Nay Pyi Taw rally supports State Counsellor’s leadership

RESIDENTS in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory have staged a rally to show their solidarity with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and to support her handling of the issue of northern Rakhine State.

The rally was opened by responsible personnel by cutting ribbon. Next, Author U Htin Lin Oo and U Jimmy (Member of ‘88 student leaders) delivered speeches followed by Sein Du War and Pan Ye Lan music bands performing music.

People from Zabuthiri, Pobbathiri, Dekkhinathiri, Otarathiri and Lewe township attended the rally showing their support for Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the civilian government.

Ko Thein Than Oo, a member of the organizing committee, said, “We’re really glad we can show our support for the State Counsellor: The people of Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory will stand firm with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.”

Diversity Management forum to be held in late November

Dr Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and current Chairman of the Committee for Implementing Recommendations on Rakhine, held a meeting in his ministry’s building yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw to discuss the plans for holding the forum for “Diversity Management in the Age of Globalization”.

The forum is slated to be held in Nay Pyi Taw in the last week of November this year.

The forum will focus on the efforts made in settling differences in Rakhine State and as well as other efforts across the globe.

Dr Win Myat Aye said the forum will be led by the Union Government and will focus on humanitarian groups working on diversity management in the country.

The forum will also host foreign experts to participate in the discussion.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye said that whenever a problem arises it must be quelled with fairness and that fear and hatred gives rise to conflict.

He said we need to combine understanding and diligence to repel the fear and hatred that fuels terrorism.

See page 2
Taninthayi Region Hluttaw gets new building

THE new Hluttaw building in Taninthayi Region was opened at a ceremony on 22 October and attended by U Win Myint, the Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw.

The ribbon cutting ceremony was participated by Dr Le Le Maw, the Region Minister; U Khin Maung Aye, the Speaker of Regional Hluttaw; U Tin Aung, the Taninthayi Region High Court’s Chief Judge, and Taninthayi Region Chief Legal Officer U Soe Myint, the Regional Judge Advocate. Next, U Win Myint pressed the button for unveiling the new Hluttaw building’s signboard. Afterwards, the Speaker of Taninthayi Region Hluttaw handed over souvenirs gifts to the attending guests and U Kyi Soe, the Deputy Speaker of Regional Hluttaw, gave congratulatory gifts to the various performers and bands at the opening ceremony.

Next, the Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw and Speaker of Taninthayi Hluttaw planted an Akarit tree in front of the new Hluttaw building and political leaders of the region planted chestnut trees to commemorate the ceremony. After a tour of the Hluttaw building, the Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw and Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of Regional Hluttaw signed the guestbook at the new Hluttaw building. Around 800 people attended the opening ceremony including regional ministers, Hluttaw representatives, village and town elders, leaders of political parties and other invited guests. —Taninthayi Region Sub- Printing House

Shwepyitha gets another Carewell clinic

The third Carewell clinic that looks after the health of workers was opened in Shwepyitha Industrial Zone in the north of Yangon yesterday morning.

As regards the opening of the carewell clinic of the Social Security Board-SSB, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe said the clinic will conduct minor surgical operations in addition to other health care services.

Equipped with full staff strength including doctors and nurses and adequate medical equipment and medicines, the carewell clinics can stand shoulder to shoulder with the private counterparts. More carewell clinics will appear in the townships of Yangon Region.

Of the over 0.7 million workers under the SSB care, over 82,000 are in Shwepyitha which already has a SSB office and a SSB clinic. Co-sponsors SSB under the Ministry of Labour; Immigration and Population and Care Well Medical Co Ltd have already opened one carewell clinic each in Shwepyitha and Mingaladon.

We have signed a contract to provide free healthcare and social security services for workers registered with SSB through the clinics, said Dr Mu Ya Nyunt, Executive Director of the company. —Myanmar News Agency

Diversity Management forum to be held in late Nov in Nay Pyi Taw

AID from Rakhine State government reached yesterday to victims of a strong wind which destroyed their houses recently.

The authorities delivered cash assistance and aid to the villagers of Shar Shae Village, Mrauk-U Township, where houses were destroyed by strong wind.

During the visit, Rakhine State Minister for Social Affairs Dr Chan Tha and officials viewed the houses and buildings damaged by the strong wind and gave words of encouragement to the villagers.

Then, State Minister for Social Affairs Dr Chan Thar; Director of State Education Office and Director of State Department of Relief and Resettlement provided Ks 300,000 each to seven houses that were completely destroyed and Ks 100,000 each to 15 houses that were partly damaged.

Mrauk-U Township management committee also provided five sacks of rice, 35 pieces of tarpaulin and five Family Kit boxes. Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement provided 22 Family Kit boxes, two bags of tarpaulin, construction materials and rice sufficient for a week. Myanmar Red Cross Society also provided the assistance.

Similarly, Ministry of Education will reconstruct the new Basic Education Post Primary School building and houses for teachers in place of the school and houses destroyed by the strong wind. School uniforms for the students will also be provided, according to Mrauk-U Township Education Department. —Aung Kyaw Oo

23 October 2017
The Global New Light of Myanmar
Local people participate in the rally to show their solidarity with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. PHOTO: MNA

Nay Pyi Taw rally supports State Counsellor leadership

FROM PAGE 1

U Saw, a Hluttaw representative, said “The people and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi are in harmony and that’s why we hold this event to reach our goals.” He continued, “These rallies will encourage our State Counsellor and will light the way for the development, peace and development for our country.”

The attention of the world on the Rakhine issue has been immense, beginning with the attacks on the police outposts in Rakhine State last October and the terrorist attacks happened again in August, 2017.

“There has been a lot of criticisms against our country. We need to understand international opinion. However, just as no one can fully understand the situation of our country the way we do, no one can desire peace and development for our country more than us,” said the State Counsellor in her report to the country’s people on 12 October.

“Rather than rebutting criticisms and allegations with words, we will show the world by our actions and our deeds, she added.

For the development of Rakhine State and to implement projects in all sectors, the Union Government has established the mechanism “Union Enterprise Development in Rakhine”.

At a ceremony to accept cash donations from the country’s businessmen for the UEHRD in Nay Pyi Taw on 20 October, she also called for unity among the government, the people and the businessmen for the success of the project in Rakhine State as part of efforts for laying down a foundation for the Union.

—Myanmar News Agency ■

Clothes donated to displaced people in Rakhine

THE Department for Rural Development donated about 3,481 sets of clothing to IDPs in Maungtaw, Buthidaung and Yethedaung who have fled from attacks by ARSA terrorists.

The Region Director of the Department for Rural Development handed over the clothes donations to the Committee for Accepting and Handing Donations under the Rakhine State Government and received a congratulatory certificate in return.

The Union Government has committed to effectively supplying humanitarian aid to the people in the areas where terrorist attacks occurred, along with rehabilitation, resettlement and development in the same areas.

Prominent companies in Myanmar contributed K17.7 billion in total to the government to assist in its efforts for development in Rakhine—Win Min Soe (Sub Printing House) ■

Mandalay hosts public talk

MANDALAY hosted a Public Talk on the increasing drug threat against youth at the community centre co-run by Pyigyitagon Township Information and Public Relations Department and Daw Khin Kyi Foundation yesterday.

After a speech by Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung, Region Agriculture and Livestock Breeding and Irrigation Minister U Soe Than, MP U Zaw Maung Maung, IPRD Deputy Director-General U Aye Kywe and resources persons gave talks on the topic joined in by the participants.

