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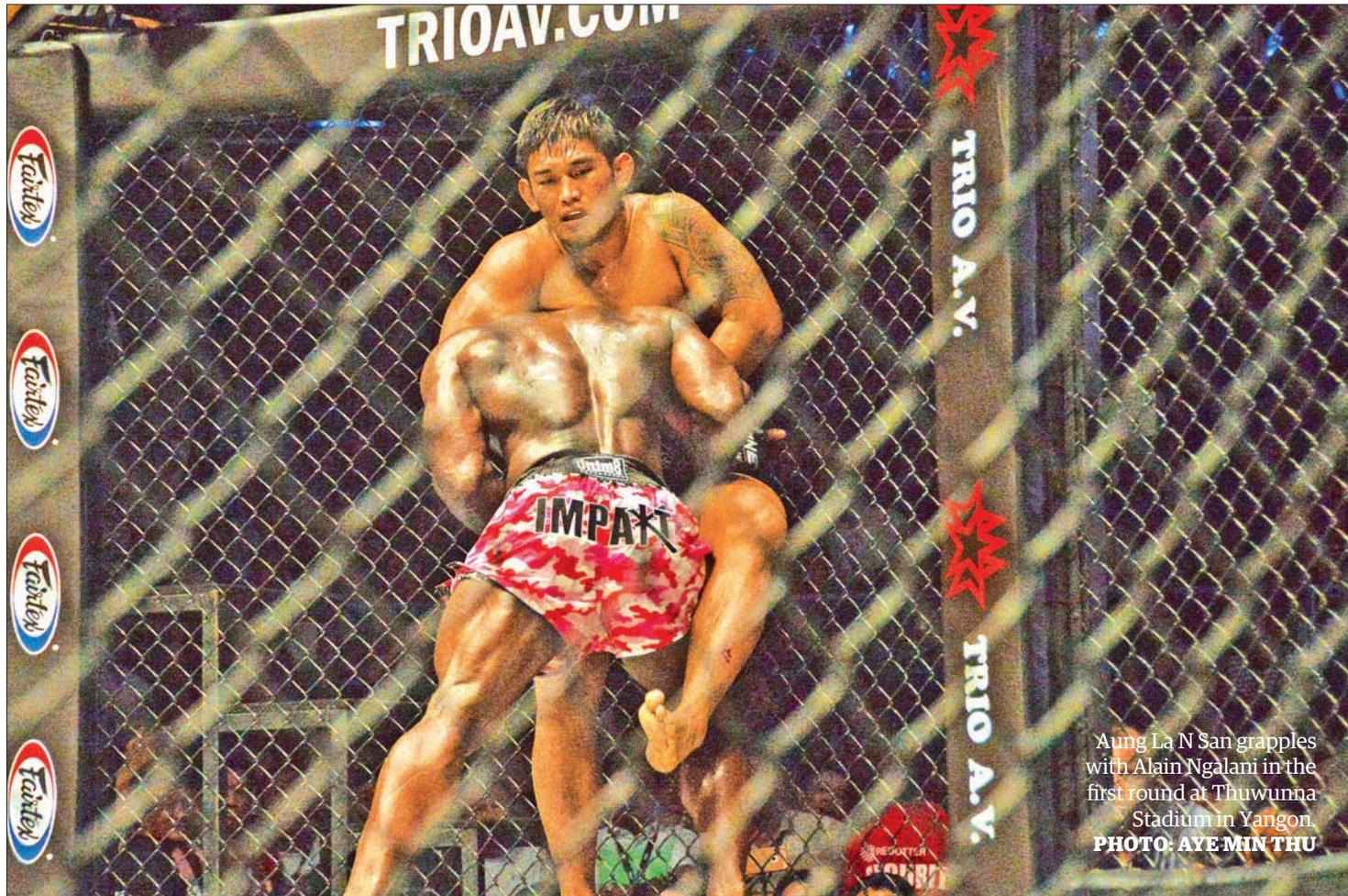
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Aung La N Sang grapples with Alain Ngalani in the first round at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon. PHOTO: AYE MIN THU

China asks for patience over Myanmar's Rakhine issue

A CHINESE envoy to the United Nations on Thursday asked for the patience of world organisations and the international community over the Rakhine State issue. The situation in Rakhine State is moving toward stabilisation as a result of efforts by the Myanmar government, Wu Haitao, the charge d'affaires of the Chinese mission to the United Nations, told the Security Council. The issue of Rakhine State has complex historical, ethnic and religious factors and many differences and conflicts have been brewing for a long time, said Wu.

The governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh are seeking solutions to the refugee problem through negotiations and consultations. The United Nations and the international community should have patience and provide constructive assistance to and cooperate with Myanmar for a proper settlement of the issue, he said.—Xinhua



Wu Haitao.

'Burmese Python' Aung La N Sang bests 'Panther' in first round

IN front of a raucous hometown crowd, Aung La N Sang, the One Championship middleweight title holder, defeated his bigger, heavier opponent Alain Ngalani in the first round at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

Aung La N Sang, also

known as the "Burmese Python", an MMA fighter from Kachin State, won the open-weight main event by defeating four-time Muay Thai and Kickboxing Heavyweight World Champion Alain Ngalani, also known as "The Panther", four

minutes and 51 seconds into the first round.

The One Championship's world middleweight champion took some shots early from his heavyweight opponent, but then wore the bigger man down to the roars of a wild partisan crowd.

Ngalani's strength and physique posed a problem for Aung La N Sang, but in the end, the hometown hero prevailed as he locked his opponent in a chokehold that eventually elicited a submission from Alain Ngalani.

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Fourth Irrawaddy Literary Festival held in Mandalay

By Min Htet Aung

THE fourth Irrawaddy Literary Festival opened yesterday morning at the Mandalay Hill Resort, Aungmyethazan Township, in Mandalay.

The festival was attended by Union Minister for Information

Dr. Pe Myint, Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, regional ministers, departmental officials, local and foreign writers, invited guests and literature enthusiasts.

Dr. Pe Myint delivered an opening speech in which he

mentioned his enthusiastic participation in the first Irrawaddy Literary Festival held in the compound of Inya Lake Hotel in Yangon.

"There are two memorable things that I want to say about Irrawaddy Literary Festival.

Firstly, Irrawaddy Literary Festival is attended by a lot of literature enthusiasts such as writers and poets, where many programmes on literature were conducted simultaneously and has the precedence of being started in Myanmar" said the

Union Minister.

"Another significant fact about Irrawaddy Literary Festival is the joint participation of Myanmar and international writers. This is a very valuable fact.

SEE PAGE-3

Mobile team gives health care to families of security forces

By Aung Kyaw Oo

SECURITY forces in border areas in Kyeekanpyin Village in Maungtaw, Rakhine State and their families were given medical care free of charge by a mobile medical care unit led by the head of the Maungtaw township public health department.

Dr. Kyaw Maung Maung Thein, head of the township public health department, said, "It is our regular mobile care visit. This is the third time we have visited Kyeekanpyin headquarters to give medical check-ups and treatment to security forces and their families. Similarly, we have been going round to the southern and northern parts of Maungtaw to give medical care. Major cases were not found yet

until now. But the local populace was found to lack medical knowledge. So the medical staff tried their best to make them care for their personal hygiene, ways to behave in their daily life such as washing hands as a regular routine and warning them to consult with medical doctors whenever illness affects them."

The mobile medical care unit of Maungtaw is regularly visiting villages to give medical care free of charge and to share medical knowledge. If patients need to be given more extensive medical treatment they will be sent to hospitals in Maungtaw, Sittway and Buthidaung. Daw Yin Yin Swe, mother of Kaung Htet Naing, came to the mobile clinic for herself and her son.

"We came here to consult



A doctor from mobile health care providing medical treatment free of charge to a child in Kyeekanpyin Village in Maungtaw, Rakhine State on 3 November 2017. **PHOTO: AUNG KYAW OO**

with the doctor concerning with my son's nervous system problem. We were greatly happy to hear that his illness could be cured. As for me, they cannot. Doctors referred us to specialists, and are helping us to go to them. Now necessary examina-

tions are being made. We owe a lot of thanks to the doctors."

The staff of the mobile care units include Dr Kyaw Maung Maung Thein, head of the township public health department, Specialist Pediatrician Professor Dr Hla Win Myint of Magwe

Institute of Medicine, Dr. Nu Thazin Win, Magwe Institute of Medicine, Lecturer Dr Nyi Nyi Wai Yan Zaw, Dr Hnin Wint Wint Swe and over 20 other medical professionals. On 4 November, the mobile care unit will visit Pantawpyin village. ■

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker inspects electrical sub-stations construction

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung accompanied by Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing and officials inspected the construction of Ponnagyun-Yathedaung-Buthidaung-Maungtaw 65.1 miles 66 KV power line and 66/11 KV, 10 MVA substations in Yathedaung, Buthidaung and Maungtaw, a project work to distribute electric power.

On arrival at 230 KV Ponnagyun main substation, the Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and

party were explained about the project implementation status by Project Director (Northern portion) U Min Naing with the Deputy Minister providing additional explanations. Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and party then inspected the 230 KV Ponnagyun main substation switch yard.

To provide 24 hours (a day) of electricity to low development area of Yathedaung, Buthidaung and Maungtaw region in northern Rakhine State, electric power from national grid that had reached 230 KV Ponnag-

yun main Substation will be transmitted along 65.1 miles of Ponnagyun-Yathedaung-Buthidaung-Maungtaw 66 KV power line and Yathedaung, Buthidaung and Maungtaw 66/11 KV, 10 MVA substations. The project works were started in September 2017 and will distribute electricity to Yathedaung in March 2018, Buthidaung in June 2018 and Maungtaw in December 2018 and the entire project is estimated to cost Ks 30 billion it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and officials visit the 230 KV Ponnagyun main sub-power station switch yard in Ponnagyun, Rakhine State on 3 November 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

Constitutional Tribunal Chairman U Myo Nyunt arrives back from Republic of Korea

A delegation led by U Myo Nyunt, Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal, arrived back from the Republic of Korea on the evening of November 2nd after attending the first international meeting hosted by Permanent Research Secretariat of the Association of Asian Constitutional Courts and Equivalent Institutions (AACC) from 30 October to 2

November. Constitutional Tribunal Chairman U Myo Nyunt and party were welcomed at Yangon Mingaladon International Airport by officials of Constitutional Tribunal.

Constitutional Tribunal Chairman U Myo Nyunt was accompanied by member of the tribunal U Kyaw San.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Illegal foods seized at check point in Kyaikto

POLICE confiscated five kinds of foods and feedstuff for cat found on a vehicle on Thursday.

The illegal foods were found in a search into NIS-SAN X TRAIL Wagon at the Mayanchaung inspection gate, Kyaikto Township, Mon State.

The seized foods and the unlicensed vehicle are estimated worth Ks 7.297 million. On

that day at the Mayanchaung gate, police took action against seven cases.

