individual enjoying salaries

and provisions provided by the State are civil service personnel. The Defence Service Act, 1959 is still valid. Defence Service Act-related laws and rights have been prescribed. Benefits of Military Service had also been prescribed. It is necessary for all the civil service personnel to abide by rights and responsibilities related to Civil Service Law."

With regard to the amend-

ment (Bill), Major Naing Myint, Tatmadaw representative discussed. Following this, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Irrigation put forward the motion, "The Amendment on vacant, fallow and virgin lands management law (Bill) to Hluttaw, followed by the report of drafting committee concerning the Bill from Daw Nan Ni Ni Aye, drafting committee member.

Mahn Win Khaing Than, the Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw, announced that parliamentarians who are desirous of discussing the bill can enroll their names at the Hluttaw.

Finally, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw made a closing address, announcing that 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 6th Regular Session has been successfully convened. — Aung Ye Thwin ■

National drug control policy confirmation workshop held

THE workshop for national drug control policy confirmation was held yesterday morning at Hilton Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw.

In the workshop Chairman of Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) and Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe said that the narcotic production, selling and abuse are threatening people's health and peace and destroying the economic, social, culture and political foundations of the human societies.

According to World Drug Report 2017, five per cent of the world population or 255 million people have at least used drug once in a year. Of this 29.5 million people need treatment and 12 million are injecting drugs into their veins while death toll from drug usage is rising yearly. Contagious disease from drug usage such as HIV, hepatitis B, C and TB are also rising. World drugs problems are becoming more complicated and threaten directly or indirectly the public health, socio economic development, setting up of good administrative mechanism, peace and stability. In 2016, a Special Session of the General Assembly (UNGASS 2016) was held and dis-

cussion on approaching the drug problem from all angles and responding to it was made. As per the suggestion of UNGASS 2016 starting from September 2016, Road Map for the establishment of a new national drug control policy was persistently implemented. And in conducting the work of the Road Map discussion of the work group, discussion of the expert group and discussion within government departments were done in stages.

The approach in the policy that is currently drawn prioritizes public health and development and support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 1993 Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act were also amended and were confirmed in Amyotha Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw to mutually support the policy. Today's discussion will be to suggest and confirm the new drug control policy. Once the policy is drawn and confirmed 2 years of implementation period will be set for implementation in states and regions said the Union Minister.

Attendees to the workshop then discussed, suggested and approved the national drug control policy.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Bangladesh hands over three ambulances for Rakhine State

GOVERNMENT of People's Republic of Bangladesh donated three ambulances for Rakhine State development yesterday morning in Ministry

of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister H.E Mr. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali handed over the

ambulances to Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye who accepted the vehicles and returned a certificate

of honors and gifts.

The ambulances will be handed over to Rakhine State Government it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Meeting of Monitoring Committee for Environmental Conservation and Climate Change being held

THE meeting of monitoring committee of Environmental Conservation and Climate Change was being held at the meeting hall of the General Administrative

Department in Kyopinkya Township, Bago Region yesterday.

At the meeting, Township Administrator U Kyaw Zaya gave opening speech

and Staff Officer of District Forestry Department U Win Myint Naing and the officials of respective sector formulated the procedures of environmental conser-

vation and climate change and urged cooperation in carrying out these tasks. The department head and officials attended this meeting.—MDN ■

China's Blue Sky Rescue Team conducts Disaster Response Training

MYANMAR-CHINA Friendship Association-Central and China's Blue Sky Rescue Team jointly conducted Disaster Response Training at FE Building of the west entrance of Shwedagon Pagoda yesterday morning.

Minister for Rakhine Ethnic Affairs U Zaw Aye Maung, chairman of Myanmar-China Friendship Association-Central U Sein Win Aung and trainers from China's Blue Sky Rescue Team explained about opening the training and disasters regarding La Nina, El Nino and earthquakes.

Then, the Blue Sky Rescue Team donated US\$ 500 for Shwedagon Pagoda and received by U Thaung



Myanmar-China Friendship Association Chairman U Sein Win Aung addresses the disaster response training course held in Shwedagon Pagoda. PHOTO: MNA

Htaike, a trustee of Shwedagon Pagoda.