In his talks Minister U Soe Than said public talk really benefits the people as it is a forum where their voices can be heard and their needs can be fulfilled by the government. The voices of the people and students on the topic are valuable for the country and the government. Hence, such talks should be held more comprehensively.

The IPRD director-general said the talk aims at opening direct talks between the government and the people which is one of the characteristics of democracy, presenting the community problems for wider discussions, enhancing the thinking power of the people and giving them the habit of partaking in the public discussions.

We hope the talks will give all the participants food for thought, knowledge, satisfaction and thinking power. And we are planning to make all community centres the platforms for such talks.

MP U Zaw Maung Maung said today Mandalay sees lootings in some quarters mostly committed by youths. And most of these youths are drug addicts. Drug addicts cannot differentiate between right and wrong and can easily destroy their own community. The best way to destroy a country is to ruin the moral conducts of her youths. So youths must totally stay away from drugs.

A participant, Maung Aka Min, a student of BEHS 10 in Mandalay, said the talk has given him the awareness of the danger of narcotic drugs. The drugs are not only hindering the national progress but also destroying the hopes of youths. So the talk is much beneficial to the youths.

—IPRD ■

We Stand With Mother Soe

People participate in the public talk in Mandalay. PHOTO: IPRD

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Road extension, new building constructions banned in Bagan

THE expansion of roads, the paving of new concrete roads and the construction of new buildings in Bagan ancient cultural zone have been prohibited by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, according to a report of the Myawaddy Daily issued on Sunday. A spokesperson from the ministry said that demolition of structures and fences within the compound of pagodas have been carried out by the cultural authorities in cooperation with the region administration bodies. He continued to say that the department of archaeological research under the Ministry has already submitted a proposal to nominate Bagan area on the world heritage list in the third week of September. The ministry will not allow the paving of not only tarred roads but also concrete roads after it has been listed on the world heritage list.

A body including experts from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) will make a field trip to the Bagan by early next year. At the present time, negotiations are being made between the ministry and responsible officials from the UNESCO on the break-even period for under-construction hotels. Under the agreement, they will have to be moved to hotel zones described in the town plan.

—GNLM

Disability-inclusive service businesses to officially launch this month: DIBI

THE Disability Inclusive Business Initiative (DIBI) plans to officially launch a wide range of service businesses operated by persons with disabilities (PWDs) on 23 October, said U Aung Ko Myint, managing director of the DIBI.

Founded with PWDs, the DIBI will offer a various range of services, including printing, car hire business, music and musical instrument courses, music entertainment service and musical instrument rental business. “We are PWDs but we are able to do business. All service charges are similar to those in the outside markets. We guarantee the quality of our services,” U Chan Myae Aung, marketing officer of the DIBI.

With the supports of Nippon Foundation, the DIBI had made concerted efforts to implement this plan since two years ago. Profits from the businesses will go to socio-economic development projects for PWDs via Myanmar Independent Living Initiative (MILI).

U Nay Lin Soe, consultant officer of the MILI said, “The people with disabilities could establish links with development organizations alone. Now they have opportunities to connect with business sector. They could extend their networks to the political sector three months ago.” According to 2014 census, Myanmar had 2.3 million populations of PWDs, accounting for 4.6 per cent of the total populations of over 51 million. The majority of PWDs are poor and 85 per cent of them are under-employed.

Activists working for PWDs said more employment opportunities are needed for PWDs to enter social community, urging the country’s social community and the government to encourage them through human rights-based approach rather than charity-based approach. The printing services provided by the DIBI will cover postcards, calendars, pamphlets, envelopes, notebooks, paper bags and silk screens. The DIBI’s car hire services for short- and long-distance tours are also available in town or out of town. It will also open music and musical instrument courses including lessons for guitar, drum, keyboard and violin. The musical experts and vocalists of the DIBI are ready to provide music entertainment services at wedding receptions and ceremonies. Interested customers may dial 09 448 830 793.
The Global New Light of Myanmar

Drastic decline in Muse trade brings down total border trade value

Myanmar is carrying out border trade with the most populous country China through Muse, Lweje, Chinshwehaw, Kanpetlet and Keng Tung land points of entry. Chinshwehaw and Keng Tung gates are also seen decline in trade because there has suspension in export to China these days. Myanmar’s rice, sugar, various pulses, sesame seeds, corns, dried tea leaf, fishery products, minerals and animal products are exported to China while capital goods, intermediate goods and consumer goods flowed into the country.

Myanmar and Thailand are conducting the border trade via Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Htee Khee, Maese and Mawtaung. Also, it is carrying out border trade with India via Tamu and Reed. The country’s border trade gates with Bangladesh are Sittwe and Maungtaw.

There is also a slight decrease in trade at Thai-Myanmar checkpoints- Tachilek, Myawady, Myeik and Indo-Myanmar border gate Tamu. — Htet Myat

Trade value at Kawthoung gate increases by $34 million

Border trade at Kawthoung checkpoint between 1 April and 13 October in current FY fetched about $86.5 million which is $34 million more than that in similar period of last FY. Myanmar’s border trade with neighboring Thailand flows in and out of these gates- Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Htee Khee, Maese. Of them, Myawady gate conducted the largest trade with $466 million although there was a decrease of $14 million.

Similarly, despite in slight decline in trade, Myeik checkpoint is the second largest one with estimated trade value of $94 million, followed by Kawthoung trade.

Also, Tachilek and Htee Khee gates showed decrease in trade. And the remaining gates- Mawtaung and Maese saw slight increase in trade.

Myanmar export fish, squids, prawns, eels, crabs, cashew nuts, dried tea leaf and fruit to Thailand while capital goods, consumer goods and intermediate goods are imported into the country. — Ko Htet

Public Company planned to be established for agricultural development in Rakhine State

Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) is planning to establish a public company in an attempt to effectuate the agricultural development in Rakhine State by setting up the projects in three years, according to yesterday’s report of Myawady Daily.

To implement those projects, Rakhine Agribusiness Public Co., Ltd (RAPC) will be set up with an aim to sustainable development and sustainable benefit for Rakhine residents, creating job opportunities for them and peace, stability and development in Rakhine State. Regarding short-term three-year project, MRF will hold a press conference to discuss with the members and related organizations. — GNLM
BFM provides Chin State’s Htantalan with water bowsers

WHILE assisting in water supply facilities in water scarce areas across the country, KBZ’s Brighter Future Myanmar foundation—BFM provided two water bowsers to Htantalan in Chin State yesterday for use in supplying water to local people.

“The two 3,000-gallon water bowsers would be helpful in carrying water from the spring 22 miles from Htantalan to the town’s population of more than 7,000,” said U Tin Tun of the foundation in his clarification on the reason of the donation held at Htantalan Township Hall on 21st October.

The donation is aimed at water supply to the population at the rate of 20 gallons for each person, he added.

BFM has also provided water bowsers to the other towns in Chin State, and so far 46 bowsers have been provided to the areas which face water scarcity in summer in the country.

As part of its efforts to combat water scarcity problems, KBZ’s Brighter Future Myanmar foundation has asked communities currently facing drought and/or a scarcity of fresh water to contact the foundation and arrange for fresh potable water to be delivered.

The philanthropic foundation has donated more than K135 billion to rehabilitation and resettlement of people who faced disasters. —Thura Lwin (Eco)

Sule Square Office Tower and Retail Mall opens as newest landmark

THE Sule Square Office Tower and Retail Mall officially opened on 15 October with an evening celebration attended by the Mayor of Yangon, U Maung Maung Soe and the community’s business leaders. Assembling at the city’s newest landmark, comprising 36,000 leasable square metres of combined office and retail space, guests enjoyed a lighting up ceremony and lantern display, followed by a cocktail reception.

