

**NATIONAL**

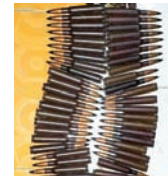
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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Wednesday, 6 December 2017



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes BIMSTEC Secretary-General Mr. M. Shahidul Islam in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

## State Counsellor receives BIMSTEC Secretary-General

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, the State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr. M. Shahidul Islam, the Sec-

retary-General of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Permanent Secretariat based in Dhaka, Bangladesh,

at 11:20 am yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to current and future coopera-

tion between Myanmar and BIMSTEC. Also present on the occasion was Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Mawlawi Federation urges people without ID to get NV card

THOSE who do not have any identification that shows proof of residence in Myanmar are being urged by the All Myanmar Mawlawi Federation (Central) in a notification dated 27 November 2017 to obtain a National Verification Card.

The notification states that all those who are living in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar should be registered using a form (1) book according to the Registration Act of 1949 for all who reside in Union of Myanmar; and the Registration Act of 1951. Those who have registered in form (1) book, including their children and offspring, are being issued with either a form (2) identity card, a form (3) temporary identity card, a national registration card after 10 years, a national verification card after 10 years, a national verification card after 18 years, guest national card and guest national verification card issued according to the rules and regulations regarding guest nationals, document for permission to become a citizen and verification document to become a citizen issued in accordance with rules and regulations for those who have received permission to become a citizen.

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## BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

Awarded by FinanceAsia 2017





Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than meets IBAHRI Director Mr. Phillip Tahmindjis in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives IBAHRI's director

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than received Director of International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI) Mr. Phillip Tahmindjis and party yesterday afternoon at Amyotha Hluttaw Meeting Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they friendly and openly discussed matters relating Hluttaw legislation. Present at the meeting were Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and officials from Amyotha Hluttaw Office. —Myanmar News Agency

## Data on trees and plants to be published

MYANMAR is a bio-diverse country, with mangrove forests, coral reefs, snow-covered mountains and a many types of tree species. At the present moment, Myanmar has 273 tree families, 2,371 genera and over 11,800 species of trees and plants.

The Forest Department, Forest Research Institute together with international organisations like Makino Botanical Garden, Kochi Prefecture (MBK) Japan, National Museum of Nature and Science (NMNS) Japan, Korea National Arboretum, New York Botanical Garden (NYBG), China Academy of Sciences (CAS) are conducting the collection of tree families, genera, spe-

cies, flower samples and etc. were able to discover previously unrecorded plant and tree species.

Although these works have been conducted through the years, the information has never been published and recorded in a single book.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Forest Department, Forest Research Institute and NMNS Japan organized the first meeting in the Forest Department's Yezin assembly hall on the morning of 4 December to talk about the publishing of the book Flora of Myanmar. Forest Department Director General Dr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw attended the gathering

and delivered a speech.

The meeting is the first step to publish a complete list of trees and plant species in Myanmar and was organised to raise interest among interested organisations and to draw up future work programmes and processes.

The meeting was attended by officials and experts, scientists from international organisations such as NMNS, MBK, XTBG, NYBG, KIB, botanists from Yangon, Dawei, Taunggyi, Myitkyina, Mandalay University, botanists from agricultural university, forest and environmental institutes and experts from NGO such as BANCA, WCS and FREDIA it is learnt. — Myanmar News Agency



## Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives Chargé d'Affaires of British Embassy in Myanmar

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung received Chargé d'Affaires of British Embassy, Deputy Head of Mission in

Myanmar Mr. David Hall and party at Amyotha Hluttaw J Hall yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting mat-

ters relating to promotion of bilateral friendly relations in the interest of the two countries were discussed. —Myanmar News Agency

## Campaign for malaria-free Myanmar in 2030 under way

OUTBREAKS of malaria in Myanmar have decreased, and the campaign for a malaria-free Myanmar in 2030 is under way, according to a meeting for the one-week-long malaria prevention campaign held under the sponsorship of Asia-Pacific Malaria Elimination Network.

"The campaign for a malaria-free Myanmar in 2030 is under implementation. Presently, rate of the outbreak of malaria cases in Myanmar was reduced by 85 per cent of that of 2012. In the past, there were nearly 600,000 patients suffering from malaria. According to the statistics of the previous year, the rate of outbreaks of malaria was found to have been reduced markedly. Only two out of every 1,000 people now suffer from the illness. According to the statistics of the National Malaria Elimination Project, the outbreak rate is one in one thousand and NMEP and its partner organisations, two in one thousand. The mortality rate

is 0.04 per cent in 0.1 million people. In figures, there were 110,000 malaria patients in the whole country. Out of them, only 21 died. We will reduce the outbreak rate by 85 per cent and mortality rate by 95 per cent so that the country will be totally free from malaria cases in 2030", said Dr. Aung Thi, the National Malaria Elimination Project manager. "For now, all the townships are designated as places likely to be affected by the malaria, so that malaria can be uprooted. But, Kachin and Rakhine states and Sagaing Region are the most-affected regions, whereas the remaining regions including Nay Pyi Taw can be designated as malaria-free zones in 2020. Later on, the places where malaria cases broke out will be designated as the focal zone and carried out to be totally free from the diseases in 2030", he added.

The meeting for the one-week-long malaria prevention campaign will be held from 4 to 8

December. On 6 December there will be a senior-level officials' meeting, and on 7 December there will be a meeting of Directors-General on Health, in preparation for the Greater Mekong Sub-regions Health Ministers' Meeting. On 8 December there will be the GMS Health Ministers' Meeting.

The meetings will be participated in discussions by Health Ministers and high-ranking officials from over 30 countries of the Asia-Pacific Region and partner countries. The results of the discussion will be released after the GMS Health Ministers' Meeting, it was learnt.

"The meeting was arranged to be held in Myanmar to make people more convinced of malaria. The five-day-long meeting will be attended by 30 countries in Asia-Pacific Region. In the World Health Assembly to be held in May 2018, where all the ministers will attend, it is designated for all Health Ministers of

GMS countries to sign the Declaration," Dr. Aung Thi explained.

Dr Aye Yu Soe of the Three Millennium Development Goal Fund, who attended the meeting, said, "Malaria was a common illness in Myanmar, and now the rate of outbreaks of the disease has remarkably decreased. In 2016, there were only 0.1 million patients in the country left. It is designated as the malaria-free Myanmar in 2030, in all countries including Myanmar. Rural health

volunteers have been trained to give treatment to patients in villages around the clock. They all had been given equipment for testing blood for malaria examination. If a patient suspected of malaria illness is found, the said volunteer health staff will make the blood test and will give treatment promptly right after the patient is found. The drugs will be given out free of charge. This is the successful result." — Shin Min/Mi Phyo



Dr. Aung Thi delivers the speech at the meeting for the one-week-long malaria prevention campaign. **PHOTO: KYAW YE SWE**



## Vice President U Myint Swe receives Secretary-General of BIMSTEC

VICE President U Myint Swe received the delegation led by H.E Mr Shahidul Islam, Secretary-General of BIMSTEC, at 3 pm yesterday at the diplomatic lounge of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw.

In the meeting, views on situations of cooperation between Myanmar and BIMSTEC, prospects to be cooperated in future and situations of cooperation among 7 BIMSTEC countries in the sectors of power and agriculture with Myanmar participating as the leading country were exchanged.

This is the first-ever friendship visit to Myanmar of H.E Mr Shahidul Islam, after taking the post of the Secretary-General of BIMSTEC in September 2017, it was learnt. Present at the meeting were U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Co-operation, Major-General Aung Soe, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs, Dr Tun Naing, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy, Dr Tin Htut, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and responsible officials.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Vice President U Myint Swe welcomes BIMSTEC Secretary-General Mr. Shahidul Islam at the diplomatic lounge of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on 5 December 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

## VP U Henry Van Thio attends Central Committee for Myanmar SEZ meeting

THE Central Committee for Myanmar Special Economic Zones (SEZs) coordination meeting 2/2017 was held yesterday morning at the President's Office in Nay Pyi Taw, where Vice President U Henry Van Thio, the Chairman of the Myanmar SEZ Central Committee, attended and delivered a speech.

In the meeting, the Vice President said during the incumbent government period, the SEZ Central Committee was formed on 12 August 2016 and the first meeting of the central committee was held on 9 February 2017. The present meeting is called to study the work conducted, progress made after the first meeting and to discuss together on what needs to be done.

"It is now 1 year and 8 months since the new government took up responsibility. Everyone knew that the ministries are doing what they can in their respective sectors for the country's economic development. But with the exception of the tourism sector, there is a need to show identifiable progress in the economic sector" the Vice President said.

"The SEZ management committees had been formed for more than a year by now and there had been sufficient time to study the works so all need to strive energetically toward development".

The Vice President added of his trust that the country's economic development will be obvious with the development



Vice President U Henry Van Thio addresses the coordination meeting of the Central Committee for Myanmar Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Nay Pyi Taw, on 5 December 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

of SEZs.

With regards to the SEZs, the State Counsellor had said that the SEZ works are important for the country and there is a need to discuss and coordinate to find the best solutions for the success of the SEZ works. The views and opinions of the local people need to be stressed and the State Counsellor had guided on prioritising job opportunities.

"SEZs are to be implemented according the 12 economic policies laid down by the country. Enacted SEZ Law and rules need to be followed. The Thilawa SEZ is picking up momentum and moving forward. Emphasis must now be placed on starting the Kyaukpau and Dawei SEZs that hadn't started yet", the State Counsellor said.

