Ethnic armed groups close to signing ceasefire

REPRESENTATIVES from the Union Government’s Peace Commission and the United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC) said yesterday there was a strong possibility that the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) would soon be signed and a truce agreed upon that would potentially end decades of fighting.

The UNFC is a coalition representing opposition groups that are campaigning for the rights of Myanmar’s ethnic minorities.

“We openly discussed specifically military issues in the meeting, and the situation is close to the one that both sides expected,” said U Zaw Htay, a representative of the Peace Commission.

“The results from the meeting will be submitted to the leaders of both sides. Following that, we will meet again in one or two weeks to finalise the negotiation. The time for crossing the finishing line is drawing near,” he added.

The two-day meeting focused on issues related with the Joint Monitoring Committee, including location of military camps, measures to be taken during the transition period and the role of foreign experts in the joint monitoring sector.

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2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 6th session 6th day meeting

At the 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw’s 6th session, 6th day meeting held yesterday, the Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo said that the ministry’s notice for an additional budget allocation request was sent to departments and organisations, the departments and organisations were asked to request for additional budget allocation for commercial tax, income tax, fund for the government, expenses required due to changes in foreign currency exchange rate, costs actually required, travel expense, pension and interest payments only. They were advised and managed to request additional budget allocation for insufficient capital expenditures on matters included in the 2017-2018 fiscal year national planning law; matters that can be completed within this fiscal year, matters on which the President Office and Union Government offices has permitted to request for additional budget allocation and permission will be granted as much as possible after said the Deputy Minister.

Foreign aid acquisition and obtaining foreign loans were allocated to increase yearly but were found not to meet the annual targeted amount. On this description, it was found that there were delays due to different procedures of the loan organisation and Myanmar.

Furthermore, set-standards to be followed were being drawn and in the following fiscal years, speedly receipt and utilization of foreign aid and loan will be monitored and managed. On the matter of reducing the deficit of state own business enterprises in section 25 of the report, out of 44 factories under Ministry of Industry and Ministry that were temporarily shut down due to being economically unfeasible, two study groups were formed with free and independent experts, government and Hluttaw representatives to conduct a study on 28 factories to see whether to continue operation with the permission of economic affair committee.

While the Ministry of Planning and Finance is requesting the highest additional budget allocation, only 21.72 per cent is for the ministry while 78.28 per cent is nationwide expenses such as expenditures on interest, aid, tax share allocation to states and regions, expenses and debt expenses paid the Deputy Minister.

At the present a policy-based budget system is practiced to prepare the budget. Internationally various systems of budgets such as policy-based, performance-based and a system of allocating budget based on success were seen to be used. In Myanmar budget reform is being undertaken in stages and will be changed gradually based on achieving the aimed results said the deputy minister.

Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing said in 2018-2019 fiscal year electricity supply and administration department will conduct a 230 KV Mawlamyine-Ye-Dawel power line and sub-station projects with ADB loan to distribute electricity to towns in Mon State and Taninthayi Region.

A 66 KV Thanbyuzayat-Ye power line project is allocated to be started in 2018-2019 fiscal year for earliest distribution of electricity to Ye town. A group consisting of officials from ADB and the department were already conducting preliminary project work and the loan agreement will be signed in 2018. Ministry of Electricity and Energy will effectively utilise the requested 2017-2018 fiscal year additional budget allocation explained the Deputy Minister. Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo said the additional budget allocation requested was more than 10 per cent of the initial request because the concrete laying of export import vehicle inspection ground in Muse (105) mile trade zone was conducted with Yuan 10 million assistance of People’s Republic of China and Ks1,950 million, the equivalent of 10 million Yuan was included. This makes the additional budget allocation request to be more than 10 per cent of the initial request.

If this amount is omitted, the additional budget allocation request is Ks386.7 million and is only 2.91 per cent of the ministry’s initial request. Wailing of Maungtaw and Lweje trade stations during this fiscal year for security reasons is also included in the additional budget allocation request.

Net profit of Myanmar Citizens Bank increased to Ks 7.82 billion in 2018-2017. However a profit share of only Ks 3.12 billion was given because expenses were incurred for hiring foreign experts to be competitive in international banking with other banks, raising infrastructure and CORE Banking works.

Furthermore, once it becomes a listed company, profit sharing is equally provided and profits from the Ministry of Commerce’s share in the bank had declined explained the Deputy Minister. Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo, Deputy Minister for Education U Win Naing and Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin also explained about the policy in joint bill committees assessment report, basic principles, policy of Hluttaw representatives in the bill on Pyidaungsu additional budget allocation for 2017-2018 fiscal year.

— Myanmar News Agency

Rakhine State Gov’t prepares to build repatriation camps for refugees

Rakhine State Government launched preparation for construction of buildings where refugees returned from Bangladesh would be scrutinized.

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and its cabinet members along with developers, who will construct the infrastructures, visited the Ngakhaya and Taunggyolawte areas in Maungtaw yesterday, inspecting the sites chosen for building the infrastructures.