Total 64 trainees, including security staff taking duty at Shwedagon Pagoda and security staff from other security companies have attended the three-day lasting training,

from 23 to 25 November.

Some staff from the class will have been trained, to be invited to China and additional such kinds of trainings will be conducted at the five towns where the branch offices of Myanmar-China Friend-

ship Association are situated.

Blue Sky Rescue Team's instructor Mr. Yu Pu Zhang said the Blue Sky Rescue Team has over 200 sub-teams and 30,000 team members over the world.—Myanmar News Agency ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BALI VOY. NO (042)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BALI VOY. NO (042) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.11.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SILKAGO LOGISTICS
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ALLY VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ALLY VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.11.2017 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 EVERGREEN SHIPPING
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV PATHEIN STAR VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PATHEIN STAR VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.11.2017 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.

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First love, gay love, take centre stage in 'Call Me By Your Name'

LOS ANGELES — "Call Me By Your Name" became a landmark for gay romantic fiction when it was first published in 2007, but the makers of a new movie version say it will appeal to anyone who enjoys a good love story.

Starring Timothee Chalamet as a 17 year old in 1980s Italy, and Armie Hammer as a visiting American scholar, "Call Me By Your Name" is the sensual story of first love played out during an idyllic and languid summer.

Based on the 2007 novel by American writer Andre Aciman, the movie arrives in US theatres on Friday, 11 years after cowboy romance "Brokeback Mountain" won three Oscars and became a cultural phenomenon.

Like "Brokeback Mountain," "Call Me By Your Name" portrays its protagonists on their own terms, without judgement or stereotypes. It is also attracting Hollywood awards buzz, and this week it received six nominations for the Independent Spirit awards, including best male lead actor, supporting male lead and



Cast member Timothee Chalamet (C) poses with director Luca Guadagnino (R) and Tom Bernard, co-president of Sony Pictures Classics, during the premiere of "Call Me By Your Name" during AFI Fest 2017 in Los Angeles, on 10 November 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

best feature.

"You will be able to watch this and remember the first time you were infatuated with someone, or you had given your heart to somebody, or you had your

heart broken. These are core, base, elemental human emotions that anybody can identify with," Hammer said.

"So put any prejudices or preconceived notions aside and

just go into it with an open mind," he said.

Italian director Luca Guadagnino said it took 10 years to make the movie, partly because of financing and partly because

of its slow-burn, low drama story.

"It is not an action film, there is not a villain. It is about these people. They love one another and want to become better people. Maybe that was a bit odd for the market," he said.

Chalamet, 21, and Hammer had a crucial three weeks in Italy ahead of filming to build their relationship, much of which is played out on screen in looks and words unsaid.

"This movie lives and dies in the honesty and truth of the chemistry and romance that happens between these two people... That's a challenging thing as an actor to be that vulnerable, and honest and open and exposed emotionally, not only to another person but to a camera," Hammer said.

Guadagnino said making the low-budget movie was "a call of duty."

"There is a song by Prefab Sprout titled 'All the World Loves Lovers' and all the world loves people in love. That's what I want the audience to take away." — Reuters ■

Sidharth Malhotra to perform at IFFI closing ceremony

PANAJI — Actor Sidharth Malhotra is all set to take the centre stage at the closing ceremony of the ongoing 48th International Film Festival of India here.

The "Baar Baar Dekho" actor will be on his maiden visit to IFFI and will be seen performing on a medley of some of his biggest hits on the festival's closing day, 28 November.

"It's my first time at IFFI and I'm really excited about

performing there...I've heard such great things about the festival and I look forward to the experience," Sidharth said in a statement. This year, Bollywood has dominated the festival with the presence of several top stars from the industry.

While Sidharth will be performing, Superstar Salman Khan will bring down the curtains on the festival, along with actor Katrina Kaif.—PTI ■

Alexander Skarsgard to star in 'The Little Drummer Girl'

LOS ANGELES — Actor Alexander Skarsgard has joined the cast of drama series "The Little Drummer Girl".