“We are excited to premier the Sule Square Office Tower and Retail Mall in Yangon’s prime CBD area,” said Philip Couvaras, area general manager of Sule Shangri-La, Yangon.

“The modern office and retail complex will serve as an ideal venue to bring the community together, while meeting the needs of business corporations.

The unveiling of the mixed-use grade-A Sule Square Office Tower and Retail Mall represents Shangri-La’s investment of USD125 million towards the development of the downtown area. Positioned with panoramic views of the city, the 23-floor complex provides fifteen floors of dedicated office space – each at approximately 2,000 square metres, a retail component encompassing a supermarket, as well as 30 shops including dining outlets and an indoor 550-car parking space.

The office tower is already home to multi-national companies and offers direct access to the adjacent Sule Shangri-La, Yangon. It also features backup generators, closed-circuit TV, controlled card access and 24-hour security.—GNLM

Missing pilots of G-4 jet trainer confirmed dead

THE two pilots of the crashed plane G-4 were confirmed death by the search team and the medical officer as some burnt-out parts of the bones and bodies were found.

While conducting a search around the area where the G-4 jet trainer crashed, the team found parts of the D-Ziner wristwatch of pilot Maj Kau-ng Htaik, one pilot shoe, parts of Seiko wristwatch of co-pilot Capt Thuw Zin Soe, some burnt-out body parts and bones, parachutes that were still attached to the pilot seats, and two sets of survival kit. The team and the medical officer confirmed that the pilots died on the spot where the plane crashed.

Investigation teams are trying to find out the cause of the crash of the G-4 of the Air Force which went missing on 5 September while on a training mission along Pathein-Hinthada-Gwa-Pathein route. —Myanmar News Agency

Four reach level-3 of Peace Music Festival

TWO reached the level 3 of the peace music festival in Mandalay in which nine contestants took part in the second event of the level-2 yesterday.

The event 1 and event 2 of the level 2 were held in Mandalay on 21 and 22 October and another two were selected for level 3 in the event one.

After the two-day event, four winners Sa Paung, Linn Thit, Phone Wai Thwin and Khin Thuzar Tun emerged.

Nay Pyi Taw will host the events 3 and 4 of the level-2 on 28 and 29 October.

Two each from the four events of the level two and another two under the judges’ recommendation totalling 10 will be selected for the level 3.

The ten contestants will have to take part in the Grand Final for first, second and third and seven consolation prizes. The first prize winner will get K 30 million, the second prize winner K 20 million, the third prize winner K 10 million and each consolation prize winner K 3 million.

The country’s popular vocalists and all the contestants will entertain the public at the Grand Final.

Participants of the music festival and other well-wishers presented donations for the IDP camps. MRTV is airing the program live. The festival is held in honour of the peace process effort and the country’s advance toward democracy, officials said.

Peace music festival in progress in Mandalay.

PHOTO: MANDALAY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE

During the final stage, 10 selected songs for 10 contestants to sing will be composed by well-known composers. A Music Live Show will be held featuring famous vocalists performing solos, duets and group entertainment. The last three winners will receive the largest prizes.

—MinHtet Aung (Sub-printing House)
China’s property market expected to continue stabilizing: official

BEIJING — China’s property market is expected to continue stabilizing in the fourth quarter of this year, a senior official said on Sunday.

The market will continue to see slower growth in transaction volume and stabilizing prices, Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Development Wang Menghui told a press conference on the sidelines of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China.

“For the whole year, the property market will maintain a stable performance,” he said.

The government will not waiver in its efforts to achieve the goals of property market regulation and will maintain continuity and stability of policies, Wang told reporters.

Authorities are studying a “long-term mechanism” for real estate regulation and advancing legislative work on the development of the home rental market, he said.

Regulatory moves since October last year have produced effects, curbing property buying for speculative and investment purposes and reining in excessively fast price increases, said the minister.

He pledged to move faster to put in place a housing system that ensures supply through multiple sources, provides housing support through multiple channels, and encourages both housing purchase and renting.

China’s rocketing housing prices, especially in major cities, had fueled concerns about asset bubbles before dozens of local governments passed or expanded their restrictions on house purchases and increased the minimum down payments.

The market was also cooled down by relatively tightened liquidity conditions as the government moved to contain leverage and risk in the financial system.

Last month, the country’s housing authority endorsed a pilot joint ownership housing scheme in Beijing and Shanghai to provide affordable housing.

The government is also carrying out pilot programs in 12 large and medium-sized cities to increase rental housing supply and set up government-backed home rental service platforms to address rising demand from urban newcomers.

Indonesia to demand answers after military chief denied US entry

JAKARTA — Indonesia intends to send a diplomatic note to the US secretary of state and summon Washington’s deputy ambassador in Jakarta to explain why the head of its military was denied entry to the United States, an Indonesian official said on Sunday.

Indonesia’s Armed Forces Commander General Gatot Nurmantyo was about to board a flight on Saturday when the airline informed him that US authorities had denied him entry, according to Indonesian media reports.

Nurmantyo was going to the United States at the invitation of General Joseph F Dunford Jr, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff and a former head of the US Marine Corps, according to the reports. He was also due to take part in a forum organised by the Center for Strategic & International Studies in Washington on Monday.

Arrmanatha Nasir, a spokesman for Indonesia’s foreign affairs ministry said that Nurmantyo had informed the ministry of the entry denial but the spokesman could not confirm details.

“After receiving that information, our foreign affairs minister has asked our ambassador in Washington DC to send a diplomatic note to the US secretary of state to ask for clarification,” he said.

The ministry will also summon the US deputy ambassador in Jakarta on Monday to seek explanation, Nasir said, adding that the ambassador is presently not in Indonesia.

The US embassy in Jakarta did not immediately respond to questions about the incident.

Nurmantyo has frequently courted controversy in Indonesia because of his actions and what analysts perceive as his political ambitions. The general promotes the notion that Indonesia is besieged by “proxy wars” involving foreign states and even a renewed communist threat.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo said this month that the armed forces should stay out of politics and ensure their loyalty is only to the state and the government.

Indonesia, the world’s biggest Muslim-majority country, generally enjoys good ties with the United States although in the past ties between the two countries’ armed forces have been strained by alleged rights abuses involving Indonesia’s armed forces. —Reuters
Constructive developments to be sculpted practically

Khin Maung Oo

MUCH has been heard about viral news that potential sanctions will be slapped on Myanmar, due to the affairs in the Rakhine State. Rumors are spreading that these sanctions would be targeted on high-ranking officials of the Tatmadaw. Here we would like to present that the news is completely contrary to assumptions and ideas of retired Lt General Widojo who took part in transforming the Indonesian Army during the transitional period towards a democracy in Indonesia.

Lieutenant General Widojo (retired) said that making Indonesian army officers including high-ranking officials study at the military institutes of developed democratic nations encourages Indonesian army officers to perform their duties and responsibilities in typical military ways. To perform duties in typical military ways incudes to perform military responsibilities and dealing with human rights affairs, in accord with international standards. What we would like to say is that imposing sanctions against Tatmadaw officials at different levels would be counter-producitive, to say the least. It would in fact have a negative effect on Myanmar’s transition towards a democratic government. The international community and Western governments in particular should be fully aware that there is a well-paid propaganda machine supporting the extremist terrorists and their sympathizers who are working day and night to attack Myanmar leaders, the Myanmar Tatmadaw and Myanmar as a country.

