

**NATIONAL**

President gives policy guidance to newly-appointed Myanmar Ambassadors accredited to France and Brazil

**PAGE-3**



**NATIONAL**

6th Media Development Conference held

**PAGE-3**

**LOCAL BUSINESS**

American businesses observe investment opportunities in Myanmar

**PAGE-5**

**NATIONAL**

CCTVs installed at Maungtau Myoma Market

**PAGE-10**

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 235, 5<sup>th</sup> Waning of Nadaw 1379 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Friday, 8 December 2017

## AMIRO notification in NV card disbursement process

THE All Myanmar Islamic Religious Organisation (AMIRO) released a notification on 3 December to all Islamic organisations to cooperate in the tasks of national verification and giving out national verification cards.

They were informed by letter on 2nd September 2016 that, regarding the issuance of out NV Cards, AMIRO had made arrangements to negotiate with the respective Ministry, and just after emergence of the negotiation results, Islamic were required to start working only after the result of the negotiations were known. Concerning the matter, responsible officials from AMIRO had discussed with the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population on 10 December 2016 and with the Union Minister on 21 December 2016.

During the discussion, as for the members of the Islamic faith, they told of difficulties encountered in applying for NV Cards, and in transferring family lists and enlisting births in family registration lists. They requested of authorities that release of accurate procedures and directives be made public and known to them if NV Cards are to be given out.

**SEE PAGE-6**



*in*  
Picture

Workers dry harvested rice from abandoned paddies at Alethan Kyaw Village in Maungtau District, Rakhine State, on Wednesday. The harvest in Rakhine will be returned to their owners, said the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine State (UEHRD). **PHOTO: MNA**

## Rakhine rebirth requires global cooperation: Union Minister

THE Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) has invited cooperation from Myanmar and international communities to

help it achieve success in its rebuilding and resettlement efforts.

“The Government of Myanmar is trying its utmost to solve the complicated Rakhine

issue, but we need cooperation from the international community,” said Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, in his capacity as the deputy

chairman of UEHRD, yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw at a meeting that included diplomats and UN agencies.

**SEE PAGE-10**



**BEST BANK IN MYANMAR**

Awarded by FinanceAsia 2017

## Ethnic youths from border areas visit Nay Pyi Taw

Ethnic youths from border areas visited the Memorial to the Fallen Heroes in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday for the second day of their survey programme.

The youths then toured the Defence Services Museum, where officials explained the history of the Tatmadaw. They viewed the internal peace implementation photos and Tatmadaw military operation photos displayed in the museum, Burma Tatmadaw weapons and

display rooms of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air). In the evening, they visited and paid homage to Maha That Kya Yan Thi Pagoda.

Yesterday morning, the survey team toured Nay Pyi Taw Buddha Gaya and donated cash on the third day of their programme.

They also viewed news recording, editing, presentation and broadcasting of Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV)

and National Races Channel (NRC)'s television broadcasting and radio broadcasting processes, which were explained by officials.

Then, the members of the survey team entertained with their traditional dances as a cultural exchange.

In the afternoon, they also visited the Zoological Garden, Planetarium and Safari Park in Nay Pyi Taw. —Myanmar News Agency ■



An army official explaining the history of the Tatmadaw in the museum. PHOTO: MNA



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint (left) receives a United Nation Peace Bell replica. PHOTO: MNA

## United Nations Peace Bell replica donation ceremony in Pyithu Hluttaw

A ceremony was held in Pyithu Hluttaw guest hall yesterday morning to transfer a United Nation Peace Bell replica donated by Japan's Trust Fund for Restoration and Maintenance of the Peace Bell to Pyithu Hluttaw.

First, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko explained the Peace Bell.

The Union Minister said the United Nations Peace Bell was cast by Chiyoji Nakagawa, a Japanese national, with coins, medals and bronze medallions donated by more than 60

countries to remember peace. Inscribed on the side of the bell are eight Japanese Kanji characters that say "Long live absolute world peace".

Next Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint gave a speech of appreciation, accepted the Peace Bell and took a commemorative group photo.

The event was attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat, Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Aung Ko, officials from Pyithu Hluttaw office and Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture. — Myanmar News Agency ■

## Signing ceremony between Malongo Coffee Company and coffee growers

A ceremony to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Malongo Coffee Company and farmers who gave up growing opium to instead grow coffee was held at the Kempinski Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

"Myanmar is making concrete steps towards addressing the drug challenges and threats which can harm the society", said Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung.

"In southern Shan State, poppy plantations are being replaced with coffee plants. Poppy cultivation causes substantial harm to our society and environment. While opium poppy cultivation is an important source of income for the poor in rural areas, it does not make the farmers rich. Opium poppy cultivation is profitable in remote areas in which it is difficult to go from one place to another".

In his speech, the Union Minister added that efforts are being made to combat the poppy plantation, and to try and promote the development of vocational training so that residents can enjoy better standard of living.

Then Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung

signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which is of important step in this region.

Also present at the meeting were Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Union Minister U Ohn Win, Naing Thet Lwin, Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Aung Soe, departmental heads and officials.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Officials sign the MoU at the ceremony between Malongo Coffee Company and farmers. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

## Meeting on preparation for GMS Malaria Elimination in 2030

Officials held a meeting to prepare for the declaration on Malaria Elimination in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) by 2030 and a coordination meeting on Call for Action for Malaria Elimination in GMS in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting kicked off with an opening address by Ministry of Health and Sports' Permanent Secretary Prof. Dr. Thet Khaing Win.

Dr. Thet Khaing Win spoke of having the opportunity to work together for eliminating malaria in GMS by 2030 and GMS countries achieving some successes to eradicate malaria.

In Myanmar, compared to 2012, the occurrence of malaria was reduced by 77 per cent, while fatalities were reduced by 91 per cent. But antimalarial drug resistance still needs to be controlled, officials said. To

eliminate malaria and to treat malaria in Myanmar, Artemisinin Combination Therapies (ACT) is being used.

But a regional effort is required for complete eradication, officials said.

"Only when neighbouring Southeast Asia countries eliminate malaria can GMS eliminate malaria. Due to cross-border migrant workers, there are many difficulties in controlling the spread of malaria. There should be cooperation in order to reach the aim of malaria elimination in GMS countries", said the Permanent Secretary.

In yesterday's meeting, the participants discussed controlling antimalarial drug resistance malaria, eliminating drug resistance malaria, setting up of policies and conducting of continuous prevention and elimination of malaria.— Myanmar News Agency ■

# President gives policy guidance to newly-appointed Myanmar Ambassadors accredited to France and Brazil

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw gave policy guidance to Myanmar Ambassadors accredited to France and Brazil before leaving to serve in their respective embassies.

President U Htin Kyaw met

with U Kyaw Zeya, Myanmar Ambassador to France and U Myo Tint, Myanmar Ambassador to Brazil at the Presidential Palace at 3:30 pm in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.—Myanmar News Agency



President U Htin Kyaw gives policy guidance to Ambassadors U Kyaw Zeya and U Myo Tint at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

## President to visit Japan for attending Universal Health Coverage Forum 2017

AT the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Shinzo ABE, Prime Minister of Japan, U Htin Kyaw, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will pay an official visit to Japan in the near future to strengthen bilateral relations and to attend the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Forum 2017 to be held in Tokyo.—Myanmar News Agency ■

# 6th Media Development Conference held

THE 6th Media Development Conference on Myanmar media development strategy and future works was held yesterday morning at the Chatrium Hotel.

At the conference, Information and Public Relations Department Deputy Director-General Dr. Daw Thida Tin, a part of the Ministry of Information, delivered opening remarks. The theme of the 6th Media Development Conference is “Myanmar’s Media Development: Strategies & a Way Forward.”

Next, UNESCO Head of Office Ms. Min Jeong Kim, Myanmar Press Council secretary U Thiha Saw and National Management Degree College Associate Professor delivered speeches.

U Ko Ko (Ko Ko-University of Technology) Patron of the Myanmar Journalists Association (MJA), moderated a roundtable discussion titled “Media plurality and sustainability” with Taninthayi Journal and Dawei Watch founder Daw Aye Aye Zin, The Voice chief editor U Kyaw Min Swe and Myanmar Internews Executive Director Michael Pan participating in the discussion.

Myanmar Journalism Institute (MJI) Training Director U Sein Win then moderated a discussion titled “Upholding professionalism through practicing journalistic ethics” with



Information and Public Relations Department Deputy Director-General Dr. Daw Thida Tin addresses the Media Development Conference on Myanmar media development strategy and future works. PHOTO: MNA

Myitmakha Media CEO Daw May Thingyan Hein, Mawgun Magazine Chief Editor U Zayar Hlaing and Mr. Bambang Harymurti of Indonesia Press Council joining in the discussion.