On 2nd November, there were 812 vehicles exporting goods and 972 vehicles importing goods along Mandalay-Muse Pyidaungsu road as well as 127 vehicles exporting goods and 45 vehicles exporting goods along Yangon- Myawaddy road.—GNLM ■

Fourth Irrawaddy Literary Festival held in Mandalay

FROM PAGE-1

Historically, our Myanmar literature had developed together with international literature. From the start, the earliest Myanmar literature of the Bagan era was enhanced by Buddhist literature and India's literature from the Indian sub-continent. The inventive power of Myanmar literature writers was increased when India's literature was combined with Myanmar's own inventions and ideas. When contacts were made with western countries, from English, we got to know Europe and the world's literature. From that Myanmar modern literature came about".

Dr Zaw Myint Maung, Chief Minister of Mandalay Region Government, said, "Holding the Irrawaddy Literary Festival in Mandalay, where there existed cultural heritages and Myanmar Old City is a pride for us. It is dreadful for print media to disappear out of our sight. The Ayeyarwady Literary Festival held today greatly interested younger generations. We were elated to have seen enthusiasm of younger generation, hence no need to worry about extinction of Myanmar literature. It is incumbent upon us for our literature not to disappear, and simultaneously we are encouraging speeding up the Myanmar



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint delivers the address at the opening of Fourth Irrawaddy Literary Festival. PHOTO: MNA

literature. As we are protecting for Ayeyarwady River not to disappear from our map, we, readers, literature-lovers and literary scholars need to protect Myanmar Literature together with the Government."

UNay Oak read the message to the Irrawaddy Literary Festival from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

"The name "Irrawaddy" evokes greatness, beauty and

romance for all of us in this land which has been nourished by her waters throughout the ages. The Irrawaddy Literary Festival is now into its fourth year and my best wishes for its success go out to all the organizers and participants who will be evoking the greatness, beauty and romance of literature from different lands, bringing us all closer to one another, flowing together in un-

derstanding and friendship," said the State Counsellor in her message.

The Irrawaddy Literary Festival was held under the sponsorship of Charitable Trust, which is registered in England, in partnership with U Nay Oak, Dr. Khin Maung Nyo and Dr. Aung Myint from Myanmar.

At the festival, various kinds of papers will be read out by 30 literati from international coun-

tries, 58 from Yangon and 59 from Mandalay — 147 altogether.

At the first floor of the hotel where the festival is being held, there are paper reading sessions, talks with international literati, a drawing room, and literary talk show rooms. In the open space of the hotel, there are book stalls, cartoon exhibitions, poem recitations, puppet shows, and a Speaker's Corner. The festival will continue until 5 November. ■

Monsoon rice in Maungtau Township harvested with Kubota harvesters

By Han Lin Naing

FIVE-hundred acres of ripe monsoon rice in Kyaungtaung village tract were harvested yesterday morning with eight Kubota harvesters of the Agricultural Mechanisation Department. The harvesting was led by U Khin Zaw Ohn of the Agricultural Mechanisation Department head office with 22 staff members from the Myinlut frontline station.

"Rice in Kanpu village tract was harvested with six Kubota harvesters on 29 October and will be completed on 4 November. Now, harvesting is conducted in Kyaungtaung village tract with 8 Kubota harvesters. It is expected to be completed on 5 November. After this village tract, monsoon rice from 400 acres in Thapyay-taw village tract and more than

5,000 acres in Myinlut village tract will be harvested" said U Khin Zaw Ohn.

Personnel from the Department of Agriculture and the Land Record Department were also participating in the harvesting in their respective sectors. The Department of Agriculture is beefing up their participating personnel with workers from district and town offices, it is learnt.

"Our Department of Agriculture will accept the harvested monsoon rice. We will clean it, sun-dry it at moisture level of 13 per cent and pack it. Afterwards, it will be stored", said U Soe Maung of the Department of Agriculture.

Meanwhile, the Land Record Department is taking record of the harvested rice and the output of each farmer.



A worker harvests rice with the harvester in Maungtau. PHOTO: HAN LIN NAING

A total of 71,552 acres of monsoon rice was planted in Maungtau Township, and more than 40,000 acres are now ready to be harvested, it is learnt.

While some of the rice was harvested by Kubota harvesters from the Agricultural Mechanisation Department, in some villages, farmers trained on us-

ing machine tillers distributed by Agricultural Mechanisation Department were seen harvesting monsoon rice with those machine tillers. ■

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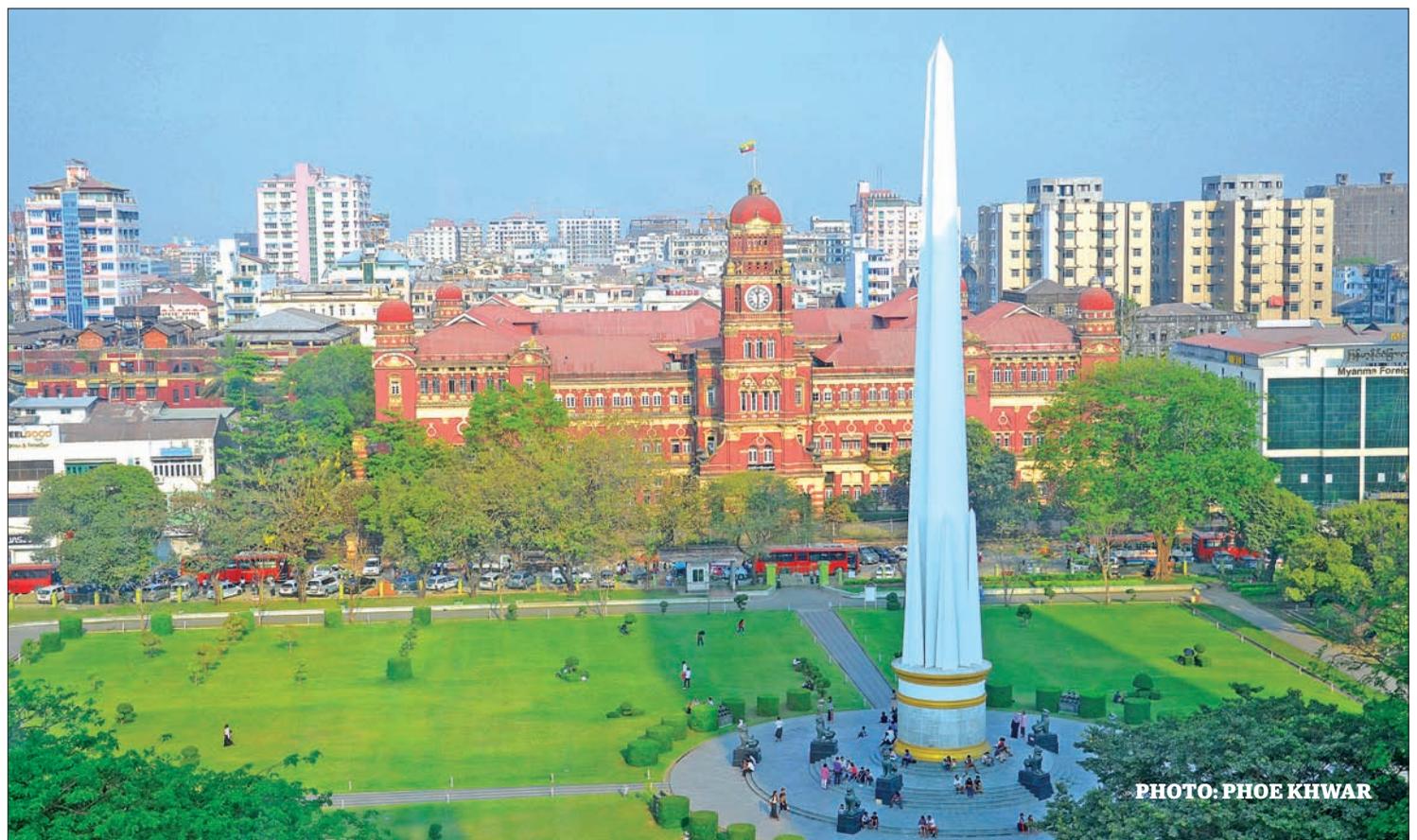


PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Plan aims to make public buildings in Yangon quake-resistant

By May Thet Hnin

VICE-Chairman of the Myanmar Earthquake Committee Dr Myo Thant said plans are underway to renovate public buildings such as hospitals, schools and government office buildings in Yangon so that they become more resistant to earthquakes.

"The plan will be implemented by the committee in cooperation with the Myanmar Engineering Society with international support, targeting structures with earthquake-resistant construction materials," he continued.

The renovation plan was drafted three years ago. At present, a survey to collect data relating to public buildings in five townships in the city has been conducted as a first phase of the project. The renovation plan has prioritised public buildings. Plans are underway to extend

the scheme to housings, said Dr Myo Thant.

The project will be implemented with the aid of the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UNHABITAC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The plan mainly aims to protect structures from earthquake hazards for public safety, Dr Myo Thant said. After the Tarlay earthquake hit Myanmar in 2010, Chauk, Mawlaik and Thabeikkyin towns faced several earthquakes that registered over 6.0 on the Richter scale.

"High-magnitude earthquakes occurred within four, five or ten years in the country. Fortunately, earthquakes happened in towns far away from densely populated area. It gives us a chance to protect ourselves.

Cities sitting on the Sagaing fault may be prone to earthquakes any time. This is why we need to prepare for next earthquakes," said Dr Myo Thant.

Currently, the Myanmar Earthquake Committee is drafting seismic hazard maps in order to show risky areas. The project is expected to be finished by the end of this year.

The existing seismic hazard map was produced in 2012. Since 2016, the map has been upgraded based on information of earthquake-prone faults. Four new seismic hazard maps are planned to be published in December. For the time being, two out of four maps have been drafted. The committee will produce four maps — the first map showing the recurrence period of earthquakes in 475 years, the second in 2,475 years, the third in 975 years and the last for 225 years.

Dr. Yin Myo Min Htwe from the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology said that the department is conducting several surveys on the probability of re-occurrence of earthquakes in cooperation with foreign experts and international organisations as the powerful earthquakes hit the country since yore. In collaboration with international bodies, arrangements are being made to extend the installation of seismometers throughout the country, he added.

The powerful 1930 Bago earthquake and the 1839 Inwa earthquake in Myanmar resulted in hundreds of casualties. The country is in danger of strong earthquakes. It is estimated that powerful earthquakes are likely to hit the country in the future. The Myanmar Earthquake Committee urges people to make sure that their buildings are earthquake resistant. ■

Myanmar prepares to directly export honey to EU market

EFFORTS are being made by Myanmar beekeepers to export domestically produced honey to European market on a direct basis beginning next year, according to a report of the Myawady Daily issued on Friday.

U Aung Min, director of the department of beekeeping, said that food safety was a key point

of discussion between Myanmar officials and EU delegates at a recent meeting.

At the meeting, the EU officials vowed to offer costs of laboratory testing and conduct training courses on the export of honey to EU countries for the first year. Costs of lab and training will be provided by local

entrepreneurs and merchants in the following years, he added.