The six-part series is based on the spy novel by the same name from author John le Carre, and actor Florence Pugh is already on board to play one of the lead characters, reported Deadline.

Pugh stars as young actress Charlie who finds herself involved with a stranger while holidaying in Greece in the

1970s. She ends up embroiled in a high-stakes plot with the man called Becker (Skarsgard), who turns out to be an Israeli intelligence officer.

The project will be developed by The Ink Factory, BBC One and AMC, which also developed "The Night Manager" series, based on Carre's another novel. Park Chan-Wook will direct the series with Amanda Coe penning the script. Shooting for the project is expected to start next year.—PTI ■

David Cassidy, teen heartthrob of 'The Partridge Family,' dies at 67

LOS ANGELES — David Cassidy, a singer and actor whose androgynous features and jaunty voice made him a 1970s teen heartthrob on the "The Partridge Family" television show, died on Tuesday at age 67, his publicist said.

Cassidy, who was diagnosed with dementia in his 60s, entered a Florida hospital over the weekend and succumbed to organ failure. He died in the hospital's intensive care unit, his publicist, Jo-Ann Geffen, said in a telephone interview.

Geffen released a statement from his family that said Cassidy died surrounded by loved ones "with joy in his heart and free from the pain that had gripped him for so long."

With dark hair cascading over his shoulders, hazel eyes and a look that emulated many rock stars of the day, Cassidy was cast at 19 in "The Partridge Family" for his sex appeal to girls, not his singing. When the show's producers discovered Cassidy's melodious voice, he became lead singer in the family band.



David Cassidy poses for photographers outside the Phoenix theatre in London, in 1995. PHOTO: REUTERS

He played the teenager Keith Partridge whose widowed mother — portrayed by his stepmother, Shirley Jones — formed a touring pop band with her offspring, traveling to gigs in a multi-colored bus.

The sitcom produced a number of hit songs, including

"I Think I Love You," which reached No. 1 on the Billboard chart in 1970, the year the show debuted.

The Oscar-winning Jones was his mentor as well as his co-star, and the two remained friends and collaborators long after the show ended in 1974.

"At first, David was overwhelmed with the whole thing and his ego blew way up," Jones told Life magazine in 1971. "And I think he hoped that some of those adoring fans would come a little closer to his own age."

On his own, as a performer who played guitar and piano in addition to singing, Cassidy sold millions of copies of his debut album, "Cherish," in 1972. He drew large crowds of mostly teen and pre-teen girls at concerts around the world.

Girls tried to pierce security perimeters to touch the star and spent their allowances on merchandise emblazoned with his image, including lunch boxes and 3-D postcards. His fan club was one of the largest of its kind. —Reuters ■

The social media answer to stressful US holiday: Friendsgiving

NEW YORK — Americans overwhelmed by crowded highways and the prospect of cooking a turkey and all the trimmings for the Thanksgiving holiday dinner are turning for relief to the latest social-media driven holiday - Friendsgiving.

From low-key gatherings of college buddies ahead of a holiday meal with family to intricately choreographed potlucks on Thanksgiving Day proper, celebrated this year on 23 November, Americans are sharing ways to avoid the stress of family gatherings. "Forever putting the fun in dysfunctional ... Happy #Friendsgiving," Providence, Rhode Island radio host Bekah Berger said on Twitter.

The number of people discussing Friendsgiving on social media sites including Twitter and Instagram has quadrupled this year compared with 2016, according to a review by social media analytics company Brandwatch.



Passengers wait in line to board an Amtrak train ahead of the Thanksgiving Day holiday, at Pennsylvania Station in New York City, US, on 20 November 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

The word "fun" appeared four times as often in tweets that mentioned Friendsgiving as it did

in those about Thanksgiving, the review found.

"People expressed how 'an-

noying' the holiday can be, with family and cooking emerging as common causes of contention,"

Brandwatch said in its analysis. "Negative emotions such as frustration and exhaustion were more prevalent within Thanksgiving conversations."