Panellists Pyi Gyi Khin Executive Director Daw Nwe Zin Win, Irrawaddy reporter Lawi Weng and Center for Law and Democracy Executive Director Mr. Toby Mendel discussed the title “Access to information and information outreach” moderated by Mizzima Media Group Director Daw Thin Thin Aung.

Discussion titled “Safety of Journalists and the issue of impunity on crimes against journalists” was discussed by panelists DVB TV News Broadcast

Journalist U Aung Ko Ko @ Ko Aung, Myanmar Human Right Commission Commissioner U Yu Lwin, International Media Support (IMS) Regional Advisor Asia Dr. Ranga Kalansooriya and moderated by Myanmar Press Council Member U Myint Kyaw.

In the afternoon session a panel discussion titled “Media legislation and freedom of expression online and offline” was moderated by Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB) Bureau Chief U Toe Zaw Latt and discussed by panelists Freedom Expression Myanmar Programme Manager Daw Yin Yadanar Thein, Myanmar Media Lawyers’ Network (MLN) Secretary U Than Zaw



The roundtable discussion titled “Media plurality and sustainability”. PHOTO: MNA

Aung, DW Akademie Project Manager Mr. Thomas Baerthlein and Internews Media Advisor U Myo Tha Htet.

Myanmar Peace Council Coordinator U Kyaw Lynn Oo moderated a panel discussion “The role of Ethnic media in peace-building” which was discussed by panelists Managar Journal Chief Editor U Mai Naing Naing Oo, Karen Information Centre Chief Editor Daw Nan Phaw Gay, Root Investigative Agency (RIA) Founder Ko Nay Min Aung and Thanlwin Times U Ko Ko Zaw.

The final panel of the day titled “Countering misinformation in the digital age” was moderated by Yangon Region Hluttaw

representative U Nay Phone Latt and discussed by panelists MIDO Executive Director Daw Htike Htike Aung, Kamayut Media Editor U Han Thar Nyein, Article 19 Senior Legal Officer Mr. Pierre Francois Docquir and Bosnia-Herzegovina Press Council Executive Director Ms. Ljiljana Zurovac.

Conference attendees raised questions to the panelists after the discussions.

Media Development Conference was jointly organized by Ministry of Information, UNESCO and media development supporting groups since 2012. This is the sixth time it is held and will be continued until 8 December.—Myanmar News Agency ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.comPrinted and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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# Factories to be inspected for EMP and Wastewater Treatment Plant activity

By May Thet Hnin

FACTORIES will be inspected for Environmental Management Plan and Wastewater Treatment Plant activities, said Daw Khin Thida Tin, the Director of Yangon Region Environmental Conservation Department.

"There are weak points in dumping wastewater from some factories. In addition, they are not well-prepared for the Environmental Management Plan. Supervision Committee chairmen for respective regions and states Environmental Conservation and Climate Change will lead inspections in cooperation with the departments concerned. The cabinet will soon release official documents regarding inspections of factories", she continued.

Factories are encouraged to strictly adhere to environmental emission guidelines in setting up wastewater treatment plants within nine months, as mentioned in the official announcement. If they fail to establish the wastewater treatment plant and abide by the prescribed procedures, action will have taken against them under the existing laws.

"Some factories do not know about it, but others intentionally refuse to do this. This being so, we will initially set the awareness period or implementation period. We will report those businessmen who attempt to defy the order to respective regional and state government", said Daw Khin Thida Tin.

Commencing from FY 2015-

2016, Environmental Management Plan Report is a must for businesses to seek approval from Myanmar Investment Commission to run the factories. However, some factories have found weaknesses in following the rules and some EMP Report shows flaws. Therefore, further notice will be made.

The EMP implementation organizations were described in general and no organization structure and no terms of reference were mentioned. Also, there are weaknesses in giving commitments, parameters frequency and geographical location, said Daw Khin Thida Tin.

It is a good move for the government regarding with EMP activities for the factories. However, the businessmen are currently faced with challeng-

es and difficulties, said U Aye Thaug, the chairman of Shwe Lin Pan Industrial Zone Management Committee.

"We found blockage problem in drainage system inside and outside of the zone. In addition, we have to make self-help repair on the roads in the zone. EMP activities in the zone will not be effective until the blockage drainage system outside of the zone is resolved", he continued.

In addition to performances of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, concerted efforts and inclusive participation are needed to be made by all the stakeholders engaged in environmental conservation to reap a fruitful result, said Daw Khin Thida Tin. ■

## Myanma Railways to purchase 66 coaches from Japan

MYANMA Railways (MR) plans to purchase 66 new railway coaches from Japan to replace Yangon circular train coaches, according to a report in the Myawady Daily on 6 December.

"Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has provided US\$206.53 million in ODA loans to purchase the 66 coaches from Japan. MR will conduct to purchase of the coaches and make the contact in 2019. In September 2020, the new coaches will arrive in the first consignment" said U Thurein Win, the managing director of Myanma Railways.

Currently, Myanma Railways has 12 RBE trains plying daily for 215 rounds. The MR

plans to buy the new coaches with an aim to run the circular trains at a higher speed. The circular trains will run one circuit in only 1 hour and 5 minutes instead of three hours. The MR will raise the average speed of the trains from 20 kmph to 40 kmph to save the passengers' time. Moreover, the MR has been upgrading the railway stations and platforms, spending US\$94.76 million from government budgets.

The MR has already upgraded Lanmadaw, Shan road, Ahlon, Pan Hlaing and Hantawaddy stations. The Pyay railway station and platform is being upgraded. Other stations will be upgraded in 2018.—GNLM



The Yangon circular trains will run one circuit in only 1 hour and 5 minutes instead of three hours. **PHOTO: PHOE: KHWAR**

## Personal information of passengers at highway terminals to be collected soon

CITY police will collect personal information of passengers leaving Yangon through express bus terminals across Yangon in their efforts to stop human trafficking, said Police Major Myo Thein of Anti Trafficking in Persons Division in Yangon.

According to the Myawady Daily's report on Monday, the data collection process will be launched at the beginning of next year. Arrangements are being made to provide trainings

to the selected police members within this month.

The move mainly aims to gather evidence in response to human trafficking cases as it is hard to get evidence in the investigation process. This is why anti-trafficking police arrange to collect seating plans and personal information from the travellers before they leave from the city. The new plan is expected to largely support in fighting against human trafficking.

Human trafficking, a form of modern-day slavery, is a growing global problem. Victims worldwide are trafficked for the purposes of forced labour, forced adoption, forced prostitution, child begging and the removal of organs.

According to a study based on the annual human trafficking reports, Myanmar women have been the target of human trafficking cases destined to China for forced marriages. Myanmar

police force is putting forth continuous efforts to combat human trafficking as a military type operation nationwide.

Under Section 24 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law enacted in 2005, offenders of trafficking in persons especially women, children and youths shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend from a minimum of 10 years to a maximum of imprisonment for life.—GNLM



Pulses export income down to US\$343 million as of November in this fiscal year than previous year.— **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

## Pulses exports down by \$343 million from last year

INDIA'S restriction on pulses importation has dropped pulses export income down to US\$343 million as of 24<sup>th</sup> November in the current fiscal year compared to the same period last year.

More than 970,000 tons of various pulses with an estimated value of \$671 million were exported to foreign trade partners so far this year.

India is the main buyer of Myanmar's pigeon peas, mung beans and green grams. Around 1.5 million tons of pulses are ex-

ported to India each year.

In early August, India announced a 200,000-ton import quota on pigeon peas and 300,000-ton quota on mung bean and green grams.

Myanmar's pulses export is heavily reliant upon the India market, which accounts for 70 per cent of export volume. The sole reliance on a single market led the Myanmar pulses industry to plunge into chaos.

Therefore, the government, Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of

Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and the Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association are exerting concerted efforts to control the market.

There are about four months left to lift the import restriction by India. At present, the news that India's merchants placed purchase orders in advance is spreading through the pulses industry. Therefore, the prices of mung bean and pigeon peas have increased in recent days.—Htet Myat ■

## Bumpy ride for global gold price since April causes unstable domestic market

THE gold price has been fluctuating in the global market since April, with a large gap of about US\$40 to \$80 between the highest price and the lowest price within a month, resulting in an unstable domestic gold market.

In early December, the global gold price decreased to US\$1,256 per ounce. The pure gold price also declined to around Ks923,000 per tical (0.578 ounce) in the domestic market on 6<sup>th</sup> December.

The pure gold price yesterday was Ks924,000 per tical, with the global gold price fetch-

ing \$1,257 per ounce, according to Aung Thamadi Gold and Jewellery Shop and Gold Refinery.

The gold price reached a peak in early September with high price in the global market. On 15 September, it reached an all-time high price of over Ks957,000 per tical. But shortly thereafter, the domestic gold price slipped gradually when global gold prices started fluctuating.