In making an effort to restart the initial projects of Dawei SEZ,



once the upgrading of the two-way road is completed, it will be a significant development for not only the zone but also for travel business in Taninthayi Region as well. It will also support the remaining projects and would raise the interest of the investors.

Myanmar's equity ratio in the Kyaukpau zone deep sea port project and industrial park project are being discussed with the CITIC Group Corporation, the state-owned investment company of the People's Republic of China. In conducting SEZ works, the short term aim is to provide job opportunities for local nationals and work must be conducted systematically. Time is to be valued and progress need to be achieved in the shortest possible time. SEZ works involves international dealing and must be managed smoothly and system-

atically, said the Vice President.

At the meeting, Myanmar SEZ Central Committee Vice Chairman Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe explained the importance of SEZs to Myanmar economic development.

"It is especially an important work for providing job opportunities for local people and to have economic and contact with other countries. As the work of SEZ is beneficial for the country and people, all are urged to actively participate in it", said the Vice Chairman.

Afterwards, Myanmar SEZ Central Committee secretary Union Minister Dr Than Myint explained the status of works conducted by Myanmar SEZ Central Committee and Central Work Committee and decisions made.

Myanmar SEZ Central Com-

mittee joint secretary Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo then explained decisions made in Myanmar SEZ Central Committee meeting (1/2017) and works completed.

Thilawa SEZ management committee chairman Deputy Minister U Set Aung, Dawei SEZ management committee chairman Deputy Minister Dr. Tun Naing and Kyaukpau SEZ management committee chairman Dr. Soe Win then spoke about works completed on the ground in each SEZ.

This was followed by Union Minister U Win Khaing's explanation on the status of laying a two-way tar road to Dawei SEZ.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein then explained the benefits of setting up a Yangon Special Economic Zone and work programmes.

Meeting attendees then provided their suggestions and discussions.

Myanmar SEZ Central Committee Chairman U Henry Van Thio remarked on obtaining benefits for the country and to work in a timely manner for the projects to progress. Trainings are to be provided so that local nationals can perform high-position jobs and, if required, to obtain the advice of international experts in signing work project agreements.

The meeting was attended by Union ministers, states and regions chief ministers, deputy ministers and officials.—Myanmar News Agency ■



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# Authority reinforcing safety precautions on Japanese Encephalitis vaccination programme

May Thet Hnin

THE Ministry of Health and Sports is reinforcing precautions for the Japanese Encephalitis (JE) vaccination, a public programme that will be conducted from 11 to 20 December across the country to protect against the sometimes fatal disease, said Dr. Than Tun Aung, the deputy director general of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

To ensure the safety of the second phase of the vaccination programme, health staff will check the children's medical biography to determine whether the children should receive the vaccination against Japanese encephalitis. The health staff will also post informational posters depicting symptoms and conditions in which the vaccine is not to be administered for parents. Question and answer sessions will also be widely conducted. Children will be put under observation for an hour after being vaccinated and all will be reminded to inform the doctor if any symptoms appear.

"A vaccination team will not vaccinate more than 100 children. Then, we will keep a health staff at the vaccination programme health centre as a standby to ask for the medical biography of the children. We also will keep the health group to observe the post-vaccination condition of the children. We are also planning to provide the key message of the consequences of the JE vaccination to the parents. We are also making ready to provide emergency treatment if we find any post-vaccination problems,"



The ceremony for nationwide Japanese Encephalitis vaccination programme 2017 in progress. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

said Dr. Than Tun Aung.

The campaign includes two phases, beginning in all schools from 15-23 November. Health teams in all states and regions reached every school as well as religious and private institutions across the country to immunize children aged 5 to 15. According to 24 November data, the team has given the vaccination against Japanese encephalitis to 8.3 million out of 8.6 million children.

During the second phase, from 11-20 December, immunisation posts will be set up at hospitals, health centres, ward and village administrators' offices, monasteries and other community locations to reach children aged 9 months to 5 years and those who have missed the first round. The health department targeted another five million children in a community-based vaccination programme.

83 per cent in Rakhine State, 90 per cent in Yangon Region, 91 per cent in Northern Shan State, 94 per cent in Southern Shan State and Kayah State and over 95 per cent in other states and regions were being vaccinated against Japanese encephalitis by the Ministry of Health and Sports. During the first vaccination campaign, five children died after receiving the

JE vaccination, creating worry for parents whose children are being vaccinated for JE.

"I am really worried for my child to take JE vaccination when I heard of some children dying after being vaccinated. Now, I am considering to see a doctor before my child take JE vaccination," said the mother of a 3-year old child in North Okkalapa Township. An inquiry into the incident revealed that the vaccination was not the cause of death.

"Our team from the central vaccination programme immediately went to find out the cause of the death and to see whether there was any connection to the vaccination. We have conducted laboratory tests and autopsies on those five children. We have found that those five children died because of other diseases" said Dr. Htar Htar Lin.

Health officials said the vaccination being used is very safe and has been tested extensively.

"The Japanese encephalitis vaccine was manufactured in China. Currently, over 400 million children from 11 countries were vaccinated against JE with the recommendation of the World Health Organization. The JE vaccine is also recommended by Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety," said Prof

Saw Win, child specialist and vice chairman of the National Committee for Immunization Practices.

Myanmar people have suffered from JE and a total of 315 JE cases were reported in 2017. The Ministry of Health and Sports has decided to add Japanese encephalitis (JE) vaccine to the National Immunisation Programme beginning in January 2018. Currently, they have provided the Japanese encephalitis vaccines to the children aged nine months to 15 years.

Japanese encephalitis is caused by a virus transmitted to humans by the Culex tritaeniorhynchus mosquito. The Culex mosquito breeds in water pools and flooded rice fields and picks up the virus from pigs and water birds. It does not spread from person to person.

Japanese Encephalitis is a serious infection that occurs mainly in rural parts of Asia. The symptoms of JE are initially mild fever, headache and vomiting. When it becomes serious it can cause seizures, brain swelling, loss of consciousness and death. There is no effective treatment for JE. Taking the vaccination is the best way to prevent JE.

If children receive the JE vaccination once, it prevent JE 90 per cent of the time and if the children take the JE vaccination twice, it can prevent JE 99 per cent of the time.

In Myanmar and 24 countries of the Asia Pacific region, there are an estimated 68,000 cases of JE disease infection per 100,000 per year and most of those infected are children under 15 years old. Of this, the fatalities are estimated to be from 13,600 to 20,400, according to the World Health Organization. (*Translation: Haymar Tin Win*) ■

## Mawlawi Federation urges . . .

**FROM PAGE-1**

Those who are not registered in form 1 in accordance with the regulations and are not holding any identification according to the Citizenship law and rules and regulations, together with their children and offspring are to obtain an Identity Card for National Verification or NV Card according to Registration Act of 1949 for all who reside in Union of Myanmar under section 5(2)(c). Therefore, all those who profess the Islamic faith who are

living in Myanmar have the duty to have some form of identification issued by the State in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations. It has been learnt that the above statement further states that those individuals, their children and their offspring who do not have in their possession any form of identification card are urged to get the National Verification Card now being issued by the State and undergo the process of verification for citizenship.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Free eye care services given to eye patients in Myitkyina

With the guidance of Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Ashin Nyanissara, eye patients were given free eye care services at the Sitagu Eye Hospital in Myitkyina, Kachin State starting from 4 December.

There are 2600 eye patients who want eye care services, and doctors have examined 500 patients per day. If it's necessary to have operations, the ophthalmologist Prof. Dr. Mya Aung and other specialists will undertake the medical procedures until 7 December. With the sponsorship and the charity of Sitagu Eye Hospital, the patients and care givers will be provided accommodation and food.—Myanmar Digital News ■



## TMH Telecom Public Co., Ltd soon to be listed on Yangon Stock Exchange

YANGON Stock Exchange (YSX) approved the TMH Telecom Public Co., Ltd to be listed on YSX on 1st December 2017 after scrutinizing submitted application documents and a deliberate listing examination in accordance with Section 41 (c) of the Securities Exchange Law and section 7 and 8 of the Securities Listing Business Regulations, a recent disclosure of YSX.

The listing date of TMH is soon to be announced to the investors. Only company's profile has disclosed on YSX website, and prospectus and supplemental documents will be revealed upon listing date.

The TMH was primarily focused on manufacturing of quality automatic telephone exchanges and

then, it expanded to telecommunication services and the construction and operation of communication and broadband service. Currently, shares of four companies— First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB) and First Private Bank (FPB) are currently being traded on YSX.

On 4<sup>th</sup> December, 14,774 shares worth over Ks77 million were traded by four listed companies. However, stock trading volume dropped down to 4,068 shares yesterday, with estimated trading value of Ks55 million. The share prices were Ks12,000 for FMI, Ks3,100 for MTSH, Ks8,800 for MCB and



Visitor takes photo at YSX in downtown Yangon. Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) approved the TMH Telecom Public Co., Ltd to be listed on YSX on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH**

Ks26,000 for FPB at the closing time. Last month's stock trading value on YSX was Ks1.14 billion which is up from all-time low of Ks1 billion in October since its establishment, according to monthly data released by YSX yesterday.

YSX failed to attract local stock traders even af-

ter publicity discussions, expo and educative talks of stock market as it is far removed from most of the local businesses. A year and half old YSX is trying to survive from strong criticism with cool market and dropping share prices of listed companies.—Mon Mon ■

## More than 2.1 million tons of rice and broken rice exported to foreign countries

MYANMAR'S rice and broken rice export to foreign countries as of 24th November this FY reached over 2.1 million tons, with estimated value of US\$643 million, according to recent news released by the Commerce Ministry.