By contrast, many tweets about Friendsgiving echoed those of actor Israel Broussard, who after his celebration wrote: "feeling so so fat right now #friendsgiving." Some Friendsgiving fans turned their events into charity fundraisers, including social media marketing specialist Amanda Hite, who said: "Last night we hosted a #Friendsgiving gathered with some of our favorite people and raised \$3,800 for @nokidhungry."

Stationery retailer Paper Source, which sells Friendsgiving invitations, sang the holiday's praises in a blog: "Is there a better holiday than Friendsgiving? Friends, food, and let's face it, a drink or two make this unofficial holiday one that we most look forward to every year."—Reuters ■

Peace Music Festival Contest (Level- III; stage 4) to commence

THE Level-III Peace Music Festival contest will begin on 26 November in Yangon.

With the sponsorship of Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV), the level-I contest was held in eleven cities around the country and then level-II con-

test was held in Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw.

Now Level-III contests are being held in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon and then fourth stage of Level-III will be held in Hexagon Complex in Tamwe, Yangon on 26 November.—MDN ■

Singapore opens test circuit for autonomous vehicles

SINGAPORE — Singapore on Wednesday opened a test circuit for autonomous vehicles in a bid to play a role in developing standards for their use on public roads.

The 2.2 hectare CETRAN Autonomous Vehicles Test Center, the first of its kind in Southeast Asia, has been designed to look like a real urban road network, complete with traffic junctions, bus stop and zebra crossing. It can also simulate tropical rains and flood conditions, reflecting the climate in Singapore and surrounding region.

The center is a government initiative, developed jointly by the Land Transport Authority, which is under the Transport Ministry, JTC, a state developer of infrastructure, and the state-run Nanyang Technological University.

"As there are currently no existing international test standards or international certification bodies for AVs, CETRAN will anchor Singapore's position in supporting the testing and eventual widespread deployment of AVs," the site developers said in a joint statement.—Kyodo News ■

HK tycoon pledges \$128 million to charity as index passes milestone

HONG KONG — The billionaire chairman of Hong Kong developer Henderson Land said he will donate HK\$1 billion (\$128 million) to charity after the city's benchmark index surpassed the 30,000-point level, keeping a pledge he made seven years ago.

Lee Shau-kee, nicknamed "Hong Kong's Warren Buffett", promised in his autobiography in 2010 that he would donate HK\$1 billion when the Hang Seng Index surpassed 30,000 points - a level last scaled in November 2007 - and would continue to donate that sum each year the index stayed above that level.

"He will donate HK\$2 billion a year if the index goes above 40,000 points as part of his aspiration of helping millions of people," Henderson Land spokeswoman Bonnie Ngan told Reuters.

"We have checked with our boss and Mr Lee says he will keep his promise and will donate HK\$1 billion." Hong Kong's benchmark index ended above 30,000 points for the first time in 10 years on Wednesday, closing at 30,003.49, amid signs Chinese investors were stepping up buying of Hong Kong stocks. The blue-chip index extended gains on Thursday, rising 0.1 per cent to 30,024 by the



Tycoon Lee Shau-kee, founder, Chairman and Managing Director of property conglomerate Henderson Land Development Company Limited, poses in front of a building model during a news conference in Hong Kong in 2015. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

lunch break. The index has risen 36.5 per cent so far this year, and is up 6.3 per cent this month.

Lee is looking at 10 projects related to education and helping to alleviate poverty, Ngan said, adding that details would be announced once finalised. One in five people in Hong Kong, or 1.35 million people, fall beneath the poverty line, a record high, according to the government's Poverty Situation Report released last Friday. With a net worth of \$28.7 billion, Lee ranks as Hong Kong's second-richest person af-

ter tycoon Li Ka-Shing. Forbes listed him No.32 on its rich list of billionaires globally. "My wish is to donate HK\$1 billion a year as charity as the Hang Seng Index hits 30,000 points," Lee had written on his website. "On average, each person would receive HK\$10,000 in subsidies, meaning some 100,000 people would benefit," he added. Shares of Henderson Land, which has a market value of HK\$207 billion (\$26.5 billion), were up 0.4 per cent on Thursday. They have risen nearly 40 per cent so far this year.—Reuters ■

Myanmar U-21, Mongolia to play football friendly today

KyawZin Lin

THE Myanmar U-21 national football team and the Mongolian national team will play an international friendly match today evening at 6pm at Thu-wunna Stadium in Yangon.