On 29 September, the domestic pure gold price was Ks936,000 per tical, while global gold fetched US\$1,286 per ounce, according to Aung

Thamadi Gold and Jewellery Shop.

The gold price is unstable this year but it is still on the rise. Transactions in gold and jewellery shops are currently in decline as buyers and sellers are observing the market due to price fluctuations.

Since April, the gold price has been on an upward trend. The price reached above Ks900,000 per tical in July and remained on the rise. Apart from mid-May and early July, the gold price this FY was hovering around a high price in the domestic market.—Mon Mon ■

## American businesses observe investment opportunities in Myanmar

By May Thet Hnin

IN order to observe investment opportunities in Myanmar, American investors met with the US-ASEAN Business Council held on 6<sup>th</sup> December at the office of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI).

A delegation led by Mr. Alexendar Feldman, President & CEO of the US-ASEAN Business Council with 35 representatives from 15 American companies have come to explore business opportunities. These businesspersons are engaged in manufacturing, financial services, insurance, law, electricity enterprises, pharmaceutical enterprises, IT businesses, cosmetics, the automobile industry and petroleum enterprises.

"They come to see investment opportunities in Myanmar. They showed positive impression on the country's difficulties. They help to tackle the problems. We hope more investments to enter Myanmar in the future", said U Zaw Min Win, the president of UMFCCI.

Vice president U Wai Phyo of UMFCCI also explained the merits and demerits of Myanmar's businesses and investment opportunities.

Mr. Andrew Lee, Chief Country Representative of GE Global Growth Organisation, said that it is the sixth time that UMFCCI and US businesses have exchanged ideas. Delegates from US-ASEAN Business Council on a mission come to Myanmar to deal with business problems once a year.

Mr. Alexendar Feldman, President & CEO of the US-ASEAN Business Council, said American investment will benefit all participants - companies, customers, and suppliers.

"We see American businesses doing business in financial services, IT, manufacturing as well as many services and a wide range of members will hopefully help Myanmar become successful. We do understand the difficulties in Myanmar regarding the violence situations in Rakhine State and about human rights", Mr. Feldman said.

"Some American investors are already doing businesses in Myanmar, but there is no remarkable rise in investments. Therefore, we need to prepare for suitable economic infrastructures to attract more foreign direct investments", said U Zeya Thura Mon, CEO of Zeya & Associate Co., Ltd.

"Multinational corporations based in the US have just come to observe the economic climate and performance of Myanmar against other countries in order to study business opportunities and profits. We need to prepare for the needs and give a greater incentive to the investors to survive in a highly competitive region", he continued.

Myanmar received investments of only US\$128 million from the US as of the end of October in the current fiscal year, according to statistics of the Myanmar Investment Commission.

This delegation will meet with government authorities in Nay Pyi Taw on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> December. ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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# SG Min Aung Hlaing comforts injured military personnel in Pyin Oo Lwin

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, together with wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, accompanied by military officers, comforted Tatmadaw personnel who were receiving treatments for injuries sustained while serving the security duties at battle-

fields at the military hospital in Pyin Oo Lwin station yesterday morning.

The commander-in-chief asked after individual wounded army members and fulfilled their requirements for medical treatment.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing comforts army member wounded in action at military hospital in Pyin Oo Lwin. PHOTO: MNA

# AMIRO notification in NV card ...

FROM PAGE-1

With regards to this, the Ministry clarified the matters to five Islamic groups, in detail.

The process of giving out NV Cards and the process of National Verification requires the cooperation of all organisations, hence the need to spread the information to other religious organisations.

Under section 65 of the 1982 Myanmar Citizen Law, those who apply are subject to the decision of the Central Committee as to whether they are citizens or not. NV Cards need not be given out to those holding National Registration Card.

Applicants who need to undergo scrutiny are:

—Those who surrender temporary NV Cards that have expired and those whose temporary NV Cards are missing or destroyed and reported to the authority concerned need to undergo national scrutiny.

—Those whose cards were cancelled or taken back for invalidity though holding National Registration Cards

—Those who have avoided family registration lists or any kind of identity card, even though they lived in Myanmar for several generations. Children born of parents holding a National Scrutiny Card, and children born of parents who can be regarded to be eligible for citizenship through holding national registration cards can directly apply for the process of national scrutiny without needing to hold NV Cards.

Accordingly, the above-mentioned facts concerning applying for Citizenship Scrutiny Cards are needed for Islamists to be well convinced and cooperate in the process of national scrutiny of the State by sharing through the Islamist Religious Organisations.—Myanmar News Agency ■

# Vaccination of half a million children planned in Rakhine State

A vaccination programme to protect against the Japanese Encephalitis (JE) virus in Rakhine State will be conducted from 11 to 21 December to 353,733 children between 9 months and 5 years of age and 233,011 similarly aged children in remote areas, for a total of 586,744 children. Children left out from school-based vaccination efforts will be vaccinated in this programme, said Dr. Thiha of the Rakhine State Public

Health Department.

In the people-based vaccination programme against JE in Rakhine State, Sittway District, vaccination groups are vaccinating 48,766 children between 9 months to 5 years old from 636 wards/villages. MraukU District people-based programme is vaccinating 102,603 children between 9 months to 5 years old from 999 wards/villages. Maungtaw District people-based vaccination pro-

gramme against JE had vaccinated 105,140 children from 499 wards/villages. Kyaukphyu District people-based vaccination programme against JE had vaccinated 45,378 children of 9 months to 5 years old from 847 wards/villages. In Thandwe District people-based vaccination programme against JE 51,854 children between 9 months to 5 years old from 622 wards/villages will be vaccinated said Dr. Thiha.

The Rakhine State people-based vaccination programme is vaccinating 251,983 children between 9 months to 5 years old from 713 villages in remote areas.

The Rakhine State programme had vaccinated a total of 425,423 children between the ages of 5 years and 15 years and a total of 45,157 children from remote and border areas from November 15 to 23, it is learnt.—Win Min Soe (IPRD)

# CBM and US-ASEAN Business Council representatives meet

DEPUTY Governors and Directors General of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) met the party led headed by Mr. Alexander C. Feldman, the president and CEO of the US-ASEAN Business Council, at CBM yesterday.

In the meeting, they discussed matters of the US Government and financial institutions to assist Myanmar bank sector development.

They also discussed trade relations between the US and

Myanmar, development information and data, financial services affairs with other banks, development of commerce and investment, insurance, paying money to foreign countries, development of electronic banking services in Myanmar, Financial Tech (Fin Tech) to be used in the Myanmar bank sector and tasks being carried out to develop the Myanmar financial sector and capital market— Myanmar News Agency ■



Deputy Governors, CBM Director-General, US-ASEAN Business Council representatives pose a commemorative photo. PHOTO: MNA

### Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 9:00 on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2017)

BAY INFERENCE:

According to the observations at (18:30) hrs M.S.T today, the depression over Southeast Bay of Bengal has moved North-North-westwards. It is centered at about (445) miles East-South-east of Machilipatnam, (440) miles South-Southeast of Gopalpur (India) and forecast to move North-Northwest wards and likely to further intensify during next (24) hours. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

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3<sup>rd</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit  
Water Security for Sustainable Development

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Kayin State Minister for Social Affairs Dr. Tin Win Kyaw and officials cut ribbon to open the 2<sup>nd</sup> Job Fair in Hpa-An, Kayin State yesterday. **PHOTO: MYANMAR DIGITAL NEWS**

## Creation of jobs plays an important role in reducing poverty rate, says Kayin State Minister

CREATION of job opportunities plays an important role in reducing the poverty rate in rural areas, said Dr. Tin Win Kyaw, Kayin State Minister for Social Affairs.

The minister made the remarks at the opening of the 2nd Job Fair jointly organized by the Department of Labour and Hpa-An Technical High School

with the sponsorship from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and IOMAD-RA Myanmar, in Hpa-An, Kayin State yesterday morning.

The event is aimed at creating more job opportunities for the young people across the country, he added. Deputy Speaker of Kayin State Hluttaw Daw Nang Thuzar Win, Kayin

State Minister for Social Affairs Dr. Tin Win Kyaw and Kayin State Minister for Bamar Ethnic U Teza Htut Hlaing formally opened the job fair.

A total of 36 booths from 30 companies from Yangon, Mandalay, Mon and Kayin states are being exhibited in the two day event.—Myanmar Digital News ■

## Public Peace Movement Week events in Palaw and Thayetchaung townships

AS part of the Public Peace Movement Week event in Taninthayi Region, a public peace talk, musical entertainment, a peace cartoon and painting events in Palaw Township Myoma volleyball field was held on Wednesday evening.

The public was entertained with peace songs, after which there was a discussion about peace followed by a peace cartoon and painting event.

U Jimmy and U Min Ko Naing of 88 Generation Peace and Open Society then discussed the public working together to achieve peace as people in at-



tendance lighted candles and prayed for peace in Myanmar and for the success of 21st Century Panglong.