Allegations are being heard that the mass exodus amounting to several hundred thousand of Bengalis was attributed to excessive use of force by our Tatmadaw. Yet these allegations are exactly what they are, allegations. Those who are repeating these allegations for reasons best known to themselves are unable to come up with credible evidence. For example, just presenting satellite images of burnt villages do not prove anything. At the ground level there may be many possible explanations. The persons who committed these acts of arson could be the fleeing villagers, ARI SA terrorists, or vigilantes of any stripe or race. Repealing allegations without evidence shows an ignorance of the legal process. This is most regrettable that such allegations are being made by well-known TV stations or many of the underground Youtube channels with dubious and suspicious names. The actual problems in Rakhine State were really caused by the systemic coordinated attacks of ARSA extremist terrorists. These attacks were led by hardcore terrorists but with the support of villagers from the neighboring villages, who were either forced or recruited by terrorist recruiters. It is very regrettable that the so-called defenders of human rights failed to report in a responsible way in accordance with the code of conduct of professional journalists. As for the Tatmadaw, their duty is to defend the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country. They are trained to meet the enemy head on, with courage and determination, and in full uniform in full combat gear. They do not wear black masks like terrorists or fabricate fake news or invent heartbreaking stories to win the sympathy of the global community.

The Myanmar government has openly asserted that it will accept Bengali refugees to have fled in accord with the 1951 Agreement between Myanmar and Bangladesh and grant citizenship rights after careful scrutiny in accord with the 1982 Citizenship Law. For stability and security of the people in Rakhine State including people of Bengali extraction who will come into the country again, the Government will implement after negotiations with the Bangladesh government and hand in hand with the Tatmadaw.

This fact should be deeply understood by the international community. Releasing news that sanctions will be imposed against Tatmadaw officials by neglecting the actual facts of the case would be tantamount to creating unnecessary hardships for Myanmar instead of helping her.

We wish to present our belief that the international community should examine the problem deeply and thoroughly before jumping into any conclusions or be swayed by the relentless propaganda being manufactured by the propaganda machines which are being funded by certain sympathetic countries in the middle east and South Asia.

Public + Private = Better Health Care in Southeast Asia

Lieven Jacquemyn

October 13, 2017 Lieven Jacquemyn International PPP Development Director at GE Healthcare, Singapore

Health care is a booming business in Southeast Asia. With a population of more than 640 million in 2016 and fewer than three beds per 1,000 people, Southeast Asia’s demographics reveal an attractive investment opportunity for private health care providers. Some of the largest and most profitable private health care providers are based in Singapore, Thailand, and Malaysia, where there are clear pockets of excellence generating impressive medical tourism streams.

To date, it seems public and private health care providers are simultaneously serving separate client segments.

A true partnership in which public and private partners team up, allocate tasks and risks to the party best able to handle them, and jointly work towards a common goal is rare in Southeast Asia. A public-private partnership to build an orthopedic center in the Philippines, having only one bidder for the project, was cancelled in 2015.

The new Women and Children’s Hospital in Kuala Lumpur, however, is one exception.

Several countries in Southeast Asia are working toward the World Health Organization’s goal of universal health coverage.

For example, the Philippines created PhilHealth in 1995 and Indonesia created the single payer universal health coverage model in 2014, aiming to provide health insurance for its entire population of 250 million within five years. Thailand and Myanmar’s ministries of health are also exploring nationwide solutions to increase access to health care, including for residents of remote areas.

Intervention Model for Southeast Asia

In 2015, GE Healthcare helped develop a nationwide solution for the provision of radiology suites to 98 hospitals across all 47 counties in Kenya, as well as a training center in Nairobi. Key aims of this seven-year managed equipment service contract included improving geographic access to affordable quality health care services, attracting and developing health care professionals, and enabling faster diagnosis and scan analysis using interconnected expertise across the country.

The result has been improved access to care, according to an independent survey in 2016. Kenya now has 732 new health care workers; patient throughput has increased more than 50 percent; efficiency has improved 14 percent due to better workflow and reduced time to scan; cost per scan has fallen by 30 percent; and equipment reliability stands at 167 percent. Some countries in Southeast Asia could also benefit from a similar approach.

Although government spending on health care has been rising in most of Southeast Asia, the emerging economies spend frugally on it (3 to 6 percent of GDP), which is well below developed Asian countries (up to 10 percent) and their EU/U.S. counterparts (more than 10 percent).

The huge population base in Southeast Asia magnifies the challenge to move up in health care spending.

PPPs for Health Care in Southeast Asia

According to a 2014 study, the readiness of Southeast Asian countries to enter into PPPs varies considerably, reflecting the region’s diversity in demographics, economic development, and other factors. However, almost all countries have successfully implemented public-private partnerships in economic infrastructure sectors including energy, transportation, and water. Social infrastructure projects, such as schools and hospitals, have not been perceived as priority investments.

Since 2004, the International Monetary Fund has highlighted the need for investing in health to achieve economic development goals. Today, the links between a healthy working population, reducing health care burden, and increasing productivity have been clearly established.

For example, diseases in the UK that impose the highest economic burden on the economy include dementia ($23.3 billion pounds ($34.8 billion)), musculoskeletal disorders ($17.1 billion pounds), stroke ($10.3 billion pounds), coronary heart disease ($9 billion pounds), and cancer and tumors ($5.7 billion pounds). These conditions alone account for nearly 70 billion pounds per annum, and that constitutes just a portion of the disease-related costs in the UK. We believe that prevention and earlier diagnosis could improve the care pathways in these five disease areas, saving billions of the budget. Prevention and earlier intervention could also help reduce the incidence of permanent disability of the working population and the population as a whole.

Partnerships Needed

Today many Southeast Asian countries still have a relatively low GDP but show impressive annual growth figures. They are competing against the bigger economies globally in a similar fashion to startup companies looking to establish their position in the market.
Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe views Pekhon People's Hospital

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe arrived at Pekhon Township People’s Hospital in southern Shan State yesterday morning followed by meeting with staff and viewed around the hospital.

The Union Minister together with officials inspected medical instruments, emergency outpatient ward and men and women in-patient wards.

Then, the Union Minister met with health staff and clarified regarding health care service for all people and the service to cover all people regardless of race, religion, rich or poor; disease prevention, upgrading health care standard, giving perfect health care services such as finding the disease area and treatment, and rehabilitation and all people to get health care services without any worry for expense.

Dr: Kyaw Kyaw Oo, head of the Township Health Department, presented requirements of oxygen supply machine for emergency outpatients, ambulances, respiratory devices, fire engine, and medical devices for Lae hospital and that, the Union Minister replied to fulfill the requirements after scrutinizing. Ko Htwe (Pekhon), Mg Mg Htwe (IPRD)

Healthcare infrastructures to be built nationwide within five years

THE Ministry of Health and Sports is planning to set up healthcare infrastructures in 330 townships throughout the nation within next five years, aiming to provide better healthcare for general public, according to a report of the Myawady Daily.

According to the national health strategy (2017-2020), necessary infrastructure, medicine and employees are planned to fulfill in 78 townships in the first year. The project will be extended to 82 townships in the second year, 84 townships in the third year and 86 townships in the fourth year.

Efforts are being made to allot funds to the project areas after the survey programme, said an official from the monitoring group on implementation of national health programme.

Plans to fulfill infrastructure needs for fiscal year of 2017-2018 have initiated in some townships through collaborative efforts of general practitioners, social organizations, local healthcare bodies and the ministry.