The export volume this FY has increased about 1.4 million tons more than similar period of last FY. Export income from rice and broken rice export was up by \$402 million.

Previously, 72 per cent of rice and broken rice export went to foreign trade partners via border checkpoints. Rice trade via sea route has now improved.

This fiscal year, sea route accounts for 60 per cent of rice export whereas 40 per cent went from border gate.

Last year, there were only 29 foreign rice buyer countries. Myanmar's rice has now shipped to 48 countries through sea route.

Rice and broken rice are main export items in agriculture group which includes various pulses, rubber, sesame seeds, fruits, vegetables, corns, etc. — Htet Myat ■

## River View Tower

### Unbelieveable price of RVT condominium

- ❑ RVT lacuary condominium, 13th storied building price is started from 75 to 110 USD for 1sqft, our condo have only 44units (1unit=1900sqft), River View and Shwe Dagon, City View condominium.
  - ❑ Facilities — 2lift, Swimming pool, Gym, Party hall, Backup Generator, Car parking(56Nos), 24/7 Security Desk.
  - ❑ Location —
    - ➔ 3 to 4km 10min travel from RVT condo
      - ❖ ShuKhinTar International School
      - ❖ Royal Myanmar Education Center (RMEC)
      - ❖ Dulwitch International Collage
    - ➔ 4 to 5 km, 10 to 15min travel from RVT condo
      - ❖ Shew Pu Zun Cafe
      - ❖ Capital Hypermarket
      - ❖ City Mart
    - ➔ 3 to 5 km, 10min travel from RVT condo
      - ❖ South Dagon Industrial Area
      - ❖ Dagon Siekkan
      - ❖ Bus terminal
    - ➔ 3 to 7km, 6 to 12min travel from RVT condo
      - ❖ SSC Hospital
      - ❖ Chan Myae Myit Tar Hospital
      - ❖ Shwe Baho Hospital
      - ❖ Aung Hospital
    - ➔ 14km, 25min travel from RVT condo to Thilawa Economic Zone.
    - ➔ 10 to 13km, 20-25min from RVT condo to Daw-Pon and City Downtown Area.
  - ❑ Phone - 09761799799, 09972578825, [www.facebook.com/TheRiverViewTower](http://www.facebook.com/TheRiverViewTower)
- Proposed Residential Apartments at Myanmar. Now 70% Complete and will handover to customer on July 2018.



# Over 3,580 acres of paddies harvested in Maungtaw as of December

THE Rakhine State Government announced yesterday that paddies in more than 3,580 fields belonging to farmers who fled to Bangladesh have been harvested to prevent waste.

The authorities formed a committee to harvest the ownerless rice, beginning the harvest on 28 October.

According to the committee, more than 168,350 baskets of paddy were collected from more than 3,580 fields in villages in Maungtaw Township. The paddy that has been harvested will be returned to the owners either in cash or in the form of paddy. The harvested rice has been systematically recorded with the following data: Owner's name, plot number, quantity and moisture level (13 per cent). After recording thusly, the rice is bagged and stored in designated storage areas. The government personnel who are performing this task are from the AMD – Agriculture Mechanization Department. AMD personnel from Mandalay and Sagaing regions have been brought in to support the local AMD personnel.- UEHRD Information and Communications Office.— Myanmar News Agency

No.	Township	Village-tract	Harvested (acres)	Yield
1	Maungtaw	Kyaung Taung	305.29	14960
2	Maungtaw	Kan Poo	360.20	14320
3	Maungtaw	Myo Thu Gyi	216.86	11525
4	Maungtaw	Chain Khar Li	194.81	8833
5	Maungtaw	Than Dar	122.74	6262
6	Maungtaw	Alelthankyaw	363.30	14842
7	Maungtaw	Hnwaryontaung	153.19	7698
8	Maungtaw	Myin Hlut	513.75	23809
9	Maungtaw	Kyikanpyin	9.52	570
10	Maungtaw	Thihokyun	19.00	1038
11	Maungtaw	U-daung	150.02	7377
12	Maungtaw	Sanpalkon	183.11	9141
13	Maungtaw	Laungdon	193.25	10751
14	Maungtaw	Aungsitpyin	218.73	10756
15	Maungtaw	Warcha	34	1471
16	Maungtaw	Thapyaytaw	280.29	12089
17	Maungtaw	Doetan	12.60	657
18	Maungtaw	Ywathitkay	62.10	2800
19	Maungtaw	Zawmatat	36.55	1440
Total			3580.96	168351

Source: Rakhine State Government

# Union Minister U Thaung Tun meets Indonesia Minister



Union Minister U Thaung Tun receives Indonesia Minister Dr. H. Wiranto in Nay Pyi Taw on 5 December. **PHOTO: MNA**

H.E. U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government, received Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, H.E. Dr. H. Wiranto in Nay Pyi Taw at 10 am on 5 December 2017. During the meeting, they discussed security issues in Rakhine State and exchanged views on counter-terrorism measures. The meeting was attended by senior officials from the Ministry of the Office of the Union Government and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — Myanmar News Agency ■

# Over 2,000 land confiscation complaints resolved in one year

THE Central Committee for scrutinising cases of disputed farmland and other land allegations dealt with more than 2,075 complaints against land confiscation nationwide lodged to the committee in a year.

In a statement released by the Central Committee headed by Vice President U Henry Van Thio yesterday, the committee returned more than 38,024 acres of farmland to original owners, kept more than 88,771 acres as state-owned land and transferred more than 13,493 acres to other ministries.

Meanwhile, nearly 7,000 acres are under scrutinisation to possibly be returned to owners.

The incumbent government's central committee for scrutinising grabbed farmland has returned more than 140,289 acres from May, 2016 to 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 so far and the Land Use Management Committee of the previous government returned more than 429,000 acres.

Meanwhile, there are 4,730 cases remaining to be settled that date back to the time of the previous government.— GNLM ■

# Union Attorney-General separately receives IDLO Field Program Manager and IBA Director

UNION Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo separately received International Development Law Organization (IDLO) Field Program Manager Ms. Christina Beninger and party at 11:30 a.m. and International Bars Association (IBA) Director Dr. Phillip Tahmindjis AM and party at 2 p.m. in Union Attorney-General office guest room, Nay Pyi Taw on 4 December.

During the meeting with IDLO delegation, findings and suggestions of IDLO training requirement survey report, future works to improve Union Attorney-General office trainings, expanding the cooperative works in accordance with the signed MoU between IDLO and Union Attorney-General office and publishing of Fair Trail Standard as soon as possible were discussed.

In the meeting with IBA delegation, works conducted by Myanmar Bar Council, status of amending Bar Council Act and Legal Practitioners Act, maintaining the ethic and practices of lawyers and areas in which Union Attorney-General office and IBA can cooperate were discussed.

The meetings were attended by Permanent Secretary Daw Nu Nu Yin, directors general Daw Khin Cho Ohn, Dr. Thida Oo and U Min Swe. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo holds talks with IBA Director Dr. Phillip Tahmindjis AM in Nay Pyi Taw on 4 December. **PHOTO: MNA**





Union Minister Dr Pe Myint and Mr. Jiang Jianguo sign MoU on media cooperation between Myanmar and China. **PHOTO: MNA**

## MoU on media cooperation

A ceremony to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on media cooperation between Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Information and the State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China was held yesterday afternoon in the Zhudao government guest house in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province. The MoU

was signed by Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint and the State Council Information Office Minister Mr. Jiang Jianguo.

At the signing ceremony, matters relating to bilateral media cooperation, cultural and literature cooperation and exchange were discussed. The event was attended by State Council Information Office Vice

Minister Mr. Guo Weimin, Director General Mr. Zhang Ye, Director General Mr. Zheng Yaxiong, Deputy Director General Mr. Zhang Hongbin, Ministry of Information Deputy Permanent Secretary U Myint Kyaw and Printing and Publishing Department Deputy Director General U Ko Ko Naing. —Myanmar News Agency ■

## Internet contributes to abandoned babies?

By: Nandar Win, Myat Sandy

VERY recently, a news item was found on a social web page that a newborn baby with the umbilical cord still attached was found abandoned, waiting for someone desirous of adopting the poor victim. In a previous February, a similar abandoned baby was found in the midst of rubbish in the back alley between Zadila and Zawtika Streets of Mahlwagone Htay Kywe (Ka) Ward of Tamway Township in Yangon. The baby was sent to Yankin Children's Hospital for treatment, but unfortunately the baby died.

Medical professionals said these types of occurrences happen regularly.

"Events of abandonment in back alleys after delivery at home and cases of abandonment at hospitals are commonly found. Child abandonment was mostly attributed to unwanted conceptions", said Dr. Pyone Mo Ei, a member of the team for protection of child abandonment, Myanmar Women Affairs Committee said.

Last year as well, it was learnt from social media pages that a baby with some scratches on its head and with some rub-

bish in its mouth was abandoned, packed in a bag in the grove near-by the old railroad tracks outside the Yaytagu village, Thamote village-tract in Myeik Township.

"Being youths, they cannot defend themselves from dangers and stand on their own two feet. Becoming pregnant, they will give birth to babies in secret places and abandon them. These became habits among them", Dr. Pyone Mo Ei also said.