Similarly a public peace talk was held yesterday morning at Phayakoesu Taungpaw

Monastery, Kanetthiri Village, Thayetchaung Township where U Jimmy and U Min Ko Naing held talks. The public peace talk in Thayetchaung Township was attended by about 150 local people.—Palaw IPRD ■

## Book Club established in Sittway

A book club was founded in conjunction with the Information and Public Relations Department and booklovers at the community center of IPRD in Sittway on 6 December.

A State officer from IPRD gave an opening speech.

The attendees from the Rakhine Library Foundation Group, academics, writers and participants who take part in library related activities, booklovers and local people mutually discussed plans for maintaining the library.

Afterwards, writer Khaing Nan San clarified the aims of establishing a book club and an official from Sittway IPRD welcomed literature enthusiasts who have joined the club.—Myanmar Digital News ■

### Republic of the Union of Myanmar President's Office Order 32/2017

4th Waning of Nadaw, 1379 ME  
7 December, 2017

### Appointment of Judge for Mon State High Court

In accordance with the provisions stated in the Article 308, sub section (b), sub-sub section (4) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar; sub-section (d) under Article 82 of Union Government Law, Article 45 of Union Judiciary Law and Article 18, sub-section (D) of Region or State Government Law, Daw Htay Myint Aye has been appointed as Judge for the Mon State High Court.

*Sd/ Htin Kyaw*  
President  
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

#### MYANMAR GAZETTE

1. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred U Zaw Htay, Director-General, Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor as Director-General of Union Peacemaking Department from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

2. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Win Kyaw Aung, Deputy Director-General, Ministry of the Office of the President as Director-General of the Policy Department under the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

## Fire breaks out in Pauktaw Tsp

A fire broke out at Kyeinnipyin relief camp in Pauktaw Township, Rakhine State at 9:45 am yesterday. The fire engulfed 14 houses and eventually burned out at 10:20 am. No casualties were reported in the incident.— Myanmar Digital News ■

## Suspected bombs found under Taungphyu bridge in Mrauk-U

THE local police force found two suspected bombs under a bridge between milepost 112/6 and milepost 112/7 on the Yangon-Sittway Road near Mrauk-U at 11:30 am yesterday while they were on patrol. According to the initial news, the local police force removed the suspected bombs and the motor road was temporarily closed.— Myanmar Digital News ■



Local policeman deactivates suspect bomb found on Yangon-Sittway Road near Mrauk-U. **PHOTO: MRAUK-U (IPRD)**

## Those who enter the labyrinth

At a special session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, Mr. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights said concerning Muslims in Myanmar that the said Muslims would have to suffer until the Myanmar Government and the whole world recognize the rights of the said Muslims. Evidently enough, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has no right to make a judgment, regarding the Muslims in Rakhine State. The Union Government has already stated that Muslims complying with the law would be granted citizens' rights. In any way, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has no right to claim that the Muslims in Rakhine State must be given the recognition of a national ethnic race under a peculiar name, without being satisfied with being granted citizens' rights.

The displacement of the Muslims in Rakhine State was mainly due to the atrocious attacks of ARSA extremist terrorists. But, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights failed to recognize or acknowledge that the attacks of ARSA extremist terrorists was the main cause which triggered the exodus of these refugees into Bangladesh. It is a fact that no army in the world would let any type of terrorist to

With regard to the Muslims who fled Rakhine State into Bangladesh Myanmar and Bangladesh are carefully negotiating.

terrorists. We feel strongly that the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights had no right to deny this possibility.

With regard to the Muslims who fled Rakhine State into Bangladesh, Myanmar and Bangladesh are carefully negotiating. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights attempts to blame Myanmar is like wearing sun glasses because he has totally ignored or decided to close his eyes to the relentless efforts of the Union Government to improve the human rights situation at the ground level in Rakhine State. Had he really wanted the human rights situation to improve in the region, he should effectively help the process which is under way between Myanmar and Bangladesh. As a matter of fact, his one-sided and biased denunciation of Myanmar is his sudden entrance into the labyrinth.

### 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

# Let us help protect loss of our hard-earned investment!

By Hsaung Thazin

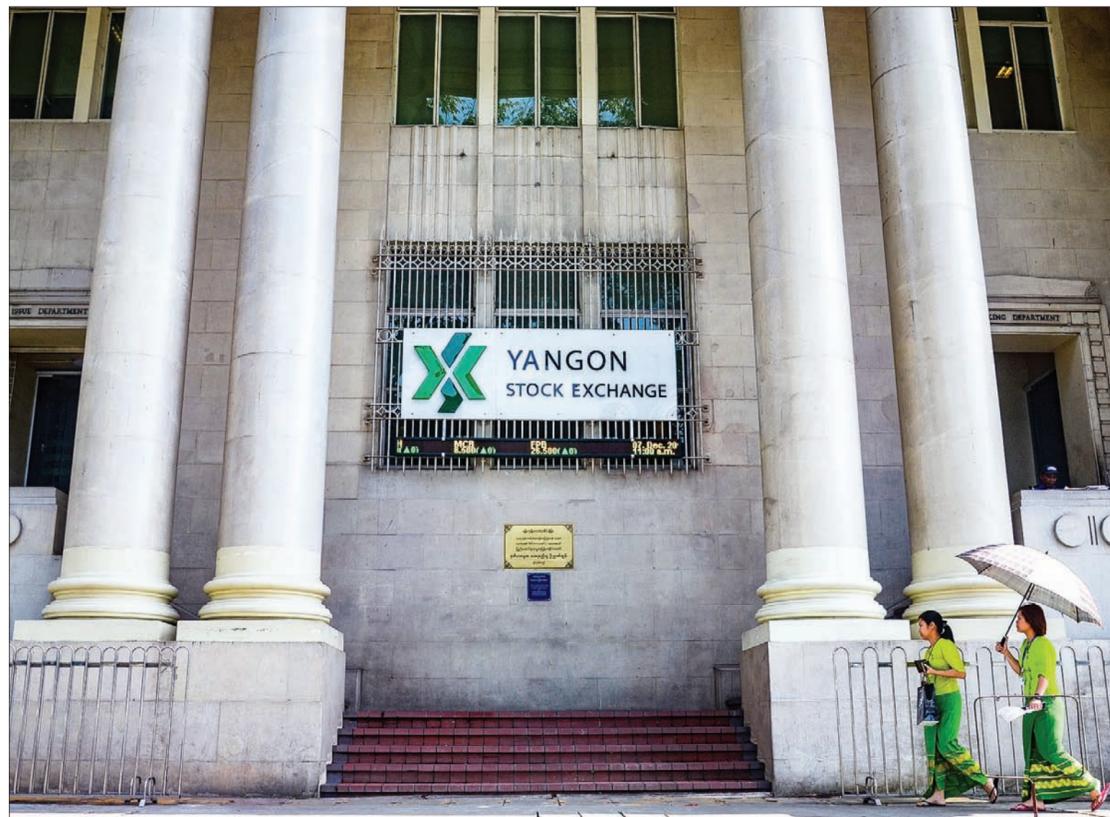


PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

**I**MPACT of 21st century information technology's wave promptly came into our social environment. With the increasing capacity to link with the global network through a mobile phone, we undeniably reached the 21st century world in which our consumption of news and information is at the peak throughout the years we passed by.

We really enjoy excellent effects resulting from the progress of technology such as availability of news and information and capability of searching technique needed for our social life as quickly as possible as well as a very

good access to link with each other.

Yet, to our dismay, some fraudsters commit on-line frauds over people in our environment, by taking the advantage of the developed technology. With the cutting-edge technology in communication, on-line software has come into progress, causing advantages and disadvantages. Thus, profits and losses are simultaneously happening to us in a short period of time. So, in order not to lose our hard-earned incomes, money and savings, I hereby am writing the article to warn our beloved friends. Prior to putting investments into an enter-

prise or company, it is necessary for us not to easily put our trusts into the company into which we are to invest, and to enquire as to whether the above-said company is officially set up in accord with rules and laws and they are allowed to sell shares. It also needs to consult with the knowledgeable persons.

Especially, some companies persuade people through social media, by giving promises—attractive incentives of large interests. In Pyay, Bago Region not far from Yangon it was learnt that a Myanmar company named "Saxon Capital Limited" sold its shares at K 125000 per unit, by

promising to give the interest by 10 to 15 percent. Sale of shares was initiated by "the Best Company" which sold agricultural utensils and equipment under the MLM system (Multi-Level-Marketing). Staff was provided K 9500 each provided that a customer was persuaded. Being interested in investing into the company due to the attractive amount of interest rate, grass-root people, service-men and rural populace bought shares. Sale of shares amounted to K several billion.