This is a part of the ministry’s master plan to reach the goal of universal health coverage.—GNLM

Construction of Hsatyoekya Creek Bridge nearly finished

A PROJECT to construct a bridge over Hsatyoekya Creek in Sittway, a town in Rakhine State, is almost finished, targeting smooth flow of commodities transport, according to a report of the Myawady Daily’s Sunday edition.

For the time being, works are 70 per cent complete and efforts have been made by the project implementers to meet the target time frame, said U Ohn Maw, urban engineer from the Ministry of Construction.

The bridge has been developed under the government’s rural development plan. It will link between Lannaw Ward (North) and Hsatyoekya Ward in the same township.

The reinforced concrete (RC) bridge will be 1,642 feet long and 31 feet wide. There will be 24 feet wide motorway and each platform will be three feet.

The new facility will link with Shwemingan, Mingan, Kyatayawwama, Kyatayawpaik-seik, Byaingphyu, Myinkantaw-thit and Thonehsaung villages, and nearby regions. The new bridge will provide benefits in education, health and transportation of those villages.—GNLM

Agricultural & fisheries sector development of Ayeyawady Region discussed

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu together with departmental officials went to Standard seeds planting fields in Sarnalaut village, Nyaungdon Township and Ywarthitkone village, Kangyidauk Township, Ayeyawady Region on 21 October.

The Union Minister and officials viewed the germination of seeds and discussed means to forge cooperation between departmental officials and farmers setting up seeds producing zones, planting of marketable fruits through double cropping, and planting summer rice in all available areas. Then, the Union Minister met with heads of Region or District Agriculture Department office at the meeting room and discussed development of agricultural sector in Ayeyawady Region. In the meeting, officials explained seed production and germination, hybrid cropping, technical knowledge dissemination through close cooperation with farmers. Then, the Union Minister inspected the seed cleaning machine and farm-used mini laboratory and equipments. At evening, the Union Minister met with fishery officials at the meeting room. Afterwards, head of Regional fisheries department and officials clarified year-wise undertakings and other matters. Afterwards, the Union Minister explained programmes which will be implemented to maintain sustainability of fish resources and to develop fisheries.

—Myanmar News Agency

Public + Private = Better Health Care in Southeast Asia

FROM PAGE 8

Investing in health care should not be the sole responsibility of a country’s ministry of health and an ancillary project for the ministry of finance but, rather, a central element of a country’s development plan and competitive strategy. Public-private partnerships in health care are certainly possible in Southeast Asia if all parties can see that such collaboration will help them reach their respective goals and interests. Our recommendations for each of the partners:

Governments:

• Increase health spending to at least 8 percent of GDP
• Prioritize health investments as a conduit for economic growth
• Organize nationwide health care solutions, generating similar benefits as pool funding

Service and equipment providers:

• Rethink your services and products “from the bottom up” to suit the specific needs of developing countries
• Assume your role of a responsible corporate citizen by measuring performance beyond traditional sharehold-
er requirements.

Investors:

• Take a global view on return on investment by uniting different investment requirements—for example, short-term real estate and long-term infrastructure investments. This approach will allow you to capture the wider economic benefits.
• Solve for co-investing in health care projects on a blended finance basis alongside public funds.

According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the concept of blended finance has three main characteristics: leverage of development finance and philanthropic funds to attract private capital; impact of investments on social, environmental and economic progress; and financial returns for private investors in line with market expectations. It aims to achieve similar goals to impact investing by using a structuring approach to blend the different intents of a range of investor motivations to achieve these development objectives at scale.

GE Healthcare has been involved in over 100 public-private partnership/managed equipment service projects and approximately 50 operational projects across the globe over the last 15 years, working closely with governments and investors.

In Southeast Asia, there is a clear trend toward ministries of health and state-owned hospitals proactively engaging with the private sector to find mutually beneficial ways to work together. One factor driving this trend is an increasing willingness and ability to articulate a project’s objectives and framework for realization. A shared focus on outcomes and process is an excellent basis to start a long-term partnership in which all parties contribute to reaching universal health coverage.

(This is a longer version of a piece that appeared in Health Investor Asia.)
Putin notes dynamic development of political dialogue between Russia, Kazakhstan

MOSCOW — Russia's President Vladimir Putin greeted Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev on the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the countries, noting the high level of strategic partnership. The telegram is published on the Kremlin's website on Sunday.

“Over the past quarter of century, based on kind traditions of friendship and mutual respect, which unite the peoples of Russia and Kazakhstan, we brought the bilateral relations to a high level of strategic partnership and alliance,” the greeting said.

The president noted the dynamic development of the political dialogue and fruitful cooperation between the countries in the trade, economic, scientific, technical, cultural, humanitarian and other spheres. "Coordination of our countries' efforts in the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union favours improvement of the regional stability and security," he said. Putin expressed confidence in further effective cooperation between the countries in settlement of major international problems and wished to Nazarbayev good health and success.— Tass

UK’s divorce bill figure can only come with final Brexit deal — minister

LONDON — Britain can only come up with a figure for a financial settlement with the European Union when a Brexit deal has been agreed, trade minister Liam Fox said on Sunday, warning leaders not to believe London is bluffing over a no deal.

Fox, speaking on ITV’s Peston on Sunday television programme, said Britain would offer the other 27 EU members “further assurance” on its divorce before the next summit in December to push talks forward to a discussion of a future trading relationship.

“I don’t know what that number is but it’s very clear that we could only have that final number as part of a final agreement, we would want to know what the end state is,” Fox said. “Away from the hyperbole around the divorce bill there is actually a great deal of cooperation going on between us.”

After Prime Minister Theresa May won a reprieve in the talks after a summit last week, the government will show the EU that “we are moving in the right direction” on the first phase of talks, which include the so-called divorce bill, he said.

But he also said the EU should not believe that Britain was bluffing by saying it was preparing for a no deal, describing trading according to World Trade Organization rules as “not exactly a nightmare scenario”.

“But I would prefer to have a deal,” he added. — Reuters

Toyota to halt operations at all Japan plants as typhoon precaution

TOKYO — Toyota Motor Corp will suspend operations at all of its assembly plants in Japan, including those of its subsidiaries, from Monday morning as a precautionary measure as a powerful typhoon approaches Japan's mainland, a spokesman said.

Tens of thousands across Japan were advised to evacuate, hundreds of flights were cancelled and rail services disrupted on Sunday as heavy rain and wind lashed a wide swath of the country.—Reuters

China says unemployment at 3.95 per cent, lowest in years

BEIJING — China's unemployment rate has hit its lowest rate in multiple years at 3.95 per cent by the end of September, the ministry of human resources and social security said in a statement on Sunday.

From January to September this year, 10.97 million new jobs have been created in China, a growth of 300,000 compared with the previous year, the ministry said in a pre-prepared statement given to reporters.

The figure represents having essentially fulfilled the ministry's year-end target, the statement said. —Reuters

Spain hopes Catalans disregard instruction from regional leaders—minister

LONDON — Spanish Foreign Minister Alfonso Dastis said on Sunday he hoped that people in Catalonia would disregard any instruction from the regional leadership if Spain moves to suspend the region’s autonomy.