In accord with the saying, "The world is becoming a village with the advancement of Information Technology", these days we are frequently hearing about child abandonment.

A superintendent of Children's Hospital concluded that such cases of abandonment of innocent children are due to social or economic problems. But such deeds should not be done by young parents or their relatives.

Child abandonment is a criminal offence. A person can be arrested under section 317 of the Penal Code, it was learnt. A senior official said that, provided the person in question cannot take responsibility for caring for a newborn infant due to social problems, they can apply for entrusting the child to the child care



School children visit the Youth All-Round Development Festival. **PHOTO: MNA**

centre at Shwegondine under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, and they can apply for the administration of the baby in the future when they find it easy for livelihood again.

The social welfare department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is giving care to socially disabled children and orphans from the age of infancy to 10 years in Mandalay, Kengtung, Pathein, Sittway, Magway, Mawlamyine and other cities, it was learnt. Even though they are being cared for, a mother's lap is the safest place for them.

"Every child wants to be brought up in the lap of their mother. Today's child, being future leaders-to-be, they would not like to start their life with bitter experiences. Had we managed to protect unwanted conception, child abandonment would never occur; we firmly believe this," said Dr. Pyone Mo Ei.

It is definitely described in the pamphlet of the Child Care Centre, Shwegondine that any child being despised and ridi-

culed becomes frightened and less confident of oneself; any child being blamed and denounced becomes accustomed to blaming others; likewise, any child being in touch with hatred tends to behave in an aggressive manner.

"We want people to know this. It is very important. However much the government gives care to children, they cannot be well qualified with good qualities like children in the laps of their own mothers. If we can give some help concerning unwanted conceptions, child abandonment will never occur", a responsible official said.

It has been learnt that a philanthropic team led by movie star Khaing Hnin Wai took part in a campaign to eliminate child rape.

"We helped to eradicate child rape and reduce child abandonment. We arranged short plays and concert. We aimed at educating youths as to what causes child rapes", Khaing Hnin Wai said,

As of November there were 735 cases of child rapes reported in 2017. It was learnt that most of the victims were between 14

and 16. Those who committed the child rapes belonged mostly to poor families and they are usually familiar with victims' parents or guardians. They targeted girls by establishing trust and then abusing that trust. They are less educated and weak in judgment, according to a legal officer.

Some say access to the internet needs to be restricted.

"So as to reduce unnecessary offences on sex, it is necessary to broadly control the program of restricting internet use by today's youths. In schools as well, simple and understandable sex education needs to be shared effectively", said Daw Htar Htar, a founder of the Akhayar Women's Network. Concerning protection against child rape, Daw Naw Thaw said, "Every individual has their personal own value. They themselves value and they need to value others. Consideration is needed to stand tall among the people.

We can control our desires with our own conscience and we can avert them as desired by us." ■



The booth of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Ministry at the Youth All-Round Development Festival. **PHOTO: MNA**



## Peace and prosperity needs freedom from partiality

EVERY individual in the world lives in accord with teachings of the religions they profess. The teachings of their respective religions include principal concepts based upon loving kindness closely related to social ethics, peace and mindfulness to be understood and practiced by every mortal. Yet, out of our inability to control 4 kinds of partiality caused by desire, anger, fear or ignorance, that are usually conceived in an ordinary person, we are facing events of great sorrow and unnecessary happenings.

It is necessary for all of us to make efforts to ensure that we have such kinds of partiality in us as little as possible, between those belonging to different races and different belief systems. Mutual understanding, trust and respect must be built up without fail amongst people of different races and religion so that we can build our peaceful and prosperous societies all over the world. Quarrels, fights, conflicts and war can occur based on religion, hate speech, spread of rumors, blasphemy

and false allegations. Lots of previous incidents in the world are lessons for us to seriously consider.

We are required to promptly extinguish even a spark which can burn into an inferno at any time. Especially, we must take care not to make imprudent remarks or responses toward events or incidents which have taken place or are taking place at present. Failing that, our casual deeds will add fuel to the flame. As for the related societies as well, they collectively need to keep the flame under control so that this flame does not turn into an uncontrollable inferno.

Now that the above-said four kinds of partiality are causing more and more problems, those involved in the conflicts are becoming too sensitive. All individuals are required to take care not to pull the trigger, so to speak. In case

someone unwillingly or willingly causes a small spark to turn into a big fire, he and those in his community must have the presence of mind to extinguish the fire as soon as possible.

Especially, religious and racial affairs are deep, complex and sensitive, hence the need to take great care not to cause problems. In fact, all religions teach us to have loving-kindness, tolerance, forgiveness, sympathy and kindness. Problems arise when certain individual who claim themselves to be religious teachers interpret the original teachings of the spiritual masters to suit their own particular self-interests.

Very recently, political and spiritual leaders have given us words of nobility, not to take revenge, to be tolerant and to collectively bring about the benefits of peace and harmony to the people. In return, the people gave similar gestures of welcome and love to the leaders. It is of great need for us to see our inner selves and to make concerted efforts for the wellbeing of mankind. In brief, we need to be aware that the 4 kinds of partiality are hiding within us, and not to succumb to their evil effects—hatred and aggressiveness among our societies.

# Despite recent growth, tourism in Myanmar faces near-term challenges

Oxford Business Group

WHILE arrivals figures for the period January-August have yet to be consolidated, data from the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism (MoHT) indicates that between 2.2m and 2.8m foreign tourists visited Myanmar in the first eight months of the year, representing a year-on-year (y-o-y) increase of more than 20%, according to local media reports.

Of these, an estimated 1.4m entered the country via Myanmar's land borders with China and Thailand, and a further 830,000 arrived through international airports in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw, representing a 10% y-o-y rise in air arrivals.

Ministry officials forecast full-year numbers will surpass 3.5m, which would represent a 21% increase on 2016. The figures come amid rapid expansion in the sector in recent years; official statistics show that international arrivals rose from 1.1m in 2012 to a high of 4.7m in 2015. While this dropped to 2.9m last year, the MoHT attributes the decline down to the adoption of a new counting system that excluded day trips.

### Unrest a potential threat to growth

While the strong start to the year has provided a solid platform for the industry, there are concerns that security issues could hinder growth later in the year



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

— traditionally the sector's peak season.

The concern was underscored by the release of a World Bank economic update in October, in which Hans Anand Beck, lead economist for Myanmar, warned that conflict in the country could affect its investment potential, citing booking and tour cancellations in the sector.

While arrival and bookings data for the third quarter has not yet been released, local and international media have reported that inbound traffic and reservations have fallen in the wake of

With 10 domestic carriers active in the country, competition is strong, while high operating costs and low load numbers make many routes unprofitable.

### Increased coverage of the refugee crisis. Oversupply placing strain on tourism operators

These security concerns come amid an increased provision of services and offers in key tourism segments.

The opening up of Myanmar's economy in recent years, which included the easing of travel restrictions, has led to a boom in tourism-related construction, with new hostels, hotels and luxury accommodation options being established, along with expansion of the

hospitality segment.

This rapid development of infrastructure and services – combined with social unrest and extreme weather events such as flooding and earthquakes – has placed a strain on some operators, however, with local media reporting in September that hotels in the key tourism hotspot of Bagan were registering occupancy rates below 30%.

Although well placed for when demand increases, as it is forecast to do in the medium term, this oversupply of accommodation could slow the pace of new investment.



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

### Calls for aviation consolidation amid congested market

Another area experiencing overcrowding is aviation. Rapid expansion in recent years has placed pressure on the profitability of some small operators.

With 10 domestic carriers active in the country, competition is strong, while high operating costs and low load numbers make many routes unprofitable, according to Kyaw Nyein, CEO of private carrier Golden Myanmar Airlines.

"There are too many small players in the market with only one, two or three aircraft," he told OBG. "The market is too small and overcrowded, and would benefit if some of these players came together to form a larger airline company."

Consolidation and more competitive prices would encourage foreign visitors – who pay a higher rate than locals – to fly domestically, and would improve internal mobility options for foreigners and nationals, as well as the margins for local airline companies, Kyaw Nyein added.

However, an earlier attempt to create a larger aviation player took a step back in November, when All Nippon Airways (ANA), Japan's largest airline, pulled out of a \$25m agreement to create a joint venture with Myanmar's Golden Sky World. The joint venture, established last year, would have seen ANA take a 49% stake in the airline.

## Public Peace Movement Week in Myeik



People participate in the peace vigil in Myeik. PHOTO: ZAW MYO NAING (MYEIK IPRD)

THE event known as Public Peace Movement Week was held in Taninthayi Region, Myeik on Monday afternoon in front of the Sea View Condo on Strand Road. The event included musical entertainment and speeches about the peace movement.

Students from Myeik Kazunin private school sung songs about peace and a local band from Myeik played music.

As hot-air balloons representing peace were sent up, singers Be Wa, Naung Yo, Kar Kar and Bo Bo Htut entertained the crowd with their singing. Cartoonist Maung Maung Fountain discussed and explained the peace logo and how the image has resonated with the local peace loving populace. He then drew pictures and images about peace and let the children and guests draw images of the peace logo, cartoons and images.

Afterwards, poet Nayi of Myeik, poet Maung Yu Paing and cartoonist Maung Maung Fountain recited peace poems.

U Jimmy of the 88 Generation Peace and Open Society then gave a speech on the importance of eradicating wars, the public's support being the primary force for the peace movement to succeed and eradicate wars and sounds of guns and bombs receding and disappearing as the peace voices of the public grew louder. U Min Ko Naing also compared countries with and without civil wars and explained with world and regional maps of the countries without civil wars being ahead in many ways compared to countries with civil war.