Before people recognized, it spread to other regions, Mon State and Ayeyarwady Region. Initially, interests were disbursed

regularly to investors, so as to build up trust. After some period, the money they invested as well as the company vanished all of a sudden, while people were left penniless and filled with tears in eyes. It was a great sorrow for us and the persons in question. By taking advantages over people's trust, they persuaded them and cheated a tidy amount of money out of them.

In this fraudulent case, local people in Paung township alone in Mon State in the nascent-developing country lost K over 200 million. So, they made a complaint letter to Hluttaw, filing cases in Paung township police station. It should be taken lesson from this event, as for other people. Likewise SCL Company, a company named "Myanmar Jun Well Global Co-Ltd as well, which was run by Malaysians sold shares and absconded.

NASDAQ includes US-based Saxon Capital Limited (SCL). The above-said company SCL Myanmar Company was not known yet to have been included in NASDAQ.

A person who always commits fraud is astute in cheating. He knows how to conspire. Behind the conspiracy, they created an invented story to attract people's attraction. Thai-based the so-called "Best International Company Limited" spread news on the investment of Saxon Capital Limited on Asia-Pacific led by Mr Chit Sauno Pong, the Best Company CEO, through staff from the Best Company Limited. In this way, people with a scanty knowledge on technology lost much money.

Though the investors made a complaint to solve the problem in accord with rules and laws, it came to nothing. Persons concerned absconded without responsibility and accountability. In fact, rural populace and naive people faced with various kinds of sufferings. Here, I would like to blame them for being such easy preys, but I had a pity for them. It hurts us/our tips of fingers if we pinch the nail, as the saying goes. Now as well, we have a great sorrow and pity for them, being our brethren.

On reviewing those cheated cases, those who started to persuade the people to invest in SCL Myanmar Company were

found to have been acquaintances of the victims. Out of desire to get commission they persuaded their close friends and relatives to invest into the company. Victims found it difficult to start to sue their friends.

Most of fraudulent cases applied MLM system. By persuading them showing results of MLM system, those with meagre knowledge of the technology became preys. So as to protect losses as much as possible, Securities Exchange Certificate Transaction Law was promulgated in 2013 and SECM—Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar was formed in accord with the law. SECM was established with the intention of increasing job opportunities and extending market by accumulating much money.

After the emergence of SECT Law, if the public-owned companies want to sell shares to the public, they are required to submit to SECM and get the approval,

Most of fraudulent cases applied MLM system. By persuading them showing results of MLM system, those with meagre knowledge of the technology became preys.

registering them at the Department of Investment and Companies for continual procedure.

Companies desirous of enlisting in the Yangon Stock Exchange must scrutinize in accord with designated standards, repeatedly, and then sell shares. In selling and purchasing shares, investors are aimed at protecting investors. Prevention is better than cure, as

the saying goes.

SECM gives permits of trading shares after detailed scrutiny with a view to protecting investors from being cheated in selling and purchasing shares to the public. Investors need to enquire whether the Public-owned Companies have the permissions to trade shares.

In today's Myanmar, the State Government founded Yangon Stock Exchange for the development of Capital Market, operating with the 4 registered companies. Fraudsters from out-sides are persuading by giving more interests and incentives than the officially-registered companies. So the public must not pay attention to getting a lot of profits only. Instead, they need to invest just after careful assessment and study of the companies into which they are to invest.

Translated by  
Khin Maung Oo

## Uptick in Asia-Pacific economic growth, but policy focus needed to improve prospects for achieving sustainable development, says UN

Economic conditions in Asia-Pacific remain stable, supported by stronger-than-expected performances in some of the region's larger economies and steady performance in most smaller ones. Deepening inequalities and domestic financial vulnerabilities in some economies, along with a high number of climate-change induced natural disasters in the region, however, may overshadow the outlook for economic growth and the prospects for sustainable development, according to the year-end update of the flagship report Economic and Social Survey for Asia and the Pacific 2017 released by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

The report highlights that domestic private consumption remains the main driver of economic growth, facilitated by relatively low inflation, low interest rates and robust consumer confidence. Stronger exports also contributed to the recent uptick in economic growth. The average GDP of developing economies in the region is expected to grow by 5.4 per cent in 2017.

The report however cautions that while the regional economic outlook for 2018 is broadly stable, underpinned by growing domestic and intraregional demand, private investment remains weak in most countries, partly as a result of overcapacity and debt overhang in the corporate and banking sectors of some major economies. To achieve a stable and sustained economic growth momentum, higher wages supported by productivity gains and revival of private investment will be needed, the report highlights.

Launching the year-end update in Bangkok, Dr Shamshad Akhtar, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and ESCAP Executive Secretary said, "Countries across the region, such as China, India and Uzbekistan, are making challenging economic reforms, which may weigh on near-term performance despite their potential long-term benefits. Countries will need to be increasingly vigilant of emerging risks such as trade protectionism, a tightening in global financial conditions, geopolitical tensions and recurring natural disasters, all of which could undermine the hard-won economic gains."

The Executive Secretary underscored that as the year comes to a close, countries should make the most out of current stable economic conditions to make important headways towards socially-inclusive and environmentally sustainable economies. "Unless economic growth is accompanied by an expansion of decent jobs and strengthening of social safety nets, the region will continue to see a rise in inequality and little progress in eliminating poverty. Without concerted efforts, economic growth will continue to come at a significant, and often irreversible, environmental cost," said Dr Akhtar.

In this regard, the Update recommends a raft of strategic interventions that can improve the prospect for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, emphasizing that good governance should underpin such policies and reform. "Good governance can prove vital for governments to successfully lead the structural reforms that will enhance the supply side of their economies and transform them for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda," the report notes.— ESCAP



Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine -UEHRD clarifies its projects and efforts to diplomats and INGOs. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

## Rakhine rebirth requires global cooperation: Union Minister

### FROM PAGE-1

In his opening speech, Dr. Win Myat Aye clarified plans for implementing development projects in Rakhine State in cooperation with the country's entrepreneurs, highlighting several projects including the building of infrastructure, establishing an agriculture and livestock breeding economic zone, developing the information technology and media sectors, creating job opportunities, conducting vocational training, promoting health care services, establishing micro finance schemes and promoting the tourism sector.

Dr. Win Myat Aye also clarified efforts for repatriation of refugees following the agreement between Myanmar and Bangladesh on 23 November and for implementing in the recommendations of the special advisory commission on Rakhine State.

"The UEHRD is a Union-level project and it will explore areas where international communities can cooperate with



Dr. Aung Tun Thet

the government," said Dr. Aung Tun Thet, Chief Coordinator of the UEHRD.

Dr. Aung Tun Thet also clarified UEHRD's three main tasks, which includes implementation of socio-economic development by ministries concerned and the Rakhine State Government with the Public, Private Partnership ensuring transparency.

Those present at the meeting asked for plans for repatriation and expressed their willingness to visit the camps for help in repatriation of residents back to Rakhine State.

The diplomats also suggested to form a technical group, a project plan and a timeframe for implementing the UEHRD's projects.

They also raised questions of how the government could help to change the attitude of local people toward the UN agencies.

In his response to diplomats, Dr. Win Myat Aye said UEHRD is the first step for solving the root cause of the Rakhine issue, and it values the aid of the international community.

The meeting was attended by deputy ministers of the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor, Ministry of Border Affairs, permanent secretaries and directors-general of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, diplomats from 29 embassies and resident representatives of the UN agencies in Myanmar. —Myanmar News Agency ■

## Monsoon paddy harvested in Rakhine State by Agricultural Mechanization Department

AREAS of Rakhine State that were affected by terrorist attacks were facing difficulties in harvesting monsoon rice, prompting the Agricultural Mechanisation Department to deploy harvesters.

A total of 5,714 acres in Myothugyi, Ohntaw, Kanpu, Kyaungtaung, Alethankyaw, Nwayone-taung, Wah Cha, Tandar, Myinloat Kyikanpyin, Thihokyaung, U Daung, Laungdon, Aung Sit Pyi, Sabaegone, Thapyaytaung, Zawmatat, Dohtan, Yawthitkay, Kyaukpadu, Tat U Chaung, Duchiyarton, Thayaygonton, Thawanchaung and Ngkuya villages in Maungtaw township were harvested from 26 October to 6 December.

Rice fields in seven village groups of Sittway such as Chaungnwe, Partalat, Thinganet, Kywitay, Kankawkyoung, Mingan and Naryeekan villages were reaped with machineries and it is learnt from the Department of Mechanized Farming that an estimated 395 acres were finished from 30 October to 6 December.

Similarly, 500 acres in Pyahla, Hsinyoshae, Myatyeikkyoung, Gwasone, LayHnyinthar, Youtchaung, Ahlaezay and Theinnyo villages from Mrauk U Township were harvested from 5 November to 6 December.

Also, 253 acres in Htaungshae, Kinseik, Mawywa, Pharypyaw, Taung Thaik, Ngapukwa and Winzar villages, and U Soe Tint ward from Minbya Township were harvested from 7 November to 6 December, it is learnt.