“All the government is trying to do, and reluctantly, is to reinstate the legal order, to restore the constitution but also the Catalan rules and proceed from there,” he told the BBC’s Andrew Marr Show.—Reuters
US and coalition bomb Syrian Raqqā, like Dresden was bombed in 1945 — Defence Ministry

MOSCOW — Combat aircraft of the US and the coalition bombarded Syrian Raqqā like Germany’s Dresden was destroyed during World War II. In the operation to liberate the city from terrorists of the Islamic State (IS, terrorist organization outlawed in Russia), thousands of Syrian civilians were killed, spokesman of the Russian Defence Ministry General-Major Igor Konashenkov said on Sunday.

“Raqqā has repeated the fate of Dresden of 1945, which was erased in the British-American bombing,” the general said.

Now, Washington, Paris and Berlin announce urgently they are allocating millions of dollars and euro for assistance on restoration of peaceful life there, but in reality they want “to hide evidences of the barbarian bombing by the combat aircraft of the US and ‘coalition’, which buried in Raqqā’s ruins thousands civilians, whom they ‘liberated’ from IS,” the spokesman said. Today, he continued, the West hurries to target the funding to Raqqā only, while earlier the US, France, Germany and the UK refused to send whatever humanitarian assistance to Syria.

“Over recent years, Russia has addressed the US and the European capitals asking to send humanitarian assistance to the Syrians suffering from the war,” he said. “We have put a list of settlements, where that assistance was most needed — without dividing the Syrians into ‘good’ and ‘bad’. Every time, from Washington, Berlin, Paris and London the answer was the same: we cannot and we shall not.” — TASS

Iraq’s Kurdistan oil exports still sharply reduced — shipping source

LONDON — Oil exports from Iraq’s Kurdistan via the Turkish Mediterranean port of Ceyhan were still flowing at sharply reduced rates on Saturday and Sunday, two shipping sources told Reuters.

Flows were fluctuating at between 200,000 and 250,000 barrels per day versus normal flows of around 600,000 bpd.

Exports have dropped from Wednesday last week when Iraqi military forces took over the Kirkuk area from the Kurdish Peshmerga forces, resulting in a sharp drop in output from nearby fields.

Iraqi oil ministry officials have said they were hoping to bring output back to normal by Sunday but it has not happened yet, one of the sources said.

— Reuters ■

Egypt says Bahrain, Kuwait and UAE to lift ban on its agriculture exports

CAIRO — Bahrain, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates have agreed to lift a ban on imports of Egyptian agricultural products, Egypt said on Sunday, as the country works to step up exports to narrow its budget deficit.

The agreement came after a series of meetings and negotiations held between an Egyptian delegation and the Gulf countries, the Egyptian agriculture ministry said in a statement.

The series of bans, which were said to have been on concerns over pesticide residues, had come at a time where there was an increased appetite for Egyptian exports resulting from a currency float that slashed the pound’s value in half last year.

The three Gulf countries had banned various agricultural imports from Egypt, including pepper, lettuce and onion, earlier this year.

Egypt has asked an agricultural quarantine body to advise on shipments and warn of exporters who violate agreed-upon international standards, the statement said.

It said that counter-part bodies will also be appointed abroad to monitor for the quality of exports on the other end and that the ministry is currently negotiating that exporters who violate the rules be punished instead of countries of origin.

Egypt’s agricultural exports rose 13.9 per cent during the first nine months of 2017, reaching 4.1 million tonnes compared to 3.6 million last year.

“A ban on Egyptian strawberries imposed by Saudi Arabia was also lifted about a month ago after a Saudi delegation visited Cairo,” agriculture ministry spokesman Hamed Abdel Dayem said on Sunday.

The kingdom had imposed a ban on Egyptian strawberries also over pesticide residues in July Sudan is yet to lift a blanket ban on Egyptian agricultural and animal imports it imposed in May.

Egypt’s agricultural export season runs from September through August.— Reuters ■

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In respect of “Luminaires, Lighting fittings, Lighting fixtures, Lighting apparatus, and all apparatus of lighting in International Class 11.
Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the Mark shall be dealt with according to law.

Daw La Min May, H.G.P
For Ligman Lighting Company Limited,
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road & Thein Phyu Road,
Botataung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Dated 23 October 2017

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
MV SOUL OF LUCK VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SOUL OF LUCK VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.L.T.T.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
MYANMAR PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

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EiringKlinger Marusan Corporation, a company incorporated in Japan and having its registered office at 4-22-16 Aco, Katsushika-Ku, Tokyo 125-0062, Japan is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademark:

In respect of “Cylinder head gaskets, gaskets, oil pans, grease rings, air filters, fuel filters, oil filters and carb gears, all for vehicle engines” in International Class 7.
Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the said Mark shall be dealt with according to law.

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Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road & Thein Phyu Road,
Botataung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Dated 23 October 2017

Notice of Final Windup Up
COENS Energy Company Limited
Yangon Representative Office (In Liquidation)

The Yangon Representative Office closed down on September 30, 2016 and a Notice to Creditors for submission of their claims, if any, was inserted, in the Global New Light of Myanmar on 3 November 2016.

Now that all claims and liability having been met, Notice is hereby given that the affairs of the Yangon Representative Office will be finally wound up as from 25 November, 2017.

Maung Maung Aung
Attorney & Liquidator
COENS Energy Company Limited.
(Yangon Representative Office in Liquidation)
TOKYO — Typhoon Lan was approaching Japan’s main island of Honshu on Sunday, bringing rain to much of the nation as voting continued in the general election.

The powerful typhoon could make landfall on the Pacific coast of Honshu island in the early hours of Monday at the earliest while maintaining its strength, according to the weather agency.

As of 3 pm, the typhoon was moving north at a speed of 40 kilometres per hour over the ocean south of Japan, packing winds of up to 216 kph. It had an atmospheric pressure of 945 hектopascals.

The season’s 21st typhoon brought more than 200 millimetres of rainfall in the 24 hours to Sunday morning in Wakayama, Mie and Kagoshima prefectures.

The Japan Meteorological Agency warned of mudslides and swollen rivers while calling on voters to check the latest weather information when going to the polls. The typhoon is expected to be downgraded to an extratropical cyclone east of Hokkaido early Tuesday, the agency said — Kyodo News.

Typhoon approaching Japan’s main island on election day

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<td>Lot 7 – Accessories package for Rahine, Shan(E), Shan(N), Shan (S), Magwe, Bago(W)</td>
<td>6.0</td>
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The bidder should have past experience of having satisfactorily completed during the last 5 years at least two contracts for supply of similar value for similar goods.

More information is included in the bidding documents.

Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank’s Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IIDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers (edition of January 2011 revised in July 2014) (“Procurement Guidelines”), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to the paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting for the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Manager, Project Management Office, Office No.(27), Ministry of Electricity and Energy, nep.emoep@gmail.com and inspect the bidding documents during office hours 10:00 to 16:00 hours on the address given below.

A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The Bidding Documents will be issued through email only.

In case of any difficulty in obtaining the bidding documents, interested parties may contact in writing:

Director General, Department of Electric Power Planning Office No (27), Ministry of Electricity and Energy
City: Nay Pyi Taw
Country: The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Telephone: +95 67 410203
Facsimile: +95 67 410077
E-mail: nep.emoep@gmail.com
Web site: http://www.moep.gov.mm

Bids must be submitted sealed in a special envelope with the following address on or before 12th December 2017, 10:00 hrs (10:00 am) Yangon time. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected.

Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders’ designated representatives at the address below on 12th December 2017, 10:00 hrs (10:00 am) Yangon time.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security as stated in ITB 19.1 Bid Data Sheet of the bidding document.