Later, attendees to the public peace talk event lighted candles and prayed for eternal peace and then chanted "may there be peace on earth and may 21st-Century Panglong be successful" as singers sang the peace prayer song.

The musical entertainment and public peace talk was attended by about 500 people, most of them locals. — Zaw Myo Naing (Myeik IPRD)

### 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](mailto: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



## 14 people rescued from capsized Myanmar fishing boat

A fishing boat named “Silver Sea” capsized in the Andaman Sea at about 12 nautical miles north of the drilling platform in Hainggyikyun Township, Patheingyi District in Ayeyawady

Region early this morning, according to the initial news from the Department of Fisheries.

A vessel from the Myanmar Navy rescued 14 people from the sunken boat

and was carrying out rescue operations.

The search and rescue operation for the remaining people is ongoing.—Myanmar Digital News ■

## Anti-aircraft bullets seized in Myawady Township

LOCAL police officials seized 1020 of the 12.7 mm anti-aircraft bullets during a house search in Thingannyinaung Village, Myawady Township in Kayin State on 4 December. The house was hired by San Lin (alias) Ko John.

The police received a clue that the suspect fled to Myitkyina. A combined squad consist-

ing of policemen and security personnel raid the house of the suspect where they arrested house owner San Lin (alias) Ko John and his wife Ma Khabu (alias) Laban Khabu.

The two suspects are being questioned at Myitkyina Police Department, according to the Ministry of Home Affairs.—MDN ■



PHOTO: MDN

## Child development measurement project to be implemented in nine places

MINISTRY of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement will implement the child development measurement and rehabilitation projects in nine places, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

The projects will be implemented in 2018. The ministry has chosen nine urban and rural areas in eight townships included Yangon, Ayeyawady and Sagaing

regions and, Mon State.

The ministry will check the development of children under five years and people with disabilities in selected townships. The ministry will establish a basic foundation for those who are in need of services.

Moreover, Myanmar passed the Right of People with Disabilities Law in accord with the Convention on the Rights of People

with Disabilities in 2015.

The bylaw will be issued very soon.

As part of the work for the rehabilitation and development of the disabled, the ministry is conducting the opening of vocational courses, the establishment of income-generating business and the physical development in eight disabled training schools.—GNLM ■

## Indonesia Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs leaves Nay Pyi Taw

AN Indonesian delegation led by Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs Mr. Wiranto who were in Myanmar left Nay Pyi Taw by air yesterday evening.

The departing guests Indonesia Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and

Security Affairs Mr. Wiranto and party were seen off at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director General U Soe Han, Indonesia Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Dr. Ito Sumardi and officials.—Myanmar News Agency

## Fire broke out in monastic school

A fire broke out in the monastic school where there are 262 students in Gyobingauk Township, Bago Region yesterday.

The fire started from a solar battery charger; there was damage to the school building

and 25 desks. No casualties were reported.

Mg Aung Than Zaw and a teacher from the school have been charged by the local police department with negligence of causing the fire.—MDN ■



A fire damages to the school building in Gyobingauk Township, Bago Region yesterday. PHOTO: MYANMAR DIGITAL NEWS

Nandar win, Win Win Maw  
Photo: Zaw Min Latt

## Power and Might of Youths

IT was such an interesting news that people who are curious to know about the latest technological changes in Myanmar, can witness how to assemble the air-conditioners which is making the best use of natural air and water, especially in the rural areas of Upper Myanmar.

Following is the excerpts of the interviewees.

Maung Htet Naing Lin, a Fourth Year Student, from Mechanical Department told that I am very glad to take part in this is festival, which was held for three days at the Yangon University. As a part of our youths, we exhibit some inventions that we made together at the science lab. All the inventors are students who are from our



Air-conditioners which are making the best use of natural air and water assembled by the students from Hmawbi Technological University.

Hmawbi Technological University. I think that we can do it due to our efforts and commitment.

The students who are from the Technological University of Western Yangon, invented newly-launched -operated

system which can also check the student attendance list, teaching respective subjects, and also can switch on/off the lights and fans automatically by using smart card.

The sensor can operate the



Maung Htet Naing Lin.

monitor which can check the students' attendance, roll call and classroom respectively. Besides the classrooms, meeting rooms, offices and schools are able to operate it without any difficulty.

“We do another project on Power Savings, and it can dramatically reduce the consumption of electricity to some extent”, said the students of Geography, Yangon University. “We are trying to save and reduce the energy consumption in order to maintain our ecosystem.”

This project is mainly based on natural air and water which can be utilized from all resources such as solar and wind power. All these projects are invented and led by many associations and organizations in Myanmar.

Students, of course, have a keen interest in new inventions and technologies, which can bring about the progress of mankind.

They are driving forces to shape the country as well. Therefore we must strive to uplift the development of our country as much as we can. ■



Ethnic delegation tours Nay Pyi Taw



Ethnic delegation observes crop cultivation at Yezin University of Agriculture. PHOTO: MNA

A delegation comprised of ethnic people from border areas visited Nay Pyi Taw yesterday at the invitation of the Ministry of Border Affairs.

About 100 visitors representing different ethnic races visited the Uppatasanti Pagoda, the Yezin University of Agriculture and the Hluttaw yesterday.

The delegation includes 25 people from Sagaing Region,

25 from the Naga Self-administered Zone, 25 from Thanithayi Region, and 25 from southern Shan State. At Yezin Univeristy, they observed crop cultivation and research on horticulture.

Following the visit to Yezin, the excursion group went to Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw, and the Nay Pyi Taw Water Fountain in the late afternoon.

The delegation members

arrived in Nay Pyi Taw on 4 December, beginning their three-day visit the next day. They will also visit Yangon.

With the aim of enhancing friendship and understanding among ethnic people, the Ministry of Border Affairs arranged the excursion programme for the ethnic people from remote areas to visit Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw and other regions. —Myanmar News Agency

Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman receives NMC members

U Aung Kyi, Chairman of Anti-Corruption Commission, received Dr Myo Thant Tin, Vice-Chairman-2 of Myanmar Press Council and member Hanthawady U Ohn Kyaing at 10 am yesterday at the guest room of the Office of Anti-Corruption Commission in

Nay Pyi Taw. In the meeting, matters concerning the process to be done further and the prescriptions on the law of anti-corruption were discussed. At the meeting U Han Nyunt, member of the Commission was also present. —MNA



Anti-corruption commission chairman U Aung Kyi welcomes NMC member Veteran journalist U Ohn Kyaing in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Nearly 800 houses under construction for displaced villagers in Maungtaw

A total of 798 houses are being constructed for more than 3500 people from 798 households in 26 villages in Maungtaw, said according to local authorities in Rakhine State.

The project is a part of the resettlement program of the Rakhine State Government.

The followings are the names of the villages in which the houses are to be built.

Status of building houses in Maungtaw Township

Sr.	Village Tract	Village	Houses	House hold	Population			Houses to be built	location	Region / State / Company constructed by
					Male	Female	Total			
1	Thittonena Gwa Sone	Khayu Chaung (Mro)	29	29	107	115	222	86	Near Thittonena Gwa Sone village	Mandalay Region 42 Ayeyawady Region 44
		Myauk Gaung Htaung (Mro)	20	20	51	58	109			
		Panchaung (Mro)	26	26	87	89	176			
		Inn Chaung (lower)(Mro)	11	11	29	23	52			
		Total	86	86	274	285	559			
2	Padaka Ywathit	Khon Daing (Mro)	40	40	137	122	259	140	Padaka Ywathit group	NaTaLa 48 Daw Khin Kyi Foundation 48 1 monastery by Yanbye Sayadaw
		Yenauk Nga Tha (Mro)	45	45	120	123	243			
		La Baw (Mro)	27	27	97	103	200			
		Thanpaya (Mro)	11	11	17	17	34			
		Padaka South (Mro)	9	9	14	13	27			
3	Zawmatet	Total	132	132	385	378	763	114	Zawmatet group	Yangon Region 50 Bago Region 64 90 x 30 school, 40 x 30 teacher home, 1 monastery and 1 pagoda by Taninthayi Region
		Kainggwi (Mro)	46	46	133	125	258			
		Sein Pan Myaing (Mro)	47	47	112	113	225			
		3 Mile (Mro)	21	21	104	114	218			
		Total	114	114	349	352	701			
4	Mingyi	Mingyi (Rakhine)	73	72	182	170	352	72	Aungsitpyin group beside Taungpyo Road	Sagaing Region 34 Kayin State 27 Shwetaung Compnay 120 x 30 school
5	Laungdon	Fawkitauung (Marama)	20	12	39	46	85	20	Orginal place	Kachin state government
6	Oo Htane Myoma east Kyeinchaung Yebaw Kya Taungpyo Myomichaung Inndin	Oo Htane (Hindu)	72	-	-	-	-	173	Oo Htane + Yebaw Kya, 95 in Oo Htane Myoma east + Inndin, 42 in Myoma east. Kyeinchaung + Taungpyo + Myomichaung, 36 in Kyeinchaung	State government
		Myoma east (Hindu)	39							
		Kyeinchaung (Hindu)	20							
		Yebaw Kya (Hindu)	23							
		Taungpyo (Hindu)	4							
		Myomichaung (Hindu)	12							
		Inndin (Hindu)	3							
		Total	173							
7	Pantawpyin (Bengali)	Ywathit (Bengali)	-	-	-	-	-	22	Original place	Yangon Region
8	Badaka Ywathit	Myawady (Khami, Daingnet, Chin, Mro)	53	53	135	141	276	53		
9	Kunthipin	Nanthataung (Rakhine)	42	42	121	129	250	42	Original place	Tatmadaw Tatmadaw
		Monastery								
10	Thetkinenya	Thetkinenya (Thet)	28	28	64	57	121	4	Original place	Tatmadaw
11	Kaladayfet	Yankhazedi (Daingnet)	12	12	27	23	50	12	Aungthapayay Ywa	Tatmadaw