A further 352 acres in Phonenar, Lanmadaw, Daungtawyo, Kardi, Saphothar, Ahpoukwa and Garpu villages from Kyauktaw township were harvested from 8 November to 6 December while 282 acres in Chinkharlein and Khotone villages from Yathittaung township was harvested from 8 November to 6 December. And 96 acres in Thapyuchaung village from Buthidaung township was harvested from 10 November to 6 December, it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Farmers harvest rice using machine in a paddy field. **PHOTO: MNA**

## CCTVs installed at Maungtaw Myoma Market

By News Team

According to the Maungtaw Township Development Committee, the soon-to-be-reopened Maungtaw Myoma Market is being installed with CCTVs.

Due to the ARSA extremist terrorists' attack which took place on 25 August, Maungtaw Myoma Market was temporarily closed. With a view for people to comfortably to sell and purchase goods, the Maungtaw Township Development Committee arranged to install CCTVs for an

extra measure of security, officials said. Twenty-four CCTVs in all will be installed in the interior and exterior of the market. It has been learnt that eight additional CCTVs will be installed in the fishmongers section.

"Due to the terrorist attacks on August 25, markets in Maungtaw region were temporarily closed. Some had been opened. It has been arranged for making hindrances from the dangers of the destructive elements to install CCTVs. During the next few days to come, installation will be

finished. Fish and meat stalls which had been opened will also be installed with CCTVs. Just after the installation, Myoma market will be opened.

Its aim of installing CCTVs is to make hindrances for those who will attempt bomb plants and criminal cases including pick-pocketing.

Not any other markets in Rakhine State, apart from Maungtaw Myoma Market, have been installed with CCTVs", said U Hla Myint, Chairman of Maungtaw Township Develop-



ment Committee.

The cost of purchase and installation of CCTVs being installed will be covered by emergency funds, not from the Township Development Committee's allotment. The present 32 CCTVs will be operated with solar power and cost Ks5 million. The mar-

ket, built in 1996, includes over 450 stalls. Most of the shops sell clothing, blankets, cosmetics, electric equipment, kitchenware and household utensils. There are also restaurants.

Over Ks15 million in taxes is collected annually from the market. Due to the 25 August attack, tax revenue has decreased. Shopkeepers' income may also be harmed, said the chairman of township development committee. In addition to the CCTVs, the market will be upgraded and roads will also be renovated. ■

## Wildfire burns homes, winery in LA's posh Bel-Air neighbourhood

LOS ANGELES — A wind-whipped wildfire raged on Wednesday into a wealthy Southern California neighbourhood, destroying at least six homes, threatening hundreds more and scorching a building at a winery owned by billionaire media mogul Rupert Murdoch.

The so-called Skirball Fire, which erupted early on Wednesday as the latest in a rash of major blazes fueled by hot, dry Santa Ana winds, had burned about 150 acres near large estates in the Bel-Air neighbourhood of Los Angeles by nightfall and was only 5 per cent contained.

Firefighters battled to save multimillion-dollar homes in the path of the flames, which also forced the closure of the San Diego (405) Freeway in both directions.

"We are expecting some extreme wind behavior this evening," Los Angeles County Fire Chief



Smoke rises from a home damaged by the Skirball fire near the Bel Air neighbourhood on the west side of Los Angeles, California, US, on 6 December 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Daryl Osby told reporters at an afternoon news conference.

Murdoch's winery, Moraga Vineyards, was

evacuated on Wednesday morning as the fire descended on the grounds, a spokeswoman said. Later a structure on the property

was seen on fire as crews worked to extinguish the flames.

"We believe the winery and house are still intact,"

Murdoch said in a written statement on Twitter. "We are monitoring the situation as closely as we can and are grateful to the ef-

forts of all the first responders."

Murdoch said his thoughts and prayers were with neighbours who "suffered heavy losses."

The new fire also prompted the nearby Getty Centre museum to close the doors at its hilltop campus to prevent damage to its world-class art collection.

The Skirball Fire in the area south of scenic Mulholland Drive and north of Sunset Boulevard was just one of several major out-of-control brush fires that have sprung up in Southern California since Monday, when Santa Ana wind conditions set in.

In Ventura, some 50 miles (80 km) northwest of Los Angeles, more than 1,000 firefighters battled the largest, the Thomas Fire, which has already destroyed more than 150 homes and threatened thousands more. —Reuters ■

## Nepal votes in final round of polls at the end of long democratic transition

KATHMANDU — Nepalis began voting in the final round of parliamentary elections on Thursday, a key step to complete a near decade-long democratic transition after the abolition of the centuries-old monarchy and the end of a civil war against Maoist guerrillas.

The first phase of the election was held on 26 November, with final results not expected for about another 10 days because of the cumbersome vote-counting procedure, officials said.

Officials said more than 200,000 soldiers and police had been deployed to maintain security at polling centres after one person was killed and dozens wounded in a series of small blasts in the run-up to the polls. "Hundreds of activists, including from a splinter group of Maoists opposed to the election,



A woman casts her vote during the parliamentary and provincial elections in Bhaktapur, Nepal on 7 December 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

have been detained for creating trouble," army spokesman Nain Raj Dahal said. More than 15 million people were eligible to vote for the 275-member parliament — 165 through first-past-the-post and 110 on a proportional basis in both rounds.

Voters will also choose

representatives to seven state assemblies for the first time since Nepal became a federal democracy under the first republican constitution in 2015.

"The country will achieve political stability after the election ... and will move ahead solidly on the path of economic and so-

cial prosperity," President Bidhya Devi Bhandari said in a statement.

Nepal has seen 10 government changes in as many years. Instability has given rise to corruption, retarded growth and slowed recovery from a 2015 earthquake that killed 9,000 people.—Reuters ■

## Putin declares candidacy in 2018 presidential race, widely expected to win

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin announced Wednesday that he would seek a new term in the presidential election next year, which analysts say that he is almost certain to win easily.

"I will stand as a candidate for the post of president of the Russian Federation," Putin said during a meeting with employees of a car-making plant in the city of Nizhny Novgorod. Despite an increasing number of candidates, Putin is largely expected to win by a landslide the "plebiscite-type election,"

which is scheduled for 18 March, 2018.

"It will be a referendum on public trust in Vladimir Putin. This is due to the actual arrangement of political forces," said Mikhail Remizov, Chairman of the National Strategy Institute. He added that it would be a major issue to encourage public interest in the next year's election, as "the outcome is perfectly clear to both Putin's supporters and his opponents," which leads to growing apathy and indifference among the voters.—Xinhua ■



### UNIC Yangon Vacancy Announcement

Knowledge Management Assistant, G6  
(Temporary Job Opening)

Application period: 05 – 21 December 2017. Apply only at the following link.

<https://careers.un.org/lbw/jobdetail.aspx?id=89584>

United Nations Core Values: Integrity, Professionalism, Respect for Diversity

# B-1B bomber joins US-South Korea drills as tensions escalate

SEOUL — A US B-1B bomber on Wednesday joined large-scale US-South Korean military exercises that North Korea has denounced as pushing the peninsula to the brink of nuclear war, as tension mounts between the North and the United States.

The bomber flew from the Pacific US-administered territory of Guam and joined US F-22 and F-35 stealth fighters in the annual exercises, which run until Friday.

The drills come a week after North Korea said it had tested its most advanced intercontinental ballistic missile capable of reaching the United States, as part of a weapons programme that it has conducted in defiance of international sanctions and condemnation.

Asked about the bomber's flight, China's Foreign



US Air Force B-1B bomber flies in formation during a joint aerial drill called 'Vigilant Ace' between US and South Korea, South Korea on 6 December 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told a regular news briefing in Beijing: "We hope relevant parties can maintain restraint and not do anything to add tensions

on the Korean peninsula." North Korea regularly threatens to destroy South Korea, the United States and Japan. Its official KCNA state news

agency said at the weekend that US President Donald Trump's administration was "begging for nuclear war" by staging the drills. It also labelled Trump,

who has threatened to destroy North Korea if the United States is threatened, "insane". KCNA said on Tuesday that the exercises in which

the bomber took part are "simulating an all-out war", including drills to "strike the state leadership and nuclear and ballistic rocket bases, air fields, naval bases and other major objects..." US Republican Senator Lindsey Graham on Sunday urged the Pentagon to start moving US military dependants, such as spouses and children, out of South Korea, saying conflict with North Korea was getting close.

The US-South Korea drills coincide with a rare visit to the isolated North by UN political affairs chief Jeffrey Feltman.