He went on to say that good quality honey based on international standards is the only honey that would be made available to send to the European market.

For the time being, Myanmar exports honey to international countries through Thai-

land, earning between US\$1,700 and 1,800 per tonne. Beekeepers say that the prevailing prices for honey are low.

Locally produced honey has good potential to sell in the overseas markets, and beekeepers are looking forward to penetrating targeted international markets.—GNLM ■

10,000 motorbikes in one week imported across borders

MORE than 10,000 motorbikes were imported from China, Thailand and India through border points of entry in the third week of last month, according to the trade authorities.

Between 14 and 20 October, Myanmar bought 10,589 motorcycles worth US\$5.1 million from neighbouring countries, an increase of over 8,900 motorbikes compared with the previous week.

This time last week, domestic importers bought only 1,600 motorbikes across the borders.

The country imported 9,389 motorbikes worth over \$3 million via the Muse border trade zone and Kanpaiktee border gate between Myanmar and China, 1,170 motorbikes worth \$1.9 million through Myawady border station between Myanmar and Thailand, and 20 motorbikes worth \$3,000 from the Tamu cross-border point between Myanmar and India.

In the third week of October, cross-border deals with China increased dramatically, importers say.—Shwe Khine ■



A truck carrying motorbikes is seen near the 105-mile Muse Trade Zone, Northern Shan State. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

China imports about 560 tonnes of herbal raw materials via Muse border

CHINA imported 14 kinds of herbal raw materials weighing more than 559 tonnes from Myanmar through the Muse 105-mile trade zone during the third week of October, according to border merchants.

Myanmar increased its border exports of herbal raw materials to China within the aforesaid week, earning US\$643,000

from these bilateral trade deals.

Compared with the previous week before 14 October, the export of herbal raw materials rose by 429 tonnes. China imported only over 130 tonnes of similar natural products from Myanmar between 7 and 13 October. The marketable herbal raw materials include dried ginger, elephant foot yam tubers

and turmeric.

During the same week, Thailand also imported Myanmar's dried gooseberry weighing nearly five tonnes worth over \$2,900 through Myawady border point of entry while Myanmar imported over a tonne of herbal products worth \$22,000 from India via Reed border trade station.—Swe Nyein ■

Betel nut exports from Myanmar to India declines

MYANMAR exported over 120 tonnes of locally produced betel nut to India from border gates between 14 and 20 October, earning US\$0.099 million, trade authorities said.

The country saw a decrease in export of betel nut through Tamu and Reed border points of entry during the aforementioned period. The export of betel nut in the third week of last month declined by 313 tonnes when

matched against the previous week's total of 434 tonnes.

According to statistics issued by border trade authorities, the country exported \$0.092 million worth of betel nut weighing 113 tonnes through Reed cross-border point, while local exporters sold about seven tones of betel nut worth \$007 million via Tamu border trade station on 14-20 October. In addition, other commodities including 45 tonnes

of cigarette worth \$0.416 million was also exported from India at Tamu border whereas the country exported snacks, cigarette, clothes, plastics and blankets weighing 143 tons through Reed border, earning \$0.145 million.

There are about 150,000 acres of betel nut plantation in the country. Taninthayi and Ayeyawady regions as well as Mon State largely supply betel nut.—Khine Khant ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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

"Sunday Special" အချုပ်ပို (၈) မျက်နှာ ပါဝင်သည်

နေပြည်တော်
ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ရုံးအမှတ် (၇) နေပြည်တော်၊ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရုံးချုပ်)၊ ဝိမံရေးရာဌာန၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၄၁၂၁၀၈

နေပြည်တော်
နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တပ်ကုန်း)၊ ဝေယျာသီရိမြို့နယ်၊ ဝေပေါင်လမ်း၊ နေပြည်တော်၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၃၆၁၄၈၊ ၀၆၇၃၆၁၂၉

ရန်ကင်း
The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊ ငါးထပ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ဝဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၁၀၆၀၅၄၂၊ ၀၉၉၇၄၄၄၄၄၄၄

မန္တလေး
လမ်း (၂၀ x ၂၀) ကြား၊ (၈၂ x ၈၃) လမ်းကြား၊ ပုလဲဇွဲ ရောင်ရမ်းမန္တလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၂၃၂၇၂၅၀၂၃၂၅၅၀

တောင်ကြီး
ရုံးကြီးလမ်း၊ သစ်တောရပ်ကွက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၁၂၁၁၆၄၊ ၀၉၅၂၁၄၄၅၅

မကွေး
နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ တပ်မ (၈၈) တပ်နယ်ရေးအနီး၊ မကွေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၃၂၃၇၀၂

ကျိုင်းတုံ
မြို့ပေါ် (၃-၈) အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းသွယ်၊ မြို့ပေါ်လမ်း၊ ကျိုင်းတုံမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၄၂၅၅၉၂

တလေး
အောင်ဇေယျရပ်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊ တလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၂၀၃၃

မြင်းကြီးများ
အမှတ် (၄၁)၊ ရေခဲရပ်ကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊ မြင်းကြီးများမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄၂၂၄၆၂

စစ်တွေ
ရွှေဘိုလမ်းနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊ မိမိတပ်ကြီးအနီး၊ မန်းကျော်မြိုင်ရပ်ကွက်၊ စစ်တွေမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃၂၃၀၆၈

လားရှိုး
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ခြောက်
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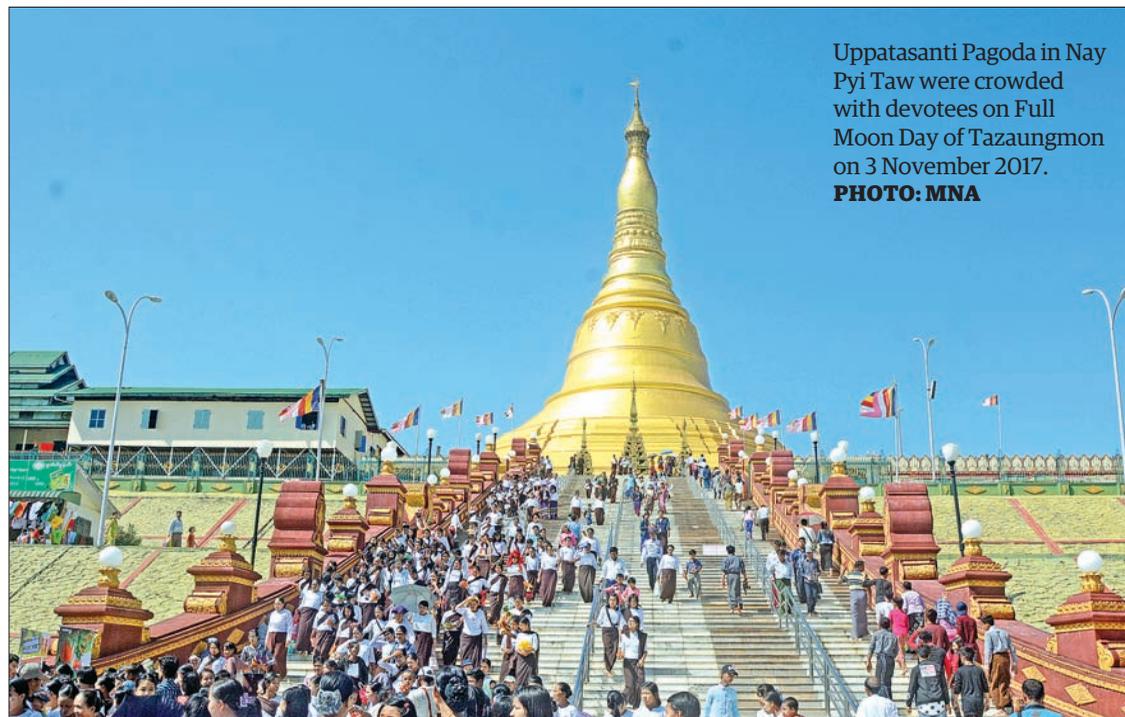
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Tazaungmon Festival celebration



PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT

Pagodas in Yangon including Shwedagon were crowded with devotees on Full Moon Day of Tazaungmon, (Samanaphala Day) on 3rd November 2017. Buddhist devotees and local residents performed meritorious deeds on the Full Moon of Tazaungmon in townships of Yangon Region. They offered Matho robes to Buddha images at famous pagodas and monasteries, donated Kathina robes to Buddhist monks, held lighting festivals and paid respect to senior citizens.



Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw were crowded with devotees on Full Moon Day of Tazaungmon on 3 November 2017.
PHOTO: MNA



Buddhist devotees offering Matho robes to the Buddha image at Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon on Full Moon Day of Tazaungmon on 3rd November 2017 PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT

Meritorious deeds on Fullmoon Day of Tazaungmon in Maungtaw



Devotees light candles for prayers during the Tazaungmon full moon day festival at the Myo Oo Shwesigone Pagoda in Maungtaw on 3 November. PHOTO: AUNG KYAW OO

By Aung Kyaw Oo

TODAY being Full Moon Day of Tazaungmon according to Myanmar calendar, pagodas and stupas in Maungtaw, Rakhine State are crowded with Buddhist pilgrims offering candle lights to Buddha Images, reciting Parittas and offering offertories.

Starting from early morning, at the Myo Oo Shwesigone Pagoda in Maungtaw and at the historic Mahakyan Buddha Image, religious scripture recital teams recited parittas including Dhamma Cakka Pavuttana Sutta and observed Sabbath-keeping.

U Kyaw Aye Maung, vice-chairman of board of pagoda trustee said, "Myo Oo Shwesigone Pagoda is the well-known one of Maungtaw. On the Holy Day, local people come to pay a pilgrimage visit and offer offertories. Pagoda

trustee committee arranges merry-making performances for pilgrims on these days such as lotteries without blank reward, and maze walking programs." He added, "Due to outbreaks of terrorist attacks this year, it was not so crowded this year, compared to those of previous years. But compared to recent days, pilgrims were seen more than ever. Local people prayed for having the peaceful days free from terrorism." U Aung Htun Lin, a pilgrim from ward 1 said, "Every sacred holiday, our family always comes to pay pilgrimage visit. It is a famous pagoda in Maungtaw. Though not crowded like previous years, after the events of terrorist attacks, the present Full Moon Day of Tazaungmon is the most crowded." At night, singing contest, musical performance and soaring lighting balloons are held.

Syria declares victory over Islamic State in Deir al-Zor

BEIRUT — The Syrian government declared victory over Islamic State in the eastern city of Deir al-Zor on Friday, a big blow to the jihadists as their last stronghold in Syria crumbles.

Deir al-Zor, on the west bank of the Euphrates River, is the largest and most important city in eastern Syria, and is the centre of the country's oil production.

"The armed forces, in cooperation with allied forces, liberated the city of Deir al-Zor completely from the clutches of the Daesh terrorist organisation," the military source said, using an Arabic acronym for Islamic State.

The army, backed by Russian bombers, Iran and Shi'ite militias, is advancing towards the last significant town held by Islamic State in Syria, Albu Kamal, which is also located on the western bank of the Euphrates.