Thittonenarkwasone village-tract, Padarkarywarthit village-tract, Zawmathet village-tract, Mingyi village-tract, Longdone village-tract, Ohhtein village-tract, Eastern Myoma village-tract, Kyeinchaung village-tract, Yebawkya village-tract, Taungpyo village-tract, Myomichaung village-tract, Inndin village-tract, Pantawpyin village-tract, Badakarywarthit village-tract, Kwantheepin village-tract, and Thetkaingnyar village-tract.—Myanmar News Agency

12	Ahtatpyuma	Ahtatpyuma (Rakhine)	35	7	38	39	77	7	Aukpyuma	Tatmadaw
13	Ngayantchaung	Kathe (NaTaLa)	30	42	157	119	276	42	Near Khamaungseik town	Tatmadaw
	Total		798	798	1771	1739	3510	787		

Source: Rakhine State government

Status of caring for ownerless buffaloes, cows until 27-11-2017

Sr.	Date	Township	Village	No.		Total no.	
				cow	goat	cow	goat
1	21-11-2017	Maungtaw Township	Vethali (ethnic national)	-	1	2	2
			Kyeinchaung (mixed)	1	-		
			Chanpyin (ethnic national)	1	1		
2	22-11-2017		Oodaung (ethnic national)	2	-	3	2
			Minkhamaung (ethnic national)	-	1		
			Ngakhuya (mixed)	1	1		
3	23-11-2017		Shweyinaye (ethnic national)	-	1	1	3
			Tamantha (ethnic national)	1	-		
			Yaymyettaung (ethnic national)	-	2		
4	24-11-2017		Kanthaya (ethnic national)	1	-	2	1
			Kyeinchaung (mixed)	-	1		
			Kappakaung (ethnic national)	1	-		
5	25-11-2017		Bawdikone (ethnic national)	-	2	2	3
			Yanaungmyay (ethnic national)	1	-		
			Ywetnyotaung (ethnic national)	1	1		
6	26-11-2017		Ngwetaung (ethnic national)	1	-	1	2
			Mingalanyunt (ethnic national)	-	1		
			Yaymyettaung (ethnic national)		1		
7	27-11-2017	Ywathaya (ethnic national)	-	1	1	2	
		Kyeinchaung (mixed)	1	-			
		Laungdo (ethnic national)	-	1			
	21-11-2017 to 27-11-2017 total			12	15	12	15
	23-10-2017 to 20-11-2017 total					291	650
	23-10-2017 to 27-11-2017 total					303	665

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation





Tu-95MS. PHOTO: TASS

## Russian strategic bombers pay visit to Indonesia

MOSCOW — Two Tupolev Tu-95MS strategic bombers and two Ilyushin Il-76MD aircraft of Russia's Aerospace Forces have paid an international visit to Indonesia, the Russian Defence Ministry said.

"Two Tu-95MS strategic bombers and two Il-76MD aircraft of the Russian Aerospace Forces flew from an airfield in the Amur Region to the Biak airfield in the Republic of Indonesia as part of

an international visit," the ministry said. During the flight, the aerial refuelling of Tu-95MS aircraft was performed with the help of Il-78 air-to-air refuelling tanker aircraft over the waters of the Pacific

Ocean.

The flight was carried out in strict compliance with international rules of using the airspace, and no other states' borders were violated, the ministry stressed.—Tass ■

## EU court adviser says Britain was wrong to refuse transgender woman's pension

LUXEMBOURG — Britain's rejection of a transgender woman's claim for a women's state pension because she was still married to her spouse from before her transition is discriminatory, an EU court adviser said on Tuesday.

Advocate General Michal Bobek of the Court of Justice of the European Union (ECJ) stated in a non-binding opinion that marriage status does not play a role in accessing state retirement pensions for people who are not transgender.

"This amounts to direct discrimination on the basis of sex, which is not open to objective justification," a news release of the opinion stated.

The opinion was issued for a case where a transgender woman — who was registered as a boy at birth but has lived as a woman since 1991 and

had gender reassignment surgery in 1995 — in the UK applied for a state retirement pension when she turned 60 in 2008.

According to UK law, a woman born before 6 April, 1950 must be 60 to access the state retirement pension, whereas for a man born before 6 December 1953 the age is 65.

Her application was denied because she didn't apply for a full gender recognition certificate due to the fact that she remained married to a woman and her marriage would have been annulled at the time as same-sex marriage was not legal in Britain.

The UK Supreme Court asked the ECJ if the requirement to be unmarried to recognise a change in gender, and thus determine the qualifying age for a state pension, was allowed under EU law.—Reuters ■

## Germany must stop relying on US for foreign policy — foreign minister

BERLIN — Germany should be more assertive in setting foreign policy according to its own interests rather than to those of the United States, the German foreign minister said on Tuesday. Traditionally close ties between Berlin and Washington have soured since US President Donald Trump took office in January.

Trump is at odds with Germany over Iran and North Korea, has denounced Germany's trade surplus with the United States, accused Berlin and others of owing vast sums to NATO and worried partners by deciding to ditch the Paris climate accord.

The traditional view of the United States as having a protecting role

was beginning to "crumble", Sigmar Gabriel told an audience of politicians and government representatives at the Koerber Foundation.

"The US's retreat (from its international role) is not due to the policies of only one president. It will not change fundamentally after the next elections," he said.

Germany should continue to invest in its partnership with the United States as a trading partner but must be more assertive in representing its own interests when the two countries are at odds.

Gabriel gave the example of sanctions against Russia that the US Congress agreed on in the summer and which could ultimately affect

Germany's energy supply as they affect Russian pipelines.

Gabriel also warned against ending the nuclear deal with Iran, saying this would increase the risk of war and affect national security, and against any move by the United States to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. "Germany cannot afford to wait for decisions from Washington, or to merely react to them. We must lay out our own position and make clear to our allies where the limits of our solidarity are reached," Gabriel said in the speech, excerpts of which had been published by Sueddeutsche Zeitung ahead of time. Germans see US President Donald Trump as a bigger chal-

lenge for German foreign policy than authoritarian leaders in North Korea, Russia or Turkey, a survey published by the Koerber Foundation showed.

Post-war Germany has pursued a cautious foreign policy embedded in the principles and institutions of the European Union, due to the legacy of World War Two but has gradually taken on a more active global role in the last decade or so.

Gabriel's Social Democrats (SPD) have said they will launch talks with Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives on forming a government next week if members of his centre-left party gave him the green light at a congress this weekend.—Reuters ■

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## Scientists watch and wait as Bali's menacing volcano rumbles

KARANGASEM, Indonesia— The question Indonesian volcanologist Devy Kamil Syahbana gets most is the one he cannot answer — when, or if, rumbling Mount Agung on Bali island will blow up in a major eruption.

The 3,000 metre (9,800 ft) Agung — a so-called strato-volcano capable of very violent eruptions — has recorded a sharp rise in activity that has raised worries about a repeat of a 1963 eruption that killed more than 1,000 people.

“There’s no instrument in the world that can estimate precisely

when there will be a major eruption,” said Syahbana, who runs an observatory monitoring the towering volcano, just outside a 10-km exclusion zone.

Sensors beeped and walkie-talkies crackled he spoke to Reuters at the monitoring station.

“People expect certainty but volcanology is a science of probability,” he said pointing to charts showing dramatic fluctuations in the seismic activity deep under Agung.

Authorities raised the alert status to the maximum after the volcano started erupting last

month, spewing out ash over the holiday island and causing travel chaos by closing its airport for three days last week.

While hot magma has produced an eerie orange glow just above the crater, and thousands of villagers have fled from their homes on the mountain’s slopes, Agung has, this time, yet to explode violently. Syahbana, who studied volcanology in Brussels and Paris, said his team’s main job was to “increase the preparedness of the communities here in the event of a major eruption”. He

said safety was his priority, never mind that raising the alert level has spooked residents and tourists alike.

Syahbana said he had not come under any pressure to lower the alert, though his team was “aware of the costs” for Indonesia’s main tourist destination famous for its beaches and temples.

Indonesia has nearly 130 active volcanoes, more than any other country.

Syahbana has surveyed and installed instruments on many of the most active ones, includ-

ing Mount Merapi on Java island, to the west of Bali, and on Mount Sinabung in the north of Sumatra island.

His team of 16 scientists takes six-hour shifts to monitor seismic stations on Agung that record tremors deep inside the mountain, GPS trackers that record changes in land features and CCTV cameras that provide 24-hour surveillance.

“The difference between other volcanoes and Mount Agung is that there are no scientific records about previous eruptions here, only peo-

ple’s experiences,” Syahbana said.

In 1963, pyroclastic flows of lava and rocks poured out of the volcano, killing more than 1,000 people and razing dozens of villages. According to survivors, that eruption was preceded by earthquakes, volcanic mudflows, and ashfall — all signs that Mount Agung is showing again now, said Syahbana.