Attention: Director General Office, Department of Electric Power Planning Office No (27), Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Place: Office no. 27, Ground Floor, Meeting Room, Ministry of Electricity and Energy

# Trademark Caution

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# Alpoli

Reg. No.4/4833/2013 (14.5.2013)
In respect of “Metal composite materials laminated with plastics for buildings or constructions; Metal materials for building or construction; Prefabricated building assembly kits of metal” in International Class 6 and “Plastic composite material laminated with metals for buildings or constructions; Plastic building materials; Synthetic building materials; Prefabricated building kits [not of metal]” in International Class 19.

# Daiarapp

Reg. No.4/10029/2014 (28.7.2014)

# Diawrap

Reg. No.4/10028/2014 (28.7.2014)
NEW YORK — Former US President Jimmy Carter said he would be willing to travel to North Korea on behalf of the Trump administration to help diffuse rising tensions, the New York Times reported on its website on Sunday.

“I would go, yes,” Carter, 93, told the Times when he was asked in an interview at his ranch house in Plains, Georgia whether it was time for another diplomatic mission and whether he would do so for President Trump.

Carter, a Democrat who was president from 1977 to 1981, said he had spoken to Trump’s National Security Adviser Lt.-Gen. H R McMaster, who is a friend, but so far has gotten a negative response.

“I told him that I was available if they ever need me,” the Times quoted Carter as saying.

Told that some in Washington were made nervous by Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un’s war of words, Carter said “I’m afraid, too, of a situation.” “They want to save their regime. And we greatly overestimate China’s influence on North Korea. Particularly to Kim,” who, Carter added, has “never, so far as I know, been to China.” “And they have no relationship. Kim Jong-il did go to China and was very close to them.”

Describing the North Korean leader as “unpredictable,” Carter worried that if Kim thinks Trump will act against him, he could do something pre-emptive, the Times reported. “I think he’s now got advanced nuclear weaponry that can destroy the Korean Peninsula and Japan, and some of our outlying territories in the Pacific, maybe even our mainland,” Carter said.

In the mid 1990s, Carter travelled to Pyongyang over the objections of President Bill Clinton, the Times reported, and struck a deal with Kim Il Sung, grandfather of the current leader.

— Reuters

Cuba’s non-agricultural private sector continues to grow

HAVANA — The number of non-agricultural cooperatives has been growing due to the current economic reforms, the national statistics office, ONEI, announced on Saturday.

According to ONEI, the number of non-agricultural cooperatives has reached 440 at the end of September.

Among them, 156 are hotels and restaurants, while 135 are linked to trade and personal repair, while 135 are linked to manufacturing.

Most of the non-agricultural cooperatives are set in Havana, with 265, while the west of the country dominates the rest.

A few days ago, addressing Parliament, President Raul Castro said that non-agricultural cooperatives were a valid source of job creation, now accounting for over half a million workers.

According to official figures, at the end of the first half of 2017, 567,982 people worked for their own account in Cuba, representing 12 percent of the country’s workforce. — Xinhua
I would like to change lot of things in ‘Jab We Met’: Imtiaz

MUMBAI — His film “Jab We Met” enjoys a cult status in Bollywood’s rom-com space, but director Imtiaz Ali says he would have loved to make some changes in the film.

Shahid Kapoor’s introvert nature and Kareena Kapoor Khan’s high-spirited avatar made the audience fall in love with their characters of Aditya Kashyap and Geet Dhillon.

Imtiaz adds he would rather not reveal the changes he wanted to make as the film continues to be a fan-favourite.

The director tells PTI, “There are lot of things that I would like to change. Now that 10 years have passed and people are still loving it, I would resist myself from doing that. Otherwise I will get beaten up by fans for doing that.” “Jab We Met” completes 10 years on 26 October and it will air on &pictures channel.

Talking about why he thinks the film was able to connect with the masses, Imtiaz says it was not the usual love story where the boy meets girl and they fall in love.

“I feel elated that people love the simplicity of the movie. It is a bit different. It is about positivity. It gives you hope, makes you smile, especially that part when Geet, on the terrace of her building, tells Aditya — ‘Life is a game. Let’s enjoy it. ’

“Getting stressed about it doesn’t make it easier. I think that was the icing on the cake in the film.”

Both the characters were poles apart from each other and happened to meet when their paths intersected on a train journey. In the second half of the film, both Geet and Aditya undergo drastic role reversals.

Talking about the chemistry between Kareena and Shahid, Imtiaz says it is not about the stars sharing an equation.

"... Else it will be the same for every film. The chemistry is between characters of a story. The actors are playing those characters, that’s why they look interesting together or not," he adds. Apparently, Bobby Deol and Ayesha Takia were initially considered for the lead roles.

“They (Shahid and Kareena) worked very hard to deserve the success that they got in ‘Jab We Met’. It turned out very well, in that way they consider themselves very fortunate,” says Imtiaz. —PTI

Ed Sheeran shares secret struggle with substance abuse

LOS ANGELES — Singer Ed Sheeran has revealed that he secretly battled substance abuse.

The Grammy winner said adjusting to sudden fame led to his struggle, reported Variety.

“... You need to accept, when you get into the industry, adjust to (fame), and I didn’t adjust because I was constantly working on tour.

“... All the pitfalls that people talk about, I just found myself slipping into all of them. Mostly, like, substance abuse,” Sheeran said in an interview for Britains “The Jonathan Ross Show”.

In December 2015, the “Thinking Out Loud” singer announced he was taking a year off from his career. He explained during his interview that his struggle was the reason he decided to step away from the limelight.

He added, “I never touched anything, I started slipping into it, and that’s why I took a year off and bugged off.”

The 26-year-old singer said he completely started focusing on his work as he did not want to lose his success to addiction.

“I just focused on other things. I focused on work and I can’t work under the influence, I can’t write songs under the influence, I can’t perform under the influence so the more I worked the less (that happened).

“I’ve worked my whole life to get to where I am and you can’t lose that over something that you do in your spare time. I didn’t really notice it was happening. It just started gradually happening and then some people took me to one side and were like, Calm yourself down. Its all fun to begin with, it all starts off as a party and then you’re doing it on your own and its not so that was a wake-up call and taking a year off,” he said.

During his hiatus, Sheeran reconnected with a high-school friend, Cherry Seaborn, and he credits their relationship as another reason why he was able to get back on track.

“We rekindled with a girl I went to high school with and we live together now and I think that was a real help grounding me. I was a 25-year-old in the music industry on tour so I just needed someone to balance me out.” —PTI

Directors Guild of America starts to kick film producer Weinstein out

LOS ANGELES — The Directors Guild of America (DGA) announced Saturday the 16,000-member group began an expulsion process against Harvey Weinstein, who was investigated by London, New York and Los Angeles for his sexual scandal.

“The DGA condemns sexual harassment. There must be no tolerance for such deplorable abuses of power,” a statement released by DGA’s national board after a meeting Saturday. “This isn’t about one person. We must recognize sexual harassment is endemic in our society, and painfully, in our industry.”

Following the meeting, the DGA President Thom as Schlamm also released a statement saying that the guild filed disciplinary charges against the notorious Hollywood movie mogul on 13 October.

“The DGA has a long-standing practice of not commenting on internal union matters, but has decided to make an exception in this case to acknowledge the filing of charges,” the statement read.

The New York Times broke the bombshell story about Weinstein early this month after an exhaustive six-month investigation, disclosing explosive allegations of Weinstein’s 30-year pattern of sexual harassment and workplace intimidation against young female stars and employees dependent on his largesse for jobs and career advancement.

Hollywood then was shellshocked then by the sex scandal involving the 65-year-old Hollywood kingmaker and expelled him last Saturday from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS).