North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Pak Myong Guk met Feltman on Wednesday in the North Korean capital, Pyongyang, and discussed bilateral cooperation and other issues of mutual interest, KCNA said.—Reuters ■

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV ORIENT SKY VOY. NO ( - )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ORIENT SKY VOY. NO ( - ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.12.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-2 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S WILHELMESEN SHIPS  
SERVICE(S) PTE LTD.**

Phone No: 2301928

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SPRING CANARY VOY. NO ( 113 )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SPRING CANARY VOY. NO ( 113 ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.12.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-3 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S CHUN AN SHIPPING PTE  
LTD.**

Phone No: 2301928

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV UNI-AMPLE VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV UNI-AMPLE VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.12.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV ARCA VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ARCA VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.12.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T. where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BALI VOY. NO (043)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BALI VOY. NO (043) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.12.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV PATHEIN STAR VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PATHEIN STAR VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.12.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL  
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Phone No: 2301185

# Object possibly from US military aircraft falls on Okinawa nursery

OKINAWA — A small cylindrical object fell on the roof of a nursery school in Okinawa when a US aircraft flew over on Thursday morning, local and central government officials said.

There were no reports of injury from the incident, which occurred about 300 meters from US Marine Corps Air Station Futenma that sits in the middle of a densely populated residential area in Ginowan. Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera said in Tokyo that the local defence bureau is asking the US Marine Corps in Okinawa to confirm the object and other facts, adding, "We think this kind of incident stirs concerns among the people in Okinawa." A government source said the US military CH-53 transport helicopter was flying in the area when the incident took place at about 10:20 am. Okinawa Gov. Takeshi Onaga said it would be "outrageous" if the cylindrical object, about 15 centimeters long,

did indeed drop from a US aircraft. According to the nursery school, about 50 children were playing in its grounds while eight toddlers and two caregivers were inside the building when they heard a loud sound indicating something had fallen. "I'm appalled to think what would have happened if it had instead fallen just a little bit from where it did," said Take Nago, the 78-year-old chief caregiver at the facility. The Japanese and US governments have been pushing a plan for the relocation of the Futenma base from Ginowan to the less populated Henoko coastal district of Nago, also in Okinawa Prefecture. The relocation is intended to remove the dangers posed by the Futenma base. But Onaga and many other people in Okinawa, which hosts the bulk of US military facilities in Japan, want the Futenma base to be removed from the prefecture altogether. —Kyodo News ■



The arrow in this file photo taken on 24 July 2017, indicates the location of a nursery school in Ginowan in Japan's southernmost island prefecture of Okinawa. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

## Nissan, Honda to recall nearly 4,000 vehicles in Viet Nam

HANOI — Japanese auto-makers Nissan and Honda will recall nearly 4,000 pick-up trucks and cars in Viet Nam to fix technical faults.

Nissan will recall 3,073 pick-up trucks imported from Thailand, which were manufactured between 20 September 2010 and 1 December 2014 due to airbag faults, announced the Viet Nam Register on Thursday.

According to the maker, air blowers of front passenger airbags in Nissan Navara LE and Navara XE can be exposed to moisture, which prevents their normal operation.

Nissan Viet Nam will check and replace the air pump for LE and XE versions of Navara pickup trucks from this month to next December.

A total of 625 Honda cars, including Accord CR3 produced in 2012, Accord CR2 manufactured from 2013 to 2016 and Odyssey made in the 2015-2017 period will be recalled. —Xinhua ■

## ADB calls for more efforts from Pacific members to adapt to extreme weather

MANILA — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Thursday urged Pacific members to step up their efforts to adapt to more extreme weather conditions

and mitigate disaster risks to improve the region's economic growth and development projects.

The ADB's Pacific Economic Monitor, a bi-an-

nual review of economic developments and policy issues in ADB's 14 developing members in the Pacific, warns that climate change could derail economic pro-

gress in the Pacific.

The Pacific is among those parts of the world most vulnerable to weather-related disasters.

"Many Pacific coun-

tries have taken steps to improve resilience, such as integrating climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction into their national policies, cli-

mate-proofing infrastructure, and building financial resilience," said Carmela Locsin, director general of ADB's Pacific Department. —Xinhua ■

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**Textile & Garment**  
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## 8-11 / 12 / 2017

Myanmar Event Park (MEP) at Mindama  
Min Dhama Road, Myangone Township, Yangon

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## Sean Combs leads four black artists as world's highest paid musicians

LOS ANGELES — Rapper Sean “Diddy” Combs was ranked the world’s highest-paid musician on Wednesday in an annual list that saw black artists take the top four spots.

Combs, who is also a hip hop producer and entrepreneur, earned an estimated \$130 million (97.23 million pounds) for the year, according to Forbes, mostly from his Bad Boy Family Reunion tour and the sale of his Sean Jean clothing line.

Fellow American Beyoncé ranked second, with earnings estimated at \$105 million from her Formation world tour and hit album “Lemonade,” while Canadian artists Drake (\$94 million) and The Weeknd (\$92 million)

rounded out the top four.

British band Coldplay pulled in an estimated \$88 million to take the No. 5 spot.

Forbes compiled the list after estimating pre-tax income for the 12 months from June 2016 to 2017 based on interviews with managers, agents, lawyers, interviews and data from Pollstar, the Recording Industry Association of America and tracking firm Nielsen. Last year’s top two artists - Taylor Swift, and British boy band One Direction - both slipped out of the top 10 this year. Swift did not tour this year and released her latest album in November, while One Direction are on hiatus as its members pursue solo careers. —Reuters ■



Sean Combs with his Hollywood Documentary Award for ‘Can’t Stop, Won’t Stop: A Bad Boy Story’, Beverly Hills, California, US, on 5 November 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Chinese actor says Chinese cinema fusing “own traditions with the outside world”

SYDNEY — An event in Sydney brought some of the world’s biggest stars to the red carpet Wednesday night for the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts awards.

In town to judge the category of best Asian film alongside Russell Crowe and South Korean filmmaker Kim Ki-Duk, Chinese actor Liu Ye talked about the growing excitement around Chinese cinema in Western countries.

“Chinese filmmakers and Chinese people in general have become more and more open minded and willing to accept different things,” he told Xinhua.

“And in this way, China is fusing its own traditions with the outside world,” he added.

“Therefore, I think it’s a good time for a Western movie to come in China or for a Chinese movie to go abroad.”

One of the Chinese films that was nominated for best Asian picture was the record breaking, box office smash hit Wolf Warrior 2.

Writer of the action blockbuster Liu Yi explained that one of the biggest factors in the recent success of Chinese cinema has been China itself.

“The rise of China’s economy and the strength of China overall

has made China an increasingly important player in the world,” Liu Yi said on the red carpet.

“So maybe other foreign friends will start to pay more and more attention to China and this will also give Asian films a larger audience around the world,” he said.

“At the same time, it will raise the industrial standard for the whole Chinese film industry, which is already close to or meeting the world’s top industry standards.”

Indian sports drama Dangal took home top prize in the Asian category on Wednesday.

The Best Actor award went to nine-year-old Sunny Pawar for his role in the biographical film Lion and the Best Actress was claimed by Emma Booth for her work portraying a serial killer in Hounds of Love.

The Oscar nominated Lion also won the Best Picture award.

In early 2018, audiences can look forward to Liu Ye’s new TV series Old Boy, in which Liu plays a pilot. “It’s a beautiful love story with some scenes filmed in Australia,” he said. “The wonderful environment here supports the story well and hopefully everyone can see it soon.” —Xinhua ■

## France mourns death of “French Elvis” Johnny Hallyday

PARIS — Johnny Hallyday, whose death at 74 was announced by his wife and the French president on Wednesday, was a rock and roll giant in his native France, surviving drug use, family strife and near-death episodes to strut the stage for more than 50 years.

Known for his cowboy swagger, gravelly voice, abundant tattoos and leather biker jackets, the “French Elvis” had tens of millions of fans, above all in his native France, where he sold more records than any other singer.

Hallyday died after a battle with lung cancer. His wife Lætitia phoned French President Emmanuel Macron at about 2 am (0100 GMT) with news that triggered an outpouring of grief from fans, politicians and celebrities.

“For more than 50 years, he was a vibrant icon,” read a statement by Macron, who this summer attended a concert Hallyday gave days after a dose of chemotherapy. Later, during a visit to Algeria, Macron said: “Homage will be paid.” Hallyday sold more than 100 million albums over the decades, mostly in the French-speaking world. He never quite conquered the

United States, where he lived in Los Angeles in later years.

“I write these words without believing them. But yet, it’s true. My man is no longer with us,” his wife said in a statement.

Police were posted outside his house west of Paris.