A rival offensive by Kurdish and Arab militias supported by a U.S.-led coalition with air strikes and special forces, is pressing Islamic State on the eastern bank.



A man stands near military vehicles that belong to the Syrian army in Deir al-Zor, Syria, on 21 September 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Iraqi forces on Friday said they had begun their own final offensive against Islamic State on the Iraqi side of the jihadist territory that straddles the border between the two countries, entering the city of al-Qaim.

Islamic State had for years besieged a government enclave

in Deir al-Zor until an army advance relieved it in early September, starting a battle for jihadist-held parts of the city.

The army captured al-Hamidiya, Sheikh Yassin, al-Ardhi and al-Rashidia districts in recent attacks and the al-Hawiq district was the last to be held

by the jihadists, a military media unit run by the army's ally Hezbollah reported.

Engineering units were searching streets and buildings in those districts for mines and booby traps left by Islamic State, the military source said. —Reuters ■

Iraqi forces enter al-Qaim in final offensive on Islamic State-held territory

ERBIL, (Iraq) — Iraqi forces have entered al-Qaim, one of the last remaining territories in the country still held by Islamic State militants, the Joint Operations Command said on Friday.

Units from the Iraqi army, Counter-Terrorism Services, Sunni tribal and Iranian-backed Popular Mobilisation forces are participating in an offensive to recapture al-Qaim and Rawa, two towns which lie on the border area with Syria.

Welcoming the offensive, the US-led international military coalition, which has run an air campaign against Islamic State in both Syria and Iraq since 2014, said in a statement that approximately 1,500 Islamic State fighters were estimated to remain in the immediate vicinity of al-Qaim. —Reuters ■

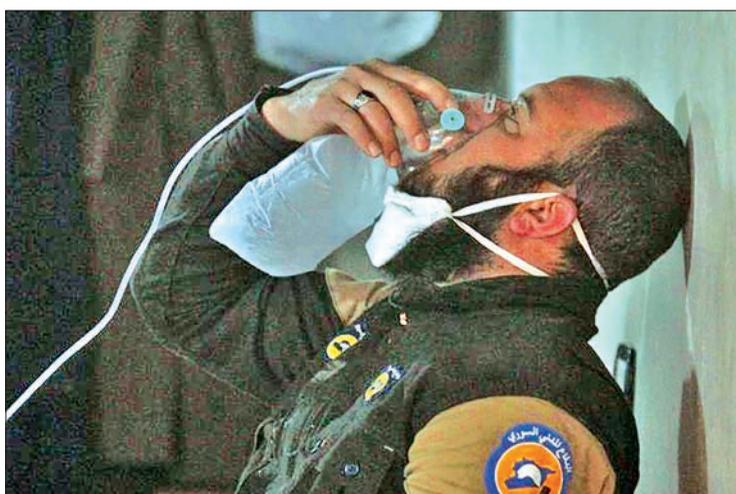
US draft UN resolution seeks extension of Syria chemical probe

UNITED NATIONS — The United States has circulated a draft UN Security Council resolution that would extend by two years the mandate of an international inquiry into chemical weapons attacks in Syria, after Russia vetoed an extension last week.

The US draft, which was seen by Reuters on Thursday, says Syria must not develop or produce chemical weapons, and it calls on all parties in Syria to provide full cooperation with the international probe.

The investigation by the United Nations and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons — known as the Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM) — was unanimously created by the 15-member Security Council in 2015 and renewed in 2016 for another year. Its mandate is due to expire in mid-November.

The JIM found that the Syrian government of Bashar al-As-



A civil defence member breathes through an oxygen mask, after what rescue workers described as a suspected gas attack in the town of Khan Sheikhoun in rebel-held Idlib, Syria, on 4 April 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

sad was to blame for a chemical attack on the opposition-held town of Khan Sheikhoun that killed dozens of people in April, according to a report sent to the Security Council on 26 October.

Two days earlier, Russia vetoed a renewal of the JIM mandate after it was unsuccessful

in getting the Security Council to postpone the vote. UN Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia said Russia wanted to discuss the Khan Sheikhoun report before the vote.

Russia, whose air force and special forces have been supporting the Syrian army, says

there is no evidence to show Damascus was responsible for the attack. It maintains that the chemicals that killed civilians belonged to rebels, not Assad's government.

On Wednesday, the United States admonished Russia for its veto.

"Russia's attempts to undermine and eliminate the JIM show a callous disregard for the suffering and loss of life caused by the use of chemical weapons and an utter lack of respect for international norms," the White House said in a statement.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson by phone on Thursday it was unacceptable to politicize the work of chemical weapons inspectors in Syria, Russia's foreign ministry said.

A Russian draft resolution calls for a six-month extension of the inquiry, with the possibil-

ity of further extensions, and asks for investigators to collect environmental samples in connection with the Khan Sheikhoun probe, among other things.

In their 14th report since 2011, UN investigators said in September they had documented 33 chemical weapons attacks to date.

Twenty-seven were by the Assad government, including seven between 1 March and 7 July. Perpetrators had not been identified yet in six attacks, they said.

The Assad government has repeatedly denied using chemical weapons. It said its strikes in Khan Sheikhoun hit a weapons depot belonging to rebel forces, an assertion "excluded" by UN Commission of Inquiry on Syria Chairman Paulo Pinheiro.

That attack led US President Donald Trump to launch the first US air strikes on a Syrian air base.—Reuters ■

Time to be united to stand tall in the World

By Khin Maung Oo

The Union is a great nest place for all national races with different symbols of unity.

Those who dwell in a fortified castle of great strength can stand tall in the midst of others, without fear. They have courage to defend against the dangers of enemies. Living in a circle of great strength means existence in unity, that is, co-existence without untying our joined hands even in time of danger and difficulty.

In the animal kingdom, creatures survive due to unity. Unity has excellent characteristics including success. Our nation, “Myanmar” is a country in which national races have been coexisting in peace for long, bringing about the meaning of unity and being a symbol of unity. We can rightfully say we are all “Pyidaungsu Thars” which brings out the intrinsic meaning of our Union

and our unity.

The Union is a great nest place for all national races with different symbols of unity. Different races have different particular adages which convey the meaning of unity. For example, Kachin nationals have a saying—If the cows don’t stick together, the tiger will eat them; If three are united a sea can be emptied; Kayin nationals on the other hand have this saying—Paddy gives rice meal, Bamboos help you to cross a river; the unity of siblings can bake a stone into a sweet potato; Mon nationals have this saying— In the same boat for the same destination; A grain of sesame cannot make oil-similar to the meaning, “One swallow does not make a summer.”; Rakhine nationals have this saying—Eating a meal alone is not much fun, eating

in company makes a meal more enjoyable and delicious; Shouldering a burden collectively makes it lighter.

The Union of Myanmar where different races of national people live together has managed to stand tall throughout the history because of national unity to protect our national sovereignty. The first time was during the reign of King Anawrahta, second time during the rule of King Bayintnaung, and the third time in the time of King Alaung Phaya. The fourth time was during the period of our struggle for independence against British colonial rule. Wonderfully enough, our national leaders and our people born in the Union managed to struggle with indomitable spirit for the longevity of the Union through unity of strength, standing tall shoulder

to shoulder with other nations of the world with our heads held up high. This resulted from the strength of unity and solidarity of the all the people of Myanmar. In other words, this was achieved through the unity of all the “Pyidaungsu Thars”, meaning all the citizens of the Union of Myanmar.

Thus, it is incumbent upon us to relay the Unity Spirit from generation to generation. Now we need to criticize ourselves whether we are really united. To put it simply, our fellow brethren still differ from each other in opinion. Thus we cannot build up unity, and so we were despised by some countries. Now is the time for us to stand tall among the countries of the world in unity and dignity in spite of baseless allegations and unfair criticisms.. ■

‘Half of Southeast Asia’s renewable energy projects are unbankable’

By Hannah Koh/ Eco- Business

SOUTHEAST Asia has the potential to leapfrog fossil fuel-based energy generation methods, but only if the renewable energy sector can attract investors.

Renewable energy could bring electricity to the 65 million people in Southeast Asia without it—if industry and governments can improve market regulations and the bankability of renewables projects. Speakers at the Asia Clean Energy Summit in Singapore last week noted that Southeast Asia is a market ripe for renewable energy development. Rapidly emerging economies, a favourable climate for solar and wind energy generation, and a total population of 640 million makes the region a potential hotspot for the clean energy industry.

But only about 45 per cent of the total number of renewable energy projects in Southeast Asia are bankable, estimated Allard Nooy, chief executive officer of infrastructure investment company



An electricity substation in Myanmar. About 65 million people in Southeast Asia have no access to power. **PHOTO: JUDITHBLUEPOOL**

InfraCo Asia. “The remaining 55 per cent of projects currently in the market are unbankable without government or other mechanisms,” he said.

Bankability refers to the financial viability of a renewables project, and whether or not a bank will support it. For instance, Vietnam’s draft template for solar investments released earlier this year, has been criticised for being unbankable. A second but no less pressing issue is regulation. Nooy said countries such as the Philippines still take a protectionist approach to foreign direct investment, limiting the amount of funds entering the renewable energy space.

The region has an abundance of

natural energy resources, but lags developed economies when it comes to building clean energy generators. Southeast Asia’s energy demand has grown by 60 per cent in the last 15 years, according to the International Energy Agency—demand that countries such as Indonesia and Vietnam are meeting through the construction of new coal-fired power plants. Experts cite fossil fuel subsidies as one reason for this.

While speakers agreed that the falling cost of renewable energy would push Southeast Asia towards more sustainable means of electrification, financing it remained a stumbling block.

The development of microgrids,

which generate electricity locally within a limited area independent of national energy, is one example. Calling microgrids “the future”, Holger Schenk, director of technology at Solar Philippines said the difficulty in rolling out microgrids was not in the hardware or software, but in making projects bankable.

Nooy commented that technological improvements have made microgrids commercially viable today, whereas they weren’t three years ago. The last mile of energy systems, where power is delivered to the users, tends to be the most expensive part of an electricity generation network, and microgrids are a solution to this problem. ■

Rice storage without waste, for new Mro ethnic village in Maungtaw

By Han Lin Naing

MAUNGTAW District General Administration Department deputy commissioner U Ye Htut conducted a field visit yesterday morning for construction of a new Kaing Gyi (Mro) village for ethnic Mro nationals who were attacked by extremist terrorists

The deputy commissioner also visited storage areas where recently harvested rice can be stored without spoilage or waste.

Yesterday morning before the site visits, U Ye Htut met U HlaTheinMaung of Tharikonbaung Village, who was undergoing medical treatment in Maungtaw Hospital after being hacked by a sword on 2 November afternoon. The deputy commissioner encouraged U HlaTheinMaung and provided cash assistance.

Next he went to Tharikonbaung Village and met with villagers to ask for details about



Mro ethnic women collect harvested rice to transport to the silo. PHOTO: HAN LIN NAING

the sword attack, which he described as a lawless act. U Ye Htut said the perpetrator of the crime will be caught and effective action against him will be taken according to the law.