Besides of DGA’s move, proceedings also have begun to kick Weinstein out of the TV Academy and the Producers Guild. Weinstein has over 300 producing credits but only directed two movies, both from the 1980s. —Xinhua
Last post: Titanic victim's letter sells for record 126,000 pounds

LONDON — A personal letter found on the body of a man killed in the sinking of the Titanic sold at auction on Saturday for 126,000 pounds ($166,000), a record price for correspondence from the doomed liner.

The letter is one of the last known to have survived the sinking and still carries stains from its time in the Atlantic.

Written by first-class passenger Alexander Oskar Holverson on embossed Titanic “on-board” stationary, the letter to his mother describes his impressions of the palatial ship, praising the food and music.

“If all goes well we will arrive in New York Wednesday AM,” Holverson wrote the day before the ship’s fateful encounter with an iceberg.

Holverson was a Minnesota-born salesman, who was travelling on the ship with his wife, Mary Alice, who survived the sinking.

The letter was sold by the Holverson family at an auction held by Henry Aldridge & Son in the southern English town of Devizes. Iron keys from the Titanic also sold for 76,000 pounds.

“The prices illustrate the continuing interest in the Titanic and her passengers and crew,” said auctioneer Andrew Aldridge.

“I'm delighted with the new world record for the Titanic letter. It reflects its status as the most important Titanic letter we have ever auctioned.”

In his letter Holverson also described his experiences rubbing shoulders with one of the ship’s most famous passengers. “John Jacob Astor is on this ship,” he said of the American financier and real-estate investor, who was one of the world’s richest men at the time.

“He looks like any other human being even though he has millions of money. They sit out on deck with the rest of us.”

The Titanic was the largest ocean liner in service when it struck an iceberg on 14 April, 1912 in the Atlantic while travelling from Southampton to New York. More than 1,500 people died.—Reuters

Italy gets back looted mosaic from Emperor Caligula's ship

ROME — A floor mosaic from one of Roman Emperor Caligula’s opulent private ships, which was stolen after World War Two, is on its way back to Italy from the United States where it has been recovered from a private collection.

The first century AD marble, serpentine and porphyry mosaic came from one of Caligula’s ceremonial vessels, which was found at the bottom of Lake Nemi, near Rome, in the 1930s.

The artifact, stolen from Italy’s Roman Ship Museum after the war, was seized by the New York district attorney’s office from the collection of an Italian woman living in New York following an Italian police investigation.

“The United States have today given back to Italy several archaeological treasures that came from clandestine digs or thefts in our country,” Culture Minister Dario Franceschini told a news conference in New York on Friday.

“They will all be returned to the places from where the criminals took them,” he said.

Among other Roman-era items recovered was a vase from the Puglia region dating to around 350 BC, which found its way to the New York Metropolitan Museum, and two amphorae from the 4th or 5th century BC. The vase was taken from an illegal dig in the 1980s.

The artifacts presented at the news conference also included Roman coins, books and manuscripts.

Caligula, whose real name was Gaius Julius Caesar, was emperor between AD 37 and AD 41. Historical accounts describe him as an insane, violent and sadistic man who ordered killings at a whim. Legend has it that he planned to make his horse Incitatus a consul. — Reuters

London the starting line as Adidas laces up robotic shoe run

LONDON — Adidas has launched the first of six planned city-themed running shoe models in London as it capitalizes on its first Speedfactory, which it has opened in Germany and equipped with time-saving robotics.

Adidas plans to use the factory — and another due to open soon in Atlanta, Georgia, to produce small batches designed for particular markets, and ultimately for individual consumers, in contrast to mass production runs ordered months in advance.

The idea is to respond faster to fashion trends and offer more customization. After London it plans shoe models inspired by Paris, New York, Los Angeles, Tokyo and Shanghai. “It is an opportunity for us to disrupt with brand new technologies and bring that as fast as possible to consumers,” David Drury, director of development for footwear sourcing, told Reuters. Adidas relies on more than one million suppliers, of shoes and items of clothing and accessories per year. But it is shifting some production closer to its major markets so it can deliver new styles quicker, and counter rising wages in Asia and hefty shipping costs.

It currently takes Adidas up to 18 months to design, produce and deliver most products, but it wants to cut that to as little as 45 days. Its customized shoes will also command premium prices. The AM4LDN shoe aimed at the London market will go on sale next week for 169.95 pounds ($222.74) or 219.95 euros ($259.85).

Rival Nike has also announced plans to shorten product development times and last month launched a studio in New York where customers can select the color and pattern of their shoes and have them ready in less than 90 minutes.—Reuters
Shan United beat Yadanabon FC 3-2 at MNL Max Cement 2017

Kyaw Zin Lin

SHAN United’s hope was nearly fulfilled to become a champion of MNL Max Cement 2017 as they won Yadanabon FC with 3-2 result in yesterday match played at Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay.

Both teams played very aggressively from the beginning of the match with gaining opportunities for goals.

The opening goal for Shan was scored by Dway Ko Ko Chit at 17 Minutes.

The game was becoming hotter after getting the starter and Shan’s strikers attacked more towards the Yadanabon’s defense line.

Due to tactical changing, Yadanabon became better in the second half. Yadanabon’s promising player Patrick equalized at 55 minutes.

However the best effort of Shan was significant as the team got its second goal in 61 minute scored by Soe Min Oo and the third goal in 84 minute by Christopher.

Another goal for Yadanabon was scored by Myo Zaw Oo just before the end of the match.

The win brings Shan United to possess a promising condition to become a champion of MNL as it leads with two marks difference against Yangon team.

Opening ceremony of MFF U-13 Boys’ States and Regions Tournament launched

Kyaw Zin Lin

UNDER the cooperation of Myanmar Football Federation and Ministry of Education, opening ceremony of MFF U-13 Boys’ States and Regions Tournament was held yesterday morning at the Thuwunna artificial grass sports ground in Yangon Myanmar.

Officials from Myanmar Football Federation and Ministry of Education, team’s coaches and managers and Under 13 football players of the teams attended the ceremony.

During the ceremony, Yangon Region Director of Education, Daw Myint Myint Khaing delivered the opening speech and words of encouragement to the athletes and greeted the players.

As an opening of the tournament, Nay Pyi Taw youth team played with Mandalay youth team and Bago team played with Chin team.

Nay Pyi Taw won 1-0 to Mandalay while Bago won against Chin with a 1-0 score also.

Mourinho slams United’s attitude after Huddersfield loss

HUDDERSFIELD (England) — Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho said his players’ attitude in Saturday’s loss to Huddersfield Town was the worst he has seen since taking over at the club.

United fell to a 2-1 defeat by the promoted Yorkshire side, their first loss of the Premier League campaign and one which left them trailing rivals and leaders Manchester City by five points.

“I don’t even remember a friendly match where our attitude was so poor. In the second half they tried. They played against an opponent defending and the wind was tremendous. We could have a second goal and a draw but it would have been an undeserved draw,” he said.

“I feel really disappointed and if I was a Manchester United supporter, not a manager, I would be really disappointed because I think you can play and lose because the opponent had more quality but not because the opponent had more attitude. So I am really disappointed,” he said.

The United boss said Huddersfield, who had not won in the Premier League since August, had shown the kind of approach he expected from his own side.

“They played like I like. They played with everything they have, like I like and like it has to be. They played with everything, aggression, desire, motivation, sacrifice and we didn’t. The team that deserved to win won. Simple,” he said. — Reuters