Broadcasters provided wall-to-wall coverage of the rocker’s life, with reams of black-and-white film and song tapes tracing the history of a man regarded by many, non-fans included, as part of French national heritage. Lawmakers in France’s lower house of par-

liament paid their respects with a standing ovation. French-Canadian singer Celine Dion took to Twitter to mourn the loss of “a true icon”. American singer Lenny Kravitz posted a tweet saying: “Repose en Paix (Rest in peace). Your soul is pure Rock and Roll.” In Belgium, his father’s birthplace, the underground railway authority said it would pipe his music into trains, while Brussels City Hall said his biggest hits would be aired over loudspeakers at the famous Grand Place square in an evening tribute. —Reuters ■



French fan Andre Duval poses with a poster of late French singer and actor Johnny Hallyday in Marnes-la-Coquette near Paris, France, on 6 December 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Shinhan Bank, Seoul University provide free surgery to children

A team comprised of 25 medical professionals from Seoul University and six philanthropists from Shinhan Bank conducted a health care programme at Yangon Children's Hospital and Yankin Children's Hospital recently.

During the four-day programme that began on 20 November, the team donated medical care, including surgery for congenital cleft lips and palates

and open heart surgery for 36 children.

Sponsored by the South Korean bank, which launched its operation in Myanmar in September, 2016, this is the third time of the medical team has travelled to Myanmar and provided medical care.

In the previous programmes in 2016, 49 children received free medical care and surgery. —GNLM ■



Medical professionals from Seoul University and Shinhan Bank philanthropists provide free health care programme to children at Yangon Children's Hospital and Yankin Children's Hospital. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

## Ceremony to mark Japanese Emperor's Birthday held



UNION MINISTER for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe and wife Dr Nan Kham Mai were welcomed by Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Tateshi Higuchi and wife at a ceremony to mark the Japanese Emperor's Birthday which was held in Japanese Ambassador's home at No. 80, Natmauk Street, Bahan Township in Yangon at 6:30 pm on 7 December 2017.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Hainan receives over 1 mln overseas tourists

HAIKOU — The number of overseas tourists to China's southern island province of Hainan this year has surpassed one million, Hainan Tourism Development Committee said Wednesday.

A total of 56 direct interna-

tional air routes now link Hainan to destinations including Russia, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Germany. The province plans to operate 100 international routes by 2020, according to Sun Ying, head of the committee.—Xinhua ■

## Peace Music Festival Grand Final on 10 December

THE Ministry of Information and Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV) had held Peace Music Festival Level-I events in 11 cities throughout Myanmar and Level-II and Level-III events

in Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon while the events were broadcasted live.

Now the Peace Music Festival Grand Final will be held in People's Park, Yan-

gon on 10 December and the competition of the 11 finalists and entertainment by famous singers will be broadcasted live, it is learnt. —Myanmar News Agency ■

## Tourists visit Myeik archipelago via yachts, cruise ships

AN increasing number of tourists are visiting Myeik archipelago to observe the underwater landscape in Kawthoung District.

Travelling by yacht and ship and enjoying the relaxation of restrictions, the region has had more and more tourists month by month. The tourists usually pay for overnight trips as

well as day trips.

A tour group comprised of 1,592 tourists and 1,961 crew members visited Katyinkwa Island in Myeik Archipelago by Genting Dream Star Cruise on 27 November. They visited the island with the arrangement of Tint Tint Myanmar Group of Companies and under the supervision of the Ministry of

Hotels and Tourism.

The tourists who were on board on the cruise are from 25 countries. They visited Katyinkwa Island through the Phuket jetty in Thailand. The Genting Dream Star Cruise then proceeded to Singapore on 6 December, it is learnt. —Ministry of Hotels and Tourism ■



Genting Dream Star Cruise visited Katyinkwa Island in Myeik Archipelago on 27 November and then proceeded to Singapore on 6 December. PHOTO: MINISTRY OF HOTELS AND TOURISM

## Myanmar U-23 selects team for Thailand's M-150 Cup

Kyaw Zin Lin

TWENTY-ONE players were selected for the Myanmar U-23 national football team, which will be competing in the M-150 Cup 2017 in Thailand from 9 to 15 December, according to the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF).

There were two goalkeepers chosen, San Sat Naing and Pyae Sone Chit.

The eight defenders are Htike Htike Aung, Hein Nay San, Hlaing Myo Aung, Soe Moe Kyaw, Nann Wai Minn, Kyaw Thet Oo, Sithu Moe Khant, and Aung Wunna Soe.

The seven midfielders are Si Thu Aung, Hlaing Bo Bo,

Yan Naing Oo, Lwin Moe Aung, Maung Maung Lwin. Kyaw Min Oo, Yan Paing Soe, The four strikers are Than Paing, Pyae Sone Naing, Aung Kaung Mhan and Win Naing Htun.

Head Coach Gerd Zeise will lead the team along with assistant coach U Myint Ko, and goal coach U Aung Kyaw Kyaw.

Myanmar, Vietnam and Uzbekistan will comprise Group B, while host Thailand, Japan and the Democratic Republic of Korea are in Group A.

All six U-23 teams will play in a round robin format.

Myanmar U-23 will face Vietnam on 11 December. ■



Myanmar U-23 national football team seen at a friendly match against MNL All-Star team in Thuwunna Stadium on 4 December. PHOTO: MFF

## Stakes are high in Manchester derby

MANCHESTER, (England) — There have been few Manchester derbies with as much on the line as Sunday's meeting at Old Trafford of the top two teams in the Premier League — the most anticipated clash of the campaign so far.

Pep Guardiola's City have built an eight-point lead following an unbeaten start to the season that has included 13 straight victories - equalling the record for the longest winning run in a single Premier League campaign.

Not to be completely outdone, however, Jose Mourinho's Manchester United have equalled a historic club record by remaining unbeaten at Old Trafford for 40 matches in all competitions.

And with former Barcelona boss Guardiola and ex-Real Madrid manager Mourinho having developed a fierce rivalry during their time together in Spain, Sunday's meeting promises to be one to savour.

The last team to beat United at home were City in September, 2016 and a repeat performance would leave the club, once derided as "noisy neighbours" by former United boss Alex Ferguson, 11 points clear at the summit.

City have been playing some exhilarating football this campaign with coach Guardiola's style of play, which served him so well at his previous clubs, bringing the expected rewards after a

disappointing lack of consistency last season.

Yet while United have suffered two defeats on the road - to Huddersfield Town and Chelsea - they too have looked like champions at home.

The 40 games unbeaten have included 29 wins and 11 draws with 85 goals scored and just 17 conceded.

This season's Premier League record at Old Trafford is played seven, won seven - 20 goals for and just one against.

Mourinho, however, will be without his key French midfielder Paul Pogba, who starts a three-match ban following his red card in Saturday's crucial 3-1 win at Arsenal. United have produced their best football when they have had Pogba and Serbian anchorman Nemanja Matic on the field together and the former Juventus midfielder will be sorely

missed.

Given the gap between the two clubs in the table, it will be intriguing to see if Mourinho maintains his habit of playing defensively against title rivals, a tactic which has been much criticised following the goalless draw at Liverpool in October.

Pogba, however, says United will approach the game in a positive fashion.

"We want to win. We need to win as well. They need to win because they know that we are behind and we are closing and closing," he said. "If I didn't believe that (we can win it), I'd stop playing football now," he added. United's Swedish striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic should be fit to feature at some stage in the game but defender Eric

Bailly remains sidelined. — Reuters ■



Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola. PHOTO: REUTERS

## AFF 13<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting in Japan sets upcoming football tournaments

THE Asian Football Federation (AFF) 13<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting was held in Tokyo, Japan yesterday, with officials from Myanmar Football Federation including MFF President U Zaw Zaw in attendance, according to the MFF website.

Football officials from respective ASEAN and Asian countries also attended and focused on the premier event of the AFF Suzuki Cup, with the FA of Indonesia (PSS) set to host all tournaments in 2018.

During the meeting the

officials confirmed Indonesia as hosts for all seven football and Futsal Championships next year.

The AFF Council also decided that, from 2018 onwards, the council meetings will be held in different countries on a rotational basis.

Australia will host the 14<sup>th</sup> AFF Council Meeting in 2018 in March in Sydney.

The 15<sup>th</sup> edition will be held in Brunei, according to a statement from the AFF. —Kyaw Zin Lin ■

## Tiger Woods still a major threat, say Calcavecchia and Janzen

NEW YORK — The show that Tiger Woods put on last week in his latest comeback from injury was enough to convince a pair of major winners that he may still be able to triumph in golf's blue riband events.

Woods swung freely and with no sign of back pain at the Hero World Challenge, finishing tied for ninth in the 18-man exhibition which featured eight of the world's top 10 golfers.

Mark Calcavecchia saw enough to know it would be foolish to write off the former

world number one.

"His name is Tiger Woods after all. You don't just forget that he has won 14 majors and 79 (PGA Tour) tournaments," the former British Open winner told a conference call to promote the Diamond Resorts Invitational. "I watched most of last week and I was very impressed with a lot of things. He's going at it full speed, he's certainly not holding back trying to protect what we all thought was still going to be a tender back." —Reuters ■