This time, with the internet and live feeds on social media, experts around the world are watching the smouldering Agung.—Reuters

## Arctic sea ice melt to exacerbate California droughts — study

WASHINGTON—Melting Arctic sea ice could render sun-soaked California vulnerable to a recurrence of the severe drought suffered in recent years as it is likely to cause high pressure systems that push away rain-bearing storms, a study released on Tuesday said. As temperatures rise, the Arctic Ocean is expected to become ice-free within two or three decades, resulting in more of the sun’s heat being stored in the Arctic Ocean, leading to atmospheric circulation changes and cloud formations in the tropical Pacific that move north.

That will lead to the building of high pressure system known as an atmospheric ridge in the northern Pacific off California’s coast, steering storms north into Alaska and Canada, the study said. “This has the potential to make a drought very similar to the one we had in 2012 to 2016,” said Ivana Cvijanovic, an atmospheric scientist at the Department of Energy’s Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Cvijanovic led the study with contributions from colleagues at the lab



A polar bear sow and two cubs are seen on the Beaufort Sea coast within the 1002 Area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in this undated handout photo provided by the US Fish and Wildlife Service Alaska Image Library on 21 December, 2005. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

and at University of California, Berkeley.

The recent five-year drought cost California’s farmers billions of dollars in lost production, slashed seasonal agriculture jobs by the thousands, and spiked electricity bills for residents as hydroelectric systems failed.

US meetings on the Arctic warming are mostly attended by scientists and members of Alaskan

communities, but Cvijanovic said residents of other regions should pay attention.

“Studies like this one imply that it’s not only a problem (for communities in Alaska) and that Arctic Sea ice loss that we expect in the next couple of decades could have massive effects” on Californians and other people around the world, she said.

Modeling by the

scientists showed that the loss of sea ice could cause a 10 to 15 per cent decrease in California’s rainfall when considering a 20-year mean, with some years becoming much drier and others becoming wetter. The loss of Arctic sea ice is only one path to a drier California that scientists have predicted.

A previous study on drought in the country’s most populous state

blamed another aspect of global warming. California’s temperatures have risen about 2 degrees Fahrenheit over the last century and the warmer air holds more water, sucking moisture out of soil, rivers and streams.

The study appeared in the journal Nature Communications and was funded by the Energy Department’s science office.—Reuters

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# Taylor Swift spends third week atop Billboard 200 chart

LOS ANGELES — Taylor Swift held onto her throne atop the weekly US Billboard 200 album chart for a third consecutive week on Monday. Swift's "Reputation" record sold another 147,000 album units in the week ending 30 November, according to figures from Nielsen Music. At No 2 this week is acappella group Pentatonix's festive album "A Pentatonix Christmas," while British singer Sam Smith's latest album "The Thrill of it All" held steady at No 3.

The only new entry in the top 10 of the Billboard 200 chart this week was a collaborative album by rappers Jadakiss and Fabolous, "Friday on Elm Street,"

opening at No 10.

The Billboard 200 chart tallies units from album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album).

On the Digital Songs chart, which measures online single sales, Ed Sheeran's love song "Perfect" climbed to No 1 from No 3 with nearly 60,000 copies sold. The singer released a new version of "Perfect" on 1 December, in which he duets with Beyoncé. As of Monday, the song is at the top of the US iTunes chart and has been viewed nearly 22 million times on YouTube.

—Reuters ■



Taylor Swift performs during iHeartRadio Jingle Ball Tour at The Forum in Inglewood, California, US on 2 December, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

## New York Met opera suspends conductor on sexual misconduct allegations

NEW YORK — New York's Metropolitan Opera on Sunday suspended its relationship with former long-time music director, the acclaimed conductor James Levine, as it investigates several allegations of sexual misconduct.

The opera said in a statement that it decided to act following "multiple allegations of sexual misconduct by Mr. Levine that took place from the 1960's to the 1980's, including the earlier part of his conducting career at the Met."

The organization said Levine, Met music director for 40 years until his retirement in 2016, would not be involved in any Met activities, including conducting scheduled performances this season.

"While we await the results of the investigation, based on these new news reports, the Met has made the decision to act now," General Manager Peter Gelb said in the statement, adding that the action was supported by the leadership of the Met Board and its Executive Committee. "This is a tragedy for anyone whose life has been affected."

Attempts to reach Levine through his manager Sunday night were unsuccessful. Met officials could not be reached to

request comment from Levine.

The allegations at one of the world's most prestigious opera houses come amid widening sexual misconduct scandals in the fields of entertainment, politics and journalism.

The opera on Saturday said it was investigating Levine after news reports of charges of sexual misconduct in the 1980s. The Met told the New York Times it became aware in October 2016 of a police report in Illinois that month in which a man accused Levine of sexually abusing him three decades ago, beginning when the man was a teenager.

Gelb told the Times that Levine said the charges were false and the Met did not hear anything further from the police.

The New York Times reported on Sunday that additional men had come forward with accusations against Levine.

Reuters was unable to independently confirm any of the allegations.

In 2016, the Met said Levine, who has battled Parkinson's disease and other health issues, would retire for health reasons but would be named music director emeritus and would continue to work with the Met's young talent development program. —Reuters ■

## 'Coco' Repeats as Box Office Winner With \$26.1 Million

LOS ANGELES — Disney-Pixar's animated comedy "Coco" easily repeated as the winner of the North American box office with a solid \$26.1 million (19.4 million pounds) at 3,987 locations during a moderate weekend.

The third weekend of Warner Bros-DC Entertainment's "Justice League" finished second with \$16.7 million at 3,820 sites, with the superhero tentpole dropping 60%.

Lionsgate's "Wonder" continued to perform well with \$12.5 million at 3,449 venues to come in third followed by Disney-Marvel's fifth frame of "Thor: Ragnarok" with \$9.7 million at 3,148 sites, the fourth weekend of Paramount's "Daddy's Home 2" with \$7 million at 3,403 venues and Fox's fourth weekend of "Murder on the Orient Express" with \$6.7 million at 3,201 screens.

Awards contenders "Lady Bird" and "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri" tied for seventh place with \$4.5 million each. A24's "Lady Bird" expanded by 403 sites to 1,194 and Fox Searchlight's "Three Billboards" doubled its run to 1,430 screens.

The major studios opted to rely on holdovers during the session and held off on any wide

openings. A24 generated strong performance from its limited launch of James Franco's "The Disaster Artist" with \$1.2 million at 19 locations for a \$64,254 per screen average. Fox Searchlight's "The Shape of Water" saw an impressive \$166,800 at two theatres and Woody Allen's "Wonder Wheel" debuted with a solid \$140,555 at five sites through Amazon.

Sony Classics' second weekend of "Call Me By Your Name" posted a stellar \$281,280 at four screens for a 10-day total of \$908,175. It won best feature at the Gotham Independent Film Awards on 27 November.

"Coco" has now taken in \$108.7 million in its first 12 days following a 47% decline from its opening. The film, based on the traditions surrounding the Day of the Dead holiday in Mexico, centres on a 12-year-old boy who dreams of becoming a musician. The film has been embraced by critics with a 97% score on Rotten Tomatoes. Disney's "Moana" performed slightly better during the same period last year with \$119.8 million after 12 days.

The studio has not released a price for "Coco." Disney-Pixar titles are usually budgeted in the \$175 million to \$200 million range.

"Justice League" has fin-

ished its first 17 days with \$197.3 million domestically. The movie, which teams up the DC characters in the same manner as Disney-Marvel's superheroes, is the 10th highest-grossing title released in 2017. It's been the lowest performer among the five films in the DC Extended Universe, with "Wonder Woman" grossing \$275.1 million in its first 17 days in June and "Suicide Squad" taking in \$262.4 million in its first 17 days last year.

Gal Gadot stars as Wonder Woman along with Ben Affleck as Batman, Henry Cavill as Superman, Jason Momoa as Aquaman, Ezra Miller as the Flash, and Ray Fisher as Cyborg as the superheroes team up to save the world. Warner Bros. has not disclosed the production cost, which is believed to be as much as \$300 million.

"Justice League" also grossed \$35.7 million on approximately 20,375 screens in 66 international markets, bringing the overseas total to \$370.1 million and the global total \$567.4 million.

Overall domestic moviegoing totalled \$104 million, up \$8 million from the same frame in 2016 and the biggest post-Thanksgiving weekend in five years, according to comScore.—Reuters ■



# First-ever gathering of Taungthar ethnic people held at Htilin Tsp, Magwe Region

TAUNGTHA ethnic people from Htilin, Saw, Gangaw, Sedoktara, Mindat townships assembled at Watthet village monastery in Htilin Township, Magwe Region from 9 am to 4 pm on 3rd December, and the gathering was alive with teeming crowd enjoying classical music and traditional dance.

Taungtha people live around Htilin, Saw and Yaw areas in Gangaw District.

The Taungtha people are the earliest inhabitants of Myanmar but are now on the verge of extinction.

This first-ever gathering aims to maintain the endangered Taungtha people and preserve

Taungtha literature with the help of authorities concerned and the regional government, said local residents. Magwe Region Hluttaw Chairman U Tar and officials from respective regions and states and teeming crowds of Taungtha people participated in the gathering.—Myanmar Digital News ■



PHOTO: U THANG NAING OO (IPRD)



## Without Trump, Kennedy Centre celebrates Lionel Richie and Gloria Estefan

WASHINGTON — With the notable absence of President Donald Trump, the Kennedy Centre on Sunday celebrated singers Lionel Richie and Gloria Estefan, rapper LL Cool J, television producer Norman Lear and dancer Carmen de Lavallade with honours for the arts.