Afterward, he inspected the land and surrounding areas of the location where a new village will be constructed for ethnic Mro nationals who were attacked by extremist terror-

ists and also the status of the sun-drying and storage areas of harvested monsoon rice in Alethanyaw village.

A new village for ethnic Mro nationals will be constructed on

more than four acres of land near Kaingyi Village Tract (Na Ta La) village. There will be plots for 50 houses and will include a school and a staff house for teachers, it is learnt. ■



The seized bullets are in the case. PHOTO: HTAYHLAING (WUNDWIN)

Bullets discovered in Wundwin, Mandalay

BULLETS were found in the grass near an irrigation canal beside Yangon-Mandalay highway road's milestone (357/7), in front of Wundwin-market, Meikhtila District, Mandalay Region yesterday.

Four boys found the 147 bullets while playing and fishing near the canal.

Officials including U Myo Min Aung head of the township's general administration department and Police Captain

Khin Hlaing, Police Captain-Myint Than and sub-inspector Thein Zaw Than went to the place and seized the bullets.

The seizure includes 20 old bullets of revolver (38 bolts), 50 old bullets of revolver (32 bolts), 27 bullets with bronze top of Super-X22 long Rifle and 50 bullets with metal top of Super-X22 long Rifle. The seized bullets were handed over to the Meikhtila Police Station.—HtayHlaing (Wundwin) ■

Union Minister U Win Khaing visits Ratchaburi Electricity Generating Holding Public Company Limited in Thailand

A delegation led by Union Minister for Construction and Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing who attended the 7th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable – AMER 7 visited Ratchaburi Electricity Generating Holding Public Company Limited in Thailand yesterday morning and the delegation was welcomed by the officials from the Company.

Next in the power station of the Company, the officials explained the condition of electricity generation using natural gas, electricity supply, and importation and distribution of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) in the future. Both sides discussed about the cooperation in electricity and energy sector.

After that, the delegation looked around the Gas Control Station and turbines in the pow-



Union Minister U Win Khaing visits RATCHABURI Electricity Generating Holding Public Company in Thailand. PHOTO: MNA

er station. Then, the delegation led by Union Minister departed from Suvarnabhumi International Airport in Bangkok, Thailand and arrived at Yan-

gon International airport at 6pm yesterday and the delegation was welcomed by departmental officials.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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

WORLD
BRIEFS

US President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump arrive to board Air Force One for travel to Hawaii, on his way to an extended trip to five countries in Asia, from Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, US, on 3 November 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Trump, dogged at home, heads on longest presidential Asia trip in years

WASHINGTON — Beset by challenges at home, President Donald Trump on Friday embarks on the longest trip to Asia by an American president in more than a quarter century, looking for help to pressure North Korea to stand down from a nuclear crisis.

Trump's tour of Japan, South Korea, China, Vietnam and the Philippines from Friday to 14 November will take him out of Washington as is preoccupied with several issues.

These include an intensifying federal investigation into Russian meddling in last year's election, New York's recovery from an attack that killed eight people and debate over a tax-cut plan that if approved by Congress would be his first major legislative victory.

The trip comes just days

after Trump's former campaign manager, Paul Manafort, was indicted in the investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election. His attorney general, Jeff Sessions, face Democratic calls to appear before Congress again to clarify his previous testimony about the campaign's Russia contacts.

Amid the furor caused by the revelations, the Kremlin said on Friday a meeting between Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin was being discussed and Trump said it might happen.

"We may have a meeting with Putin. And, again — Putin is very important because they can help us with North Korea. They can help us with Syria. We have to talk about Ukraine."

Court documents made pub-

lic on Monday also disclosed a Trump campaign foreign policy adviser, George Papadopoulos, pleaded guilty last month to lying to the FBI. They cited a March 2016 meeting, attended by Trump and Sessions, in which Papadopoulos offered to help arrange a meeting between candidate Trump and Putin.

While tweeting about developments vigorously this week, Trump told *The New York Times* on Wednesday that he was "not angry at anybody" over the case and there was nothing to suggest any collusion by his campaign and Russia.

Trump's extended absence has alarmed allies who, after seeing a healthcare reform bid fizzle, worry the tax effort could suffer without him at close hand to keep momentum going.

The last time a U.S. president was in Asia for so long was in late 1991 and early 1992, when President George H.W. Bush became ill at a Japanese state dinner. Trump will fly on Friday morning to Hawaii, stopping for a briefing on US military forces in the Pacific and a visit to Pearl Harbor.

Trump will then visit Japan and South Korea in search of a united front against North Korea before going to Beijing, where he will push Chinese President Xi Jinping to get tougher with Pyongyang.

Trump will attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Danang, Vietnam, make a state visit to Hanoi and end his trip with the Association of South East Asia Nations summit in Manila.—Reuters ■

Chinese president to attend APEC summit, visit Viet Nam, Laos

BEIJING — Chinese President Xi Jinping will travel to Viet Nam and Laos from 10 to 14 November, China's Foreign Ministry announced on Friday. Xi will attend the 25th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting in Da Nang, Viet Nam, on 10-11 November, at the invitation of Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lu Kang said.

Xi will pay state visits to Viet Nam and Laos from 12 to 14 November, at the invitation of Nguyen Phu Trong, general secretary of the Communist Party of Viet Nam Central Committee, Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang, and Bounnhang Vorachit, general secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and president of Laos.—Xinhua ■

One killed, three injured in shooting in Morocco's cafe

RABAT — One person was killed and three others injured in a shooting at a cafe in Morocco's tourist city of Marrakesh, local media reported on Thursday night. Two attackers entered the cafe and shot at the crowd before fleeing the scene with a motorcycle, le360.ma news site reported.

Citing police sources, the news site said investigators think revenge is likely to be behind the attack. No official statement from the police has been issued.—Xinhua ■

Merkel believes parties can bridge differences in coalition talks

BERLIN — Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Friday she believes the three party groups trying to form a new German coalition government face more difficult talks but she believes they can bridge their differences.

"I still think we can tie the ends together," she told reporters ahead of fresh talks on the three-way coalition of her conservatives, the pro-business Free Democrats (FDP) and the ecologist Greens. The alliance is untested at national level.—Reuters ■

China wants Abe to improve ties with concrete action during new tenure

BEIJING — China said it hopes Japan's Shinzo Abe will pursue positive policies towards China during his new tenure following his re-election as prime minister on Wednesday.

"China hopes the new Japanese cabinet pursues positive policies towards China, improves

bilateral ties with concrete action, and works with China to ensure the right direction for bilateral relations," Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying said at a regular news briefing.

Hua said China has always advocated for developing bilateral relations by abiding by the four

political documents signed since normalizing ties in 1972 and the four-point principled agreement reached in 2014.

Both countries should work in the spirit of taking history as a mirror while looking into the future, said the spokesperson.

"We hope Japan abides by

these documents and consensuses," Hua said.

Abe, who has been Japanese prime minister since December 2012, was re-elected Wednesday after garnering a majority vote in the lower house while his ruling coalition holds a majority in the upper house.—Xinhua ■

South Korea says will act to stabilise markets if North Korea risks resurface



South Korean Finance Minister Kim Dong-yeon waits for US Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin before their meeting during the IMF/World Bank annual meetings in Washington, US, on 14 October 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

SEOUL — South Korea's finance minister pledged on Friday to take policy measures to stabilise the financial market should risks related to North Korea arise.

"Should North Korea risks resurface and financial market volatilities widen, swift and stern responses will be made," Kim Dong-yeon said at a meeting with other ministers in Seoul.

Kim said that while the benchmark KOSPI was breaking record highs on robust foreign buying, uncertainties related to monetary policies of the European Central Bank persist in the financial market. The South Korean won is trading near the year's high. As of 0614 GMT, it was at 1,113.7 per dollar.— Reuters ■

Heavy rain in southern India leads to flooding in Chennai

NEW DELHI — Heavy rains in southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu has led to flooding in several areas of Chennai, the capital city of the state, officials said Friday.

The rains that started on Tuesday has resulted in water logging and caused traffic jams.

On Thursday evening, the water logging caused traffic jam, leading commuters to remain stranded on the roads for hours together.

At many places, cars and auto rickshaws were seen wading through water above their wheels.

In the wake of rains and water logging, the administration closed educational institu-

tions and asked private offices in Chennai and adjoining Kanchipuram to declare holiday.

"The private firms have been asked to permit their staff to work from home wherever possible," a local government official said. "Schools and colleges have been shut in Chennai, Kanchipuram Pudukottai, Tiruvallur, Nagappattinam, and Tiruvarur because of heavy rains."

The downpour in the city has affected power supply for many hours.

Meteorological department officials in Chennai have predicted more rain in the next 24-hours.

Authorities have directed

officials to keep an eye on the situation and make efforts for distribution of relief measures.

The heavy rains have triggered fears among people regarding the devastating floods of 2015. However officials say there was no need for residents to panic.

Farmers in Tamil Nadu were reeling under severe stress due to two successive years of drought. In January this year, the local government in Tamil Nadu declared all districts of the state drought-hit following a deficit in the northeast monsoon in 2016. In December 2015, Chennai was flooded after the heaviest rainfall in over a century.—Xinhua ■

China's capital issues orange alert for upcoming smog

BEIJING — Beijing issued its first orange smog alert ahead of winter on Friday, forecasting heavy air pollution over the next four days, the second-highest alert in China's four-tier emergency response system.

Vehicles with National I and II emission standards and trucks transporting waste earth and construction debris will be

banned from roads between 4 November and 8 November, according to a notice posted on Weather.com - a website affiliated with China's National Meteorological Administration.

Large parts of northern China suffer from chronic smog during the bitterly cold winters because much of the heating demand is still met by coal. Pol-

lution alerts during the winter pollution season are common in the region — a problem that the government has struggled to solve despite a multi-year effort.

Authorities in smog-blighted northern provinces such as Hebei, Henan, Shandong and Shanxi have urged their major industrial cities to slash steel

output ahead of winter, part of the Ministry of Environmental Protection's smog battle plan to cut levels of hazardous airborne particles known as PM2.5 air pollutants by more than a quarter in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei area by 2017 from 2012 levels.

But measures taken so far have had little or no effect. PM2.5 concentration levels in

the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei area remained at around 52 micrograms in September, the same as last year.

China's Environment Minister Li Ganjie acknowledged last month the government's efforts to meet air quality targets for the year face "huge difficulties," and has asked for the public's patience.—Reuters ■

Chinese giant panda ready for public expose in Indonesia

JAKARTA — Indonesian officials supervising the Chinese giant pandas now kept in the nation's safari park said on Thursday that the exotic animals were ready for public expose in the near future after completing a 31-day quarantine period.

Taman Safari Indonesia (TSI) Director Jansen Manansang said that results from health examinations over the male and female pandas, namely Cai Tao and Hu Chun, showed excellent records with two animals already well-adapted with nature, climate, weather and with crews who take care of them in the TSI's panda facility.