The friendly against Mongolia will expose Myanmar's players to different style of play that they have not seen before, coaches said at a press conference yesterday.

"The friendly match is one of the preparations for the M-150 Cup in Thailand. We can see different playing styles from Mongolia, as the team is not an ASEAN football country. The Myanmar U-21 team can get so much experience from this match. The world ranking difference between the two teams is not important. We are watching how Myanmar teams can show their skills in their international matches", said Myanmar U-23

Head Coach Gerd Zeise.

"My boys can get not only experience, but also can be seeing some requirements of our team by playing this match. The match will be really a good preparation for our team to compete in Vietnam's Thanh Nien international cup", said Myanmar U-21 Head Coach U Kyi Lwin.

"Firstly, I would like to say thank you to the Myanmar Football Federation for getting an opportunity to test with Myanmar teams. Both teams can get benefits by exchanging strategies and tactics. The two friendly matches against U-21 and U-23 of Myanmar will be really good matches. The temperature difference between Myanmar and Mongolia is our main problem. The friendly matches are intended for an international football competition in Indonesia", said Mongolia national football team Head Coach Micheal Weiss. ■

Yangon United recruits Hanthawady's midfielder Maung Maung Lwin



Maung Maung Lwin(left), football star, transfers to Yangon United from Hanthawady United. PHOTO:YUFC

YANGON United FC, which is preparing for the next season of the Myanmar National League, recruited Maung Maung Lwin, a midfielder for Hanthawady United FC, and also a national team star player, according to the team's website.

"It is my honour to be here, in such a marvelous team. It is

my dream to be playing for Yangon United. I am overwhelmed by my transfer and I will bring the victories for my team" Maung Maung Lwin told Yangon United FC.

"I would like to express thanks to the President and Officials of the team for having trust in me. I will do my best for

the club to hold up the MNL Cup and could you please all the fans stand for me", he added on his recruiting.

Yangon United also recruited former Myanmar national footballer Swan Lam Mang last week. The recruiting period is from 1 November to 13 January. —KyawZin Lin ■

Coach-less Australia wrangle with a finishing problem

SYDNEY — Australia will head into a second World Cup in a row with a newly-appointed coach next year in the wake of Ange Postecoglou's resignation a week after qualification was assured.

Postecoglou, who took over when Holger Osieck was sacked eight months before the 2014 World Cup, only hinted at the reasons for his departure on Wednesday but it might be that Australia's laboured qualification played a part.

Missing out on a direct ticket to their fourth straight World Cup finals prompted a barrage of criticism of the coach and the playoff victories over Syria and Honduras did little to ease fears that Australia are just not that good.

Postecoglou overhauled an ageing squad at the start of his reign and his young side performed creditably in Brazil, even if they lost all three matches to Chile, the Netherlands and Spain, before going on to win the 2015 Asian Cup.



Australia's Mile Jedinak celebrates scoring a goal with team mates at ANZ Stadium, Sydney, Australia, on 15 November 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

The departing coach always felt that it was no good just getting to the World Cup, the team

had to play a style of football that would enable them compete on the biggest stage.

To that end, he made the switch to a three-man defence for the final round of Asian qual-

ifying, a move that was to provide much ammunition to his critics amid whispers that the players were uncomfortable with the formation.

The main problem the new coach will have to wrangle with when he is appointed is not at the back, however, but who is going to score the goals.

Tim Cahill will be 38 by the time his fourth World Cup comes around but Australia needed his 49th and 50th international goals to get past Syria, while skipper Mile Jedinak notched a two-penalty hat-trick to win the Honduras tie.

Those two aside, there is plenty of attacking talent in the Socceroos squad with players like Aaron Mooy, Tom Rogic, Robbie Kruse and the fast improving Mathew Leckie but they are creators rather than finishers.

Australian teams will always offer physicality and a positive mental attitude but without goals, they might struggle in Russia whoever they draw. —Reuters ■