The Kennedy Centre Honours are considered the highest recognition in the country for artists across many fields, and the importance of the annual event is usually underscored by a White House reception with the president and the first lady.

Not this year.

The White House said in August that Trump and his wife, Melania, would not attend, so that those honoured could enjoy the event “without any political distraction.” The White House reception was also canceled after some honorees said they would boycott it. De Lavallade, 86, said she decided she could not attend such an event after Trump said both right- and left-wing extremists were at fault in a white supremacist rally in Virginia where one woman died.

“Something in my soul ... said no,” she told reporters.

The show at the Kennedy Centre itself went on with minimal politics and a lot of star power.

Musicians, including Stevie Wonder, Quincy Jones and Kenny Rogers, paid tribute to Richie, known for hits such as “Three Times a Lady” and “Say You, Say Me.” Singer Leona Lewis finished with a rocking rendition of Richie’s hit song, “All Night Long,” bringing the audience to its feet.

Singer and songwriter Estefan, 60, who was born in Havana, Cuba, was feted by her daughter, Emily, who delivered a moving rendition of her mother’s song “Reach.”

The elder Estefan said she was thankful Trump chose not to attend. “Whenever something becomes more about the controversy than the actual achievements of the people that are receiving the award, it kinda dampens it for everybody,” she told Reuters on Saturday. LL Cool J, 49, who stars in the television show “NCIS Los Angeles,” made history by be-

coming the first hip hop artist to join the club of honorees.

“I’ve never been more inspired,” he told Reuters. “It’s a reminder that art matters.” He said Trump’s presence would have been a distraction.

Oscar-winning actress Meryl Streep kicked off a tribute to her one-time teacher De Lavallade, an actress and a dancer, who

wiped tears from her eyes at the end of a powerful dance and musical performance of an American spiritual with a twist: “She’s Got the Whole World in Her Hands.”

Television producer and writer Lear, famed for producing the hit comedy “All in the Family” as well as “Maude,” “Good Times,” and “The Jeffersons,” was celebrated for confronting tough

social issues. Lear was like a second father, said film maker Rob Reiner, who starred in “All in the Family.” From the stage, he said, “Norman, I love you,” to which Lear shouted back from the balcony in response, “I love you too.”

Lear, 95, told Reuters it felt great to be an honoree.

“It probably feels the same as it might have felt at 80. Everything else does,” he quipped, adding he was not upset that Trump chose not to attend. “It wasn’t a hand I needed to shake.” Displeasure at the Republican president and his policies formed a subtle undercurrent at a State Department reception for the honorees on Saturday night. “Art transcends borders, cultures, politics,” said actress Julie Andrews, who emceed the reception.

“This event gives us an opportunity to step away from divisive discourse and appreciate excellence in art that has been created for everyone.”

CBS will broadcast the 40th Kennedy Center Honors show on 26 December. —Reuters ■



2017 Kennedy Centre Honorees (seated L-R) dancer, actress and choreographer Carmen de Lavallade, TV writer Norman Lear, Cuban-American singer Gloria Estefan and (standing L-R) Rapper LL Cool J and singer and songwriter Lionel Ritchie pose for a group photo at the conclusion of a gala dinner at the US State Department, in Washington, US on 2 December, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS



## Myanmar U-23 football team draws 1-1 with MNL All Stars

MYANMAR U-23 football team which will be taking part in the M-150 Cup 2017 drew 1-1 with Myanmar National League, MNL All Stars team on 4 December evening at a prelim.

Myanmar U-23 football team used the players who will play at the M-150 Cup 2017.

The first half of the game was led by U-23 team after its player Maung Maugn Lwin scored the leading goal at 24 minutes.

In the second half, MNL All Stars team made the players substituting and Emmanuel scored equalizer at 74 minutes.

Before the game finished, the two teams tried their best to get more goal, but, no team scored any goal and the game concluded drawing.

Myanmar U-23 football team will be taking part in M-150 Cup 2017 with five other U-23 teams, Thailand, Viet



Myanmar U-23 footballer Si Thu Aung (red) and MNL All Stars footballer vie for ball at prelim match on 4 December. **PHOTO: MFF** Nam, Japan, DPR Korea and Uzbekistan.

Myanmar is in Group B against the host Thailand and Viet Nam, while Group A consists of Japan, DPR Korea and Uzbekistan. All teams will com-

pete in a round robin format. The top two teams will advance to the final.

The game will be held in Thailand in December and the winner team will be awarded USD 20,000. —Kyaw Zin Tun

## Fourth AirKBZ Aung Lan Golden Belt Championship on Sunday

THE fourth AirKBZ Aung Lan Golden Belt Championship event, Myanmar –French-Japan Myanmar Traditional Lethwei Fight will be held at 2pm on 10 December at Theinphyu Stadium, Yangon.

Under the supervision of Ministry of Health and Sports and Myanmar Traditional Boxing Federation, the event was sponsored by Air KBZ and organized by Myanmar Media Group.

The event will feature six men fights and a women fight. The six men fights are regions and states gold and the best fighter medalist Aung Paing (Myanmar) versus MLWC and ILFJ golden belts champion Yves (French), Air KBZ Aung Lan golden belt champion Lan Mayu (Yarmanya Ahrman) versus Kayin National Day Aung Lan champion Thar Athae Ta Pwint (Burma Thwe), regions and states gold medalist Htet Aung Oo (Myanmar) versus

ILFJ gold medalist Dai Kei Khane Ko (Japan), Myanmar Pyi freelance lethwei champion and Air KBZ golden belt champion Saw Min Aung (Myanmar) versus World Kick Boxing Champion To Khae Shi (Japan), MLWC golden belt champion Daewa (Myanmar) versus MLWC golden belt champion Kaw Tan Yar Lun (French) and Pyan Thwe (Shwe Moe Hti Nyein Chan Yae) versus Saw Gaw Mu Do (Thet Ti).

One of the women fight is regions and states gold medalist Shwe Ko Lay (Bago) versus regions and states gold medalist Lin Yone May (Lin Yone Club).

Advanced tickets can be available at No.358, 4th floor, Industrial (1) Road, Bahan Township, Tel. 01-558387, 01-557787 and 01-8605145. Ticket prices for the event are Ks 10,000, Ks 20,000 and Ks 30,000. — Kyaw Zin Tun

## N Korean soccer teams arrive in Japan on specially issued visas

TOKYO — North Korea's men's and women's national soccer teams arrived on Tuesday at Tokyo's Haneda airport, gaining entry with visas issued despite Japan's ongoing ban on citizens from the country.

The players are scheduled to take part in the East Asian Football Federation's upcoming E-1 Football Championship, in which Japan, China, South Korea

and North Korea will compete.

Tokyo has banned North Korean nationals from entering the country as part of unilateral sanctions against Pyongyang over its continued development and tests of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles, but the Japanese Embassy in Beijing on Monday granted visas to the teams as an exceptional case, Japanese government sources said.

Women's matches will begin on Friday and the men will play from Saturday. The North Korean teams left Pyongyang last Saturday and stopped over in Beijing before flying onwards to Tokyo.

Japan also made an exception to allow North Korean athletes to enter the country for the Asian Winter Games which were held in Sapporo in February. — Kyodo News ■



**PHOTO: REUTERS**

## Coach Francis steps down from West Brom role

LONDON — West Bromwich Albion coach Gerry Francis will leave the Premier League club after rejecting an offer to stay and work under new manager Alan Pardew due to "moral obligations", the 65-year-old has said.

Francis joined former West Brom boss Tony Pulis' coaching team in 2008 and has worked with him also throughout his stints at Stoke City and Crystal Palace.

Pulis took charge at West Brom in January 2015 but was sacked last month after a poor run of results that has left them

17th in the standings, three points above the relegation zone, and winless in their last 13 league games.

Pardew was named the club's new manager last week.

"It is with regret that I feel I cannot accept Alan Pardew's and West Brom's offer to stay on at the club due to moral obligations on my part," Francis told Sky Sports.

"I am sure Alan along with the talented squad of players will very soon change the fortunes of the club in the right direction and climb up the table." —Reuters ■

## Brunt, Phillips close to West Brom return, says Pardew

LONDON — West Bromwich Albion could be handed a double boost as midfielder Chris Brunt and winger Matt Phillips are close to returning from their respective injuries, manager Alan Pardew



West Bromwich Albion manager Alan Pardew. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

said ahead of Saturday's Premier League trip to Swansea City.

Phillips has scored once and provided two assists in 13 appearances for West Brom this campaign before sustaining a hamstring injury last month.

Brunt picked up a calf strain mid-November. "Hopefully we are going to see Phillips back and hopefully see Brunt back as well," Pardew, who joined the Baggies last week, told the club's website.

It would be nice for Brunt to be back, in terms of being just around the team, because his delivery from set plays is one

of the main reasons Albion had a great record at scoring from those. "I've got to say we were disappointing from set plays against Palace and that's something we can improve immediately." West Brom defender Craig Dawson is making progress as he recovers from a knee problem while midfielder Gareth Barry is undergoing treatment for a hamstring injury.

Pardew's first game in charge ended in a 0-0 league draw with fellow strugglers Crystal Palace and helped West Brom stay three points and one place above the relegation zone. —Reuters ■