"Figures from health examinations over them were excellent. The most important things now were the food and the habitat. They were exactly the same like in their origin places," Jansen said in TSI premises in Bogor, West Java.



Photo taken on 2 November 2017 shows the Chinese giant panda Cai Tao at the Indonesia Panda Castle in Taman Safari Indonesia. Indonesian officials supervising the Chinese giant pandas now kept in the nation's safari park said on Thursday that the exotic animals were ready for public expose in the near future after completing a 31-day quarantine period. PHOTO: XINHUA

TSI management is now in the process of assessing the proper date to initiate the pub-

lic expose for the Chinese giant pandas, he added.

According to Jansen, the

TSI would limit a maximum 200 people to watch the pandas each day.

TSI has built a 5,000 square meter panda exhibit in its premises, called Indonesia Panda Castle, located about 55 km south of the capital Jakarta.

It was situated on a hill with a height of 1,800 meters above sea level and average temperature between 15 to 24 degree celsius.

The exhibit is featured with Chinese culture-themed restaurant and a store that sells Panda-associated souvenirs.

Cai Tao and Hu Chun arrived in Indonesia on 28 September after going through 5-hour direct flight from an airport in China's Chengdu city. The arrival of the Chinese giant pandas followed the China-Indonesia breeding loan agreement, which enables the two pandas to stay at least 10 years in Indonesia before returning to China after breeding their children for Indonesia.—Xinhua ■

New Trump immigration efforts aim to stop child border crossers

NEW YORK — Many of the immigration initiatives launched by the Trump administration in recent weeks target one kind of migrant: children.

The measures are aimed at expelling young people already in the United States illegally and preventing new ones from crossing into the country.

Some of the policy shifts have generated headlines, including Trump's decision in September to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals programme, or DACA. That measure, put in place by former President Barack Obama in 2012, allowed nearly 800,000 young people brought to the United States illegally as children the ability to live, work and study in the country without fear of deportation.

Other proposals and actions have received far less attention.

The Trump administration has recently intensified scrutiny of abused and neglected foreign minors applying to stay in the United States. It is seeking to restrict who qualifies for special protections granted to children crossing the border alone. And it is stepping up prosecutions of adults who paid smugglers to bring unaccompanied kids to the United States.

The White House also an-



A girl sitting on the shoulders of her father holds a sign reading "Keep Families Together" at a protest against US President Donald Trump's proposed end of the DACA programme that protects immigrant children from deportation in New York City, US, on 30 August 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

nounced this fall it will end a programme allowing Central American minors to apply for US asylum while still living abroad. At the same time, the administration is exploring ways to scrap legal protections that limit how long and under what conditions children can be held in immigration detention centres.

In response to questions

about the changes in immigration policy focussed on children, the White House said that relevant agencies were reviewing ways to help "law enforcement professionals to do their jobs and keep the country safe."

Trump came to office promising to crack down on immigration. That message grew stronger this week in the wake of a ter-

rorist attack in New York by a 29-year-old immigrant awarded a green card through a visa lottery programme the president has now vowed to end.

Some of his messaging on child immigrants also reflects security concerns. In a speech in Long Island in July, Trump called out "alien minors" as responsible for gang-related killings in the

United States.

"These are animals," he said of members of the notorious Central American gang MS-13.

In addition, the administration says it wants to prevent children from undertaking perilous journeys to the United States and eliminate fraud from programmes for young immigrants.

"The President wants to stop the incentives for vulnerable children to come here illegally," Attorney General Jeff Sessions said in a speech in Texas in October. In another speech last month, he blamed "dirty immigration lawyers" for encouraging clients to game the process.

Some immigration advocates see the president's focus on young border crossers differently. Children are perceived sympathetically by the public and have more legal protections than other immigrants, giving authorities less flexibility to deport them, they say. It is "in the administration's interest to paint unaccompanied children as gang bangers and not as asylum seekers fleeing violence and abuse," said American Civil Liberties Union attorney Michael Tan. "The administration wants the public to perceive these children as monsters and not people deserving of refuge."—Reuters ■

Serbian foreign minister rejects US call to choose between Russia and the West

BELGRADE — Serbia wants to maintain its delicate balancing act between Russia and the West, its foreign minister said on Thursday, dismissing US calls for it to pick a side.

The largest of the states to emerge from the collapse of Yugoslavia in the 1990s, Orthodox Christian and Slavic Serbia has natural affinity with Moscow, but it is keen to join the European Union.

This month, US Deputy Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs Hoyt Brian Yee told Belgrade it "cannot sit on two chairs at the same time". His remarks sparked sharp criticism in the Serbian capital.

Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic, who heads the co-ruling Socialists, once led by late strongman Slobodan Milosevic, said Belgrade would maintain balance with the West, Russia

and China. "What we do not want is that someone pulls our own chair from under us ... what is important is to see what is in our own best interest," Dacic told Reuters in an interview.

Although the EU is Serbia's single largest trade partner and investor, Russia controls its oil and gas supplies. Moscow has also sought to bolster military ties with Belgrade with the donation of six MiG-29 fighter jets.

At Serbia's request, Moscow blocked independent Kosovo from becoming a member of the United Nations.

The ethnic Albanian-dominated Kosovo declared independence from Serbia in 2008 following a bloody 1998-1999 war. It has been recognised by 115 countries including the United States and most EU members, but not Serbia or Russia.

Dacic likened Serbia's oppo-

sition to Kosovan independence to Spain's rejection of Catalonia's referendum on secession.

"If Spain can fight for its concept of Catalonia then we Serbs can fight for our country," he said.

Serbia, which cherishes Kosovo as its historic birthplace, and the government in Pristina should seek "a win-win solution" and "an international conference" that would prevent future wars "for a century," Dacic said.

Earlier this year he suggested autonomy and delimitation for Serb areas in Kosovo.

"That would be the only possible, realistic and lasting ... solution of the problem," he said in the interview.

There are around 120,000 Serbs in Kosovo and most of them, mainly in the north, just outside Serbia, oppose the Pristina authorities.—Reuters ■

Putin and Trump may meet next week at APEC summit — Kremlin

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump may meet next week at an APEC summit in Vietnam, the Kremlin said on Friday, saying talks were underway about setting up such an encounter.

Putin and Trump first met at a G20 summit in Hamburg in July when they discussed allegations of Russian meddling in the US presidential election, but agreed to focus on better ties rather than litigating the past.

Relations between Moscow and Washington have soured further since, however.

Trump in August grudgingly signed off on new sanctions against Russia, a move Moscow said ended hopes for better ties. Putin, dismayed by the sanc-

tions, ordered Washington to more than halve its embassy and consular staff in Russia.

But when asked if Putin and Trump might meet at an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit taking place next week in Vietnam, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Moscow did not rule out such a meeting.

"(It (the meeting) is indeed being discussed," Peskov told reporters on a conference call.

"It's hard to overestimate the importance and significance for all international matters of any contact between the presidents of Russia and the United States," said Peskov.

The APEC summit is taking place in the Vietnamese city of Danang from 8-10 November.—Reuters ■

Pope, at US military cemetery, makes emotional anti-war address

ROME — Pope Francis made one of his most emotional anti-war addresses on Thursday, saying during a visit to a US military cemetery that the world seemed to be headed into war perhaps bigger than any before.

Francis said a Mass for several thousand people at the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery in the town of Nettuno, south of the Italian capital, on the day Roman Catholics commemorate their dead.

The burial ground is the final resting place for 7,860 American soldiers who died in the liberation of southern Italy and Rome in 1943 and 1944.

He walked slowly and alone amid the rows of low white headstones in the shape of crosses and Stars of David, gently resting a white rose on about a dozen and stopping to pray silently before saying the Mass.

“Please Lord, stop. No more wars. No more



Pope Francis leaves a white rose on a grave before a Mass at the US World War II cemetery, on the day Christians around the world commemorate their dead, in Nettuno, near Rome, Italy, on 2 November 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

of these useless massacres,” he said, speaking in hushed tones in an improvised homily.

Francis said that remembering the many young people who died in World War II was even

more important “today that the world once more is at war and is preparing to go even more forcefully into war.” He did not elaborate but appeared to be referring to the possibility of nuclear war.

As tensions between the United States and North Korea have increased in recent months, Francis has warned that a nuclear conflict would destroy a good part of humanity.

Last April, he said a third country should try to mediate the dispute between Pyongyang and Washington to cool a situation that had become “too hot”.

US President Donald Trump, who has said North Korea “will be met with fire and fury like the world has never seen” if it threatened the United States, will visit South Korea as part of a trip to Asia that starts on Friday.

While Trump is in Asia, the pope will be hosting an international seminar at the Vatican that will urge the banning of nuclear weapons.

The cemetery Mass was attended by US Ambassador to Italy Lewis Eisenberg and the acting US ambassador to the Vatican, Louis Bono.

“If today is a day of hope, it is also a day of tears,” the pope said. “Humanity must not forget” the tears of mothers and wives who lost husbands

and sons in past wars.

“Humanity has not learned the lesson and seems that it does not want to learn it,” he said, asking for prayers for the victims of today’s conflicts, especially children.

On his way back to the Vatican, Francis stopped to pray at the Ardeatine Caves, where in March, 1944 occupying Nazis killed 335 Italian men and boys as a reprisal for the killing of 33 German policemen by partisans. They were all shot in the back of the neck. The Germans blew up the caves in a vain attempt to try to hide the massacre. Seventy-five of the victims were Jews.

He and Rome’s chief rabbi, Riccardo Di Segni, each read a prayer. After walking past the tombs in the still dark caves, the pope wrote in the visitors’ book: “This is the fruit of war: hate, death, vendetta. Forgive us Lord”. —Reuters ■

Philippines warns against lone wolf attacks after Marawi victory

MANILA — More than a week after the Philippines declared victory over pro-Islamic State militants in Marawi, security officials on Friday expressed concern over lone wolf attacks, with Australia issuing a “high threat” alert about travel to Manila.

Skirmishes continued between soldiers and holdouts from the Islamist militant group that seized a lakeside town on the southern island of Mindanao. More than 1,100 people, including 165 troops, were killed in the five-month conflict.

“One concern after Marawi is the possibility of threats from lone wolves,” defence department spokesman Arsenio Andalong told reporters, two days after an Uzbek plowed into New York pedestrians and bikers in what US officials called a



Philippine marines from the Special Warfare Group stand to attention during their arrival from Marawi at port area in metro Manila, Philippines, on 30 October 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

terrorist act.

The army remained on high alert after President Rodrigo Duterte said five cities in Mindanao were potential targets of Islamist militants after their defeat in Marawi, he added.

On Friday, the Australian embassy issued a travel advisory, warning of “a high threat of terrorist attack” in the Philippines, including Manila, the capital.

“Be alert to possible threats around locations

that have a low level of protective security and places known to be possible terrorist targets,” it said.

It told Australians to reconsider travel plans to eastern Mindanao and avoid its central and western regions.—Reuters ■

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'Murder on the Orient Express' breathes new cinematic life into Agatha Christie

LONDON — Agatha Christie, the author dubbed the 'Queen of Crime,' is returning to the big screen after a decades-long absence with an adaptation of "Murder on the Orient Express," directed by Kenneth Branagh.

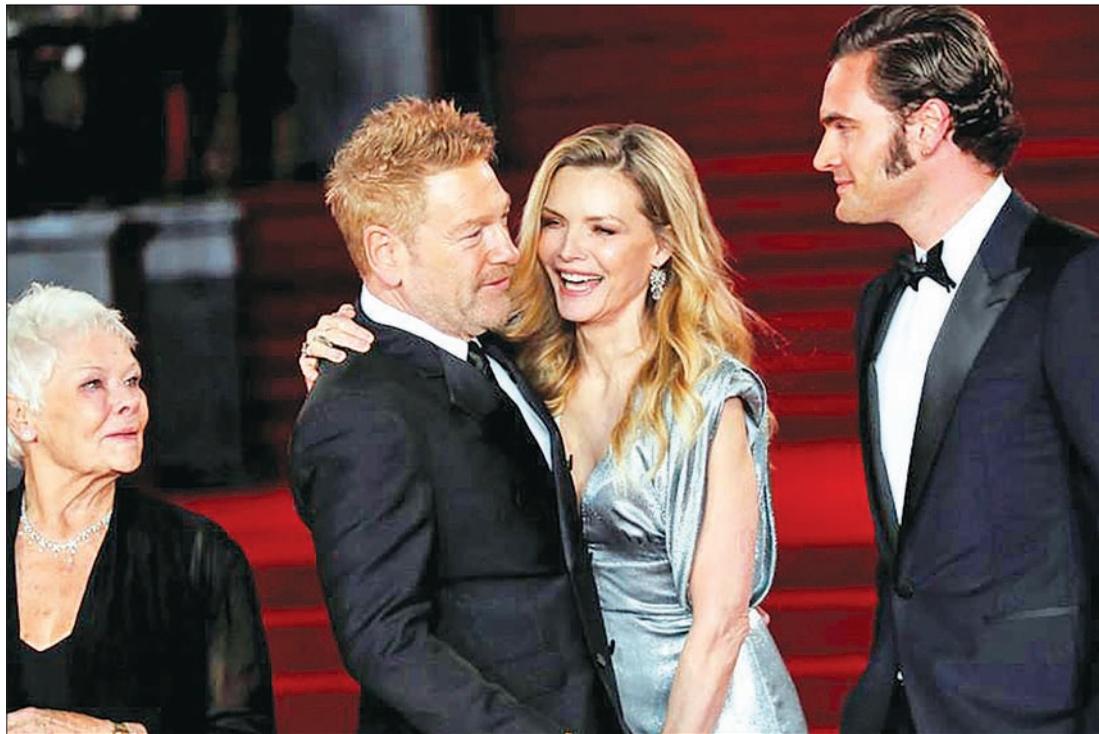
Starring Branagh as eccentric detective Hercule Poirot, the film premiered in London on Thursday and features a star-studded cast, including Judi Dench, Johnny Depp, Michelle Pfeiffer and "The Force Awakens" star Daisy Ridley.

"Previous film versions have been romps and they've been wonderful, but it felt like with this group of actors it could get a little more dark and a little more emotional, and surprise and divert in a different way," Branagh told Reuters at the film's premiere.

A 'whodunit' tale, the film follows Branagh's detective as he seeks to unmask a murderer among the passengers on board the glamorous train, trapped by an avalanche in mountainous terrain in southern Europe.

Christie, who died in 1976 aged 85, is cited by the Guinness Book of World Records as the bestselling novelist of all time.

Over 30 feature films have been based on her work, including a 1974 version of "Murder on the Orient



Michelle Pfeiffer, Kenneth Branagh, Tom Bateman and Judi Dench arrive at the world premiere of Murder on the Orient Express at the Albert Hall in London, Britain, on 2 November 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Express," that saw Ingrid Bergman win an Academy Award for her performance.

Despite a rich pedigree in print, film and television, Branagh's film represents something of a cinematic resurrection for Christie's work, with the most recent previous cinematic adaptation being 1985's "Ordeal by Innocence."

"It's been 30 years, I guess, since we've had a proper cinema film," said James Prichard, Christie's great grandson and

CEO of Agatha Christie Ltd., the company which manages the rights to her works.

"I'd love to say that it was a strategy, that we held it back and refused to allow it, but actually we kind of went out of fashion for a bit, certainly on the big screen."

"Murder on the Orient Express," is the first in an upcoming slew of new film and television adaptations of Agatha Christie properties, which include a production of "Witness for the Prosecution,"

directed by and starring Oscar-winner Ben Affleck.

So, will Christie's Poirot go the way of modern-day cinematic heavyweights, superheroes like Spider-Man or Iron Man, and spawn a franchise?

"I think Ken's been fantastic, and I think the idea of this being a one-off Ken Poirot would be sad, so I'd love to see him do more," Prichard said.

"Murder on the Orient Express," opens in the UK on 3 November.—Reuters ■

Singer Neil Young to auction model train collection

LOS ANGELES — Rock singer Neil Young is selling some of his most prized possessions — part of his model train collection.

The Canadian folk-rock star is putting more than 230 of his vast collection of Lionel trains up for auction in Los Angeles in December, some with estimated selling prices of up to \$9,000, (6,856 pounds) Julien's Auctions said on Thursday. Young, 71, best known for his Woodstock-era songs as well as "Ohio" and "Heart of Gold," has been a passionate model train enthusiast for more than 20 years. His collection and vast layouts at his California ranch took off in the early 1990s as a means of connecting with his son Ben, who has cerebral palsy, Young said. He also designed a remote control for trains that allows multiple trains to run at once, and a device that delivers realistic railroad audio to help his son get the most of out the hobby.

"It is just relaxing," Young told David Letterman of his hobby in a 2012 appearance on Letterman's television talk show. Highlights of the 9 December auction include the Lionel Hudson factory prototype locomotive with a pre-auction estimate of \$4,000 to \$9,000, and the H.O.A.R.D tour psychedelic Vanderbilt Hudson locomotive which is expected to sell for \$3,000 to \$6,000, Julien's said.—Reuters ■

Sophie Turner to appear in 'Girl Who Fell From the Sky'

LOS ANGELES — Actor Sophie Turner is attached to star and produce the "Girl Who Fell From the Sky".

The project will be helmed by Stan Brooks, reported Deadline.

The film is based on the book by Juliane Koepcke and Beate Rysiart, which tells the true story of Koepcke who was the lone survivor of an air crash in the Peruvian rain forest.

17-year-old high school senior, Koepcke, was aboard LANSA flight 508 on 24 December 1971 and lived to tell the tale when the plane was struck by lightning.

Brooks has adapted screenplay for the movie and is also producing the project along with Lotus Entertainment's Jim Seibel, Bill Johnson and Steve Glick.—PTI ■

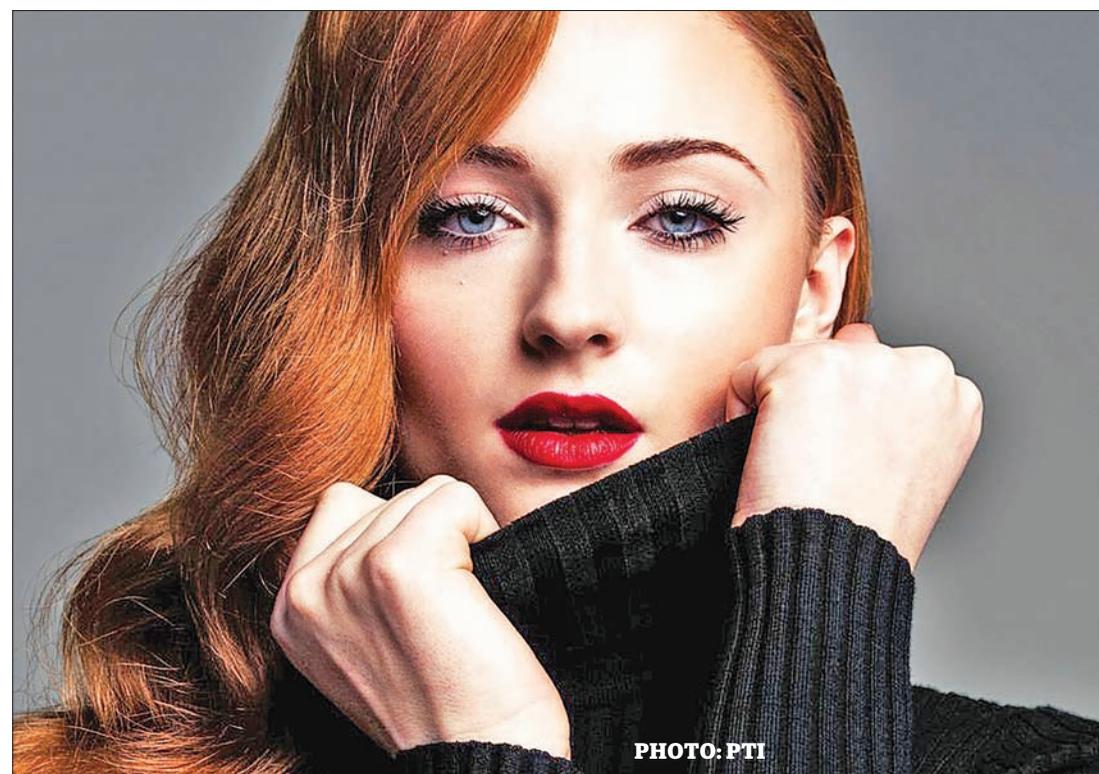


PHOTO: PTI

At this stage of my life I am not left with many desires: SRK

MUMBAI — From being an outsider to becoming one of the biggest stars of Indian film industry, Shah Rukh Khan's journey has been quite colourful and the actor is content with the way life has treated him. Shah Rukh, who turned 52 today, said no one is "invincible" in this world and even if the fame he has fades away soon, he will be happy with what he has achieved. "I believe if the stardom ends today, tomorrow or six years later, it should be a good trip. It should satisfy me and most people who watch me. It is not invincibility, it is just the way you think every morning to keep yourself going.—PTI ■

At long last, ground broken for Eisenhower memorial in Washington

WASHINGTON — Construction of the Dwight D. Eisenhower National Memorial kicked off symbolically on Thursday after years of opposition to the late US president's \$150 million monument by critics who balked at its cost and size.

Gilded shovels flashed as lawmakers, architect Frank Gehry and Eisenhower family members turned a trough of earth at a ceremonial groundbreaking for the four-acre (1.6-hectare) memorial to the 34th president and World War Two Allied commander.

"At last, at last, we're building at last," said Republican US Senator Pat Roberts of Kansas, the head of the memorial's commission, as he held up the monument's building permit. "Let's get the job done."

Dedication of the monument just off the National Mall and near the National Air and



Architect Frank Gehry arrives from the Cross Hall of the White House prior to a Presidential Medal of Freedom ceremony in Washington, US, on 22 November 2016. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Space Museum is anticipated for 8 May, 2019, the 75th anniversary of the surrender of Nazi Germany in World War Two.

Congress approved the

memorial in 1999, but opposition to Gehry's plans stalled it for years. Criticism focused on eight-story-high columns supporting a steel tapestry portray-

ing the Kansas prairies where Eisenhower grew up.

In 2014, a House of Representatives' committee report referred to the memorial as a "five-star folly" plagued by rising costs, construction delays and design flaws.

The Republican president's family dropped its objections last year after Gehry reduced the size and changed the tapestry's image from Kansas farmland to Normandy beaches - the scene of the Allies' 1944 D-Day invasion of France — to better reflect Eisenhower's international stature.

Susan Eisenhower, the president's granddaughter, on Thursday downplayed the hurdles the memorial had faced and noted that the one to President Franklin Roosevelt had taken 43 years from conception to its opening in 1997.

"I'd say we're way ahead of the timeline," she said to

laughter from onlookers, who included a handful of World War Two veterans.

Gehry's plan got final approval from Washington's planning and arts commissions this fall, and the site will be known as Eisenhower Park.

Some critics remain.

"It's a national embarrassment that we are building a grandiose, inscrutable and ugly memorial that virtually no one likes," Justin Shubow, president of the National Civic Art Society, said in an email.

Congress, which has long refused to fund the project, allocated \$45 million for construction in the current fiscal year.

Republican President Donald Trump's administration is asking for another \$40 million next year, and the memorial's commission also is halfway to its goal of raising \$35 million in private funds.

—Reuters ■

Rivers turn as dragon boats mark end of Cambodia's monsoon season

PHNOM PENH — Thousands of colourfully dressed rowers competed in dragon boat races in the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh on Thursday, the first day of the annual Water Festival marking the end of the monsoon season.

The races on the Tonle Sap River involved more than 270 wooden dragon boats with rowers and spectators from across

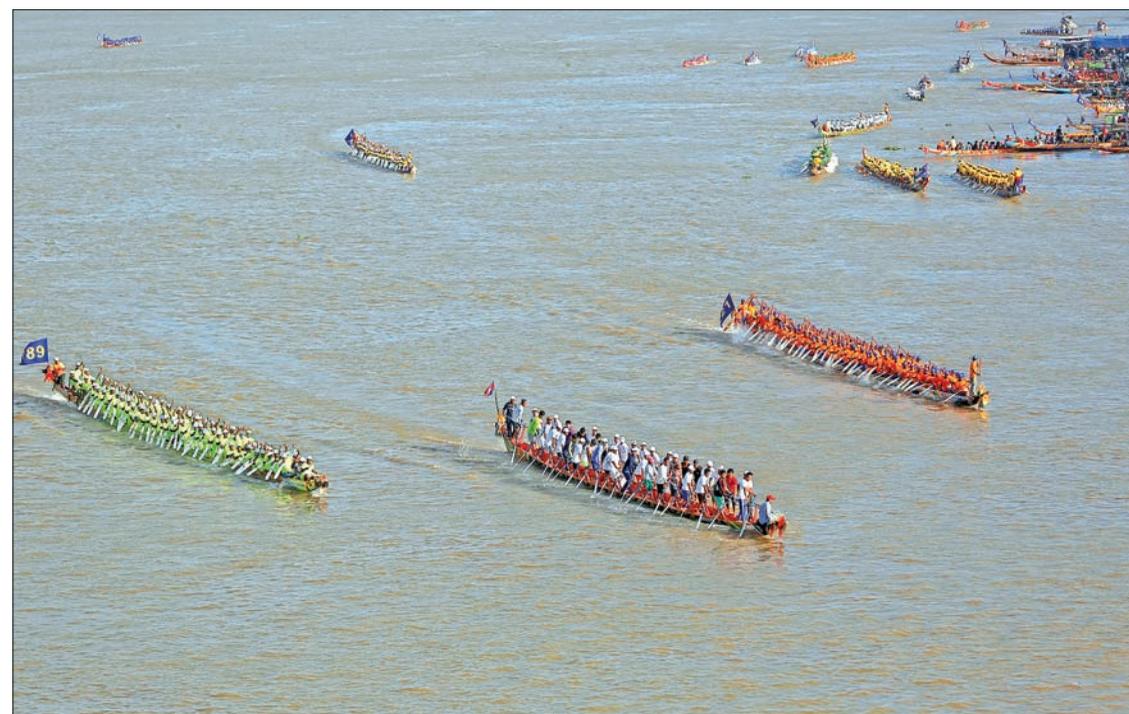
the Southeast Asian nation.

"I hope to win and bring this victory to our village," said Sim Pov, 25, a rower from Kampong Cham more than 120 km north of Phnom Penh.

Known in Khmer as Bon Om Touk, the festival dates back to the 12th century to commemorate the might of the Khmer navy during the ancient Khmer empire.

The festival also marks the reversal of flow between the Tonle Sap and the Mekong River, signaling the end of the monsoon season.

Presided over by King Norodom Sihamoni and Prime Minister Hun Sen, the boat race is a major showpiece of a three-day festival which includes concerts, fireworks and a lantern boat display.— Reuters ■



Participants row their boat during the annual Water Festival on the Tonle Sap river in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 2 November 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Nazi-era art hoard makes German exhibition debut in Bonn

BERLIN — Some 250 art works from a huge trove hoarded by a collector during the Nazi era went on display in Germany for the first time on Thursday, as its curators pursue efforts to find the rightful owners of pieces identified as looted.

German art dealer Hildebrand Gurlitt built up the collection after being enlisted by the Nazis to sell modern art they had seized from German museums and collectors and labeled "degenerate".

His son Cornelius inherited the collection, which includes works by Pablo Picasso and Henri Matisse as well as older masterpieces, and kept it in his Munich apartment for decades.

Gurlitt bequeathed the 1,500 works to Switzerland's Kunstmuseum Bern, which inherited them after his death in May 2014.

The collection is now being displayed simultaneously in Bern and in Germany's for-

mer capital Bonn, with part of the latter exhibition focusing on works stolen from individual collectors.

The display at the German Federal Gallery includes works by Claude Monet, Max Beckmann, Albrecht Durer and Pieter Brueghel, whose works are presented alongside biographies of people from whom the Nazis stole art.

At least two works on display have been confirmed as looted and attempts to identify their original owners are ongoing.

"In total, there are six which were clearly identified as looted art. Many works are still being investigated and they might also turn out to be looted," Rein Wolfs, the exhibition curator, told Reuters Television.

Germany's Culture Minister Monika Gueppers said the government had allocated 6.5 million euros (\$7.6 million) to researching the original owners' identities.—Reuters ■

Myanmar wins third in AFF Futsal Championship 2017

By Kyaw Zin Lin

MYANMAR secured third place in the AFF HD Bank Futsal Championship 2017 by beating host Vietnam 4-3 in the penalty shootouts of the third place fighting game at the Phu Tho Stadium in Ho Chi Minh City yesterday afternoon.

The host Vietnam forced play from the start with the loud support of their fans. Vietnam's star player Phung Truong Luan responded with the opening goal at the ten-minute mark by pouncing on a rebound.

Myanmar stepped up their play in the second half, but made some mistakes and allowed the second goal of the match at 26 minutes when Vietnam's Dhan Phat energetically slammed home a goal past Myanmar keeper Kyaw Htet Aung.

With a two-goal deficit, Myanmar used a power play and went on the attack. Kyaw Soe Moe scored Myanmar's first goal by knocking in a corner kick.



Myanmar Futsal team celebrates their victory after winning the third place in AFF Futsal Championship 2017. PHOTO:MFF

Myanmar was now eager to even the score, and Nyein Min Soe complied by flicking the ball into the net from close range in a free kick at 37 minutes be-

fore ordinary play expired. In the penalty shots, Myanmar's keeper Kyaw Htet Aung saved two balls, but Vietnam was able to score twice. Myanmar scored

only once and settled for the bronze medal of the Championship, along with a place in next year's AFC Futsal Championship 2018. ■

KBZ Bank Women's League 2016-2017 award ceremony to be held today

The KBZ Bank Women's League 2016-2017 awards ceremony, which follows the final game of the season will be held today at 2:30 pm at Aung San Stadium in Yangon.

The KBZ Bank Women's League 2016-2017 is overseen by the Myanmar Football Federation and mainly sponsored by Kanbawza Bank. The awards ceremony can be enjoyed by all fans at no charge.

The final match between Myawady FC and Sport & Education will be played at 3:30 pm today, followed by the awards ceremony. Before the match, six Myanmar vocalists -- Ye Lay, Hel Lay, Eaint Chit, Sandhi Myint Lwin, Poe Mhi and Nhin Zi May will entertain the crowd starting at 2:45 pm. A lucky draw event will be held for the first 1,000 spectators. The prizes for the lucky draw will include a Mi 32-inch TV, two 4TV Receivers and two Molten branded balls.

— Kyaw Zin Lin ■

'Burmese Python' Aung La N Sang bests 'Panther' in first round

FROM PAGE-1

The fight had a tentative start, with both fighters standing a safe distance from each other. Eventually Ngalani crowded his opponent and manoeuvred into the top position. Aung La N Sang attempted to reverse Ngalani, but the strength difference proved to be a problem. Aung La N Sang eventually worked his way back to his feet, only to drop down for an unsuccessful guillotine attempt.

The Myanmar fighter got back up a second time, though, and committed to the guillotine again. This time he held it tightly, and Ngalani was forced to tap out, sending the crowd of Aung La N Sang supporters into a frenzy.

"Thank you, Myanmar, I love you," said Aung La N Sang after the match. "Moving up to heavyweight was tough for me.



Aung La N Sang grapples with Alain Ngalani in the first round at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon. PHOTO: TIN SOE

But you guys lifted me."

The bout was a historic night for the country, as there has probably never been two martial artists who possess such world-class skills to compete in Myanmar. Both are well-known across the world.

Last night's win is the second time in five months that Aung La's supporters have had a reason to celebrate. On 30 June, Aung La N Sang won the One Championship middleweight title in the same stadium.—GNLM

De Bruyne full of pep from Guardiola tactics at City

LONDON — Manchester City playmaker Kevin De Bruyne is enjoying playing under manager Pep Guardiola and credits the Spaniard's tactics for helping him thrive at the Premier League leaders.

The Belgian international notched seven league goals and nine assists in 2015 but since Guardiola's arrival last July, De Bruyne's impact has risen drastically, with the 26-year-old assisting 21 goals in 36 league games last season.

De Bruyne has provided nine assists and scored twice in 16 appearances across all competitions this campaign and the attacking midfielder

praised his manager and the club's successful transfers for improving the unbeaten side.

"Since Pep came to the club, he plays a style of football I like to play, so it makes it easy as a player," De Bruyne told Sky Sports.

"I like it here, it is the perfect environment and since I came here there has been a lot of trust in me. I like the project they are doing from the moment I came here.

"There was an older team (when I first arrived), they did a lot of transfers, a lot of young people, they are building for the future... I am really happy here and I see myself being a long time here." —Reuters ■