Following the trip, they went to a new village construction for Mro ethnic people in Thittonnar Gwason Village-tract in Maungtaw Township being implemented by the Ministry of Border Affairs and the Department for Development of National Races.

During the trip to conflict areas in northern Rakhine, Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, Rakhine State ministers and developers visited an area where a new village for Hindus which was destroyed by ARSA terrorists in late August.

More than 70 households would be provided with a 40ftx60ft house each in the new village of Ohhtlein for Hindu families. During the trip, State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu urged the developers to create job opportunities for local Mro ethnic people in constructing houses.

He also urged Mro ethnic people to actively participate in establishing housing for the local people. The Rakhine State Chief Minister also held a meeting with the developers over establishing repatriation camps for refugees who fled to Bangladesh as their houses were destroyed by ARSA extremist terrorists. — Nay Htet Khaung
President receives Singaporean Ambassador

President U Htin Kyaw received H.E. Mr. Robert Chua, Singapore’s ambassador to Myanmar, who has nearly completed his term of office, at the hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed promoting bilateral friendship, teaching at Singapore-Myanmar Vocational Training Institute and job opportunities for youths. Present at the meeting were the deputy minister of the President’s Office U Min Thu and other officials.— Myanmar News Agency

State Counsellor arrives in Da Nang, Viet Nam

At the invitation of Mr. Tran Dai Quang, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi left Nay Pyi Taw for Da Nang, Viet Nam yesterday morning.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will attend a Special Meeting of leaders of ASEAN member countries and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) to be held in Da Nang. She will also attend the 31st ASEAN Summit and related meetings to be held in Manila at the invitation of Mr. Rodrigo Duterte, the President of the Philippines.

The State Counsellor was seen off at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung and wife, Deputy Minister for the President’s Office U Min Thu and responsible officials from the Vietnamese Embassy in Myanmar.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrived in Da Nang yesterday at 12:40 pm local time, with the Guard of Honour of Vietnam welcoming the State Counsellor and party at Da Nang International Airport together with Dr. Chu Ngoc Anh, Minister, Vietnam Ministry of Science and Technology, Vice-Chairman of Da Nang Public Affairs Committee, Myanmar Ambassador to Vietnam U Kyaw Soe Win and wife, and officials from the Myanmar Embassy in Da Nang.

The State Counsellor and party then proceeded to the Premier Village Resort in Da Nang, where they will stay during their visit.

The State Counsellor was accompanied by National Security Advisor U Thaung Tun, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and other officials. Union Ministers Thura U Aung Ko and U Kyaw Win will follow the group to the Philippines on 11 November.—Myanmar News Agency

Paper reading of ASEAN region energy engineers

A total of 75 papers on bio fuel, bio gas, heat transfer, energy related matters, renewable energy, solar energy and energy management will be read by local and foreign experts at the 10th ASEAN region energy engineer paper reading session that will be held at Yangon Technological University (YTU), it is learnt.

The paper reading session is jointly organised by member universities of the ASEAN University Network / South East Asia Engineering Education Development Network (AUN/SEED-Net), Yangon Technological University and Yangon University.

YTU Rector Dr. Myint Thein said “Through the paper reading session, energy problems faced by Myanmar can be submitted to universities in ASEAN. It is very beneficial, as good ideas can be obtained from discussion and exchange of views between experts.”

Means of upraising engineering education throughout the ASEAN region, identifying subjects for future research works through reading papers and joint research on energy related issues faced by each countries in the ASEAN region can be obtained from this paper reading session, it is learnt.

Ma Ganemman Oo, attending a master course reading “Numerical Analysis of Heat Transfer in Heat Sinks” paper at the paper reading session, said “The micro-processor is the most important part in a desktop computer. Prolonged usage of a heat sink, there’ll be good heat transfer that prevents over-heating. It also saves energy. According to my findings, electrical equipment can be used for a long time without wastage.”

The paper reading sessions were yearly hosted by member universities of AUN/SEED-Net and YTU hosted news and information technology paper reading session for the first time last year. AUN/SEED-Net was formed in 2003 and it provided education awards for master and doctorate courses and financial support for research in universities of Japan and ASEAN countries of Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines and Singapore.—Nanda Win
Myanmar labourers given priority in renewal of Certificate of Identity cards

May Thet Hnin

The Certificate of Identity (CI) will be issued giving priority to Myanmar labourers whose CIs are set to expire on 31 December, according to an announcement released by the Labour Attaché of the Myanmar Embassy situated in Bangkok.

The Labour Attaché of the Myanmar Embassy urged migrant workers in Thailand to register their CIs before the expiry by making payment at the nearest 7-11 Eleven store of Counter Service Co., Ltd.

If they find any Myanmar migrant workers whose CI is expired, they will take legal action under Thailand’s “Management of Alien Workers” law, which is currently being strictly enforced.

Moreover, the Labour Attaché of Myanmar Embassy also issued CIs to migrant workers who are holding valid temporary passports and Temporary Residence Permits (TR 38) before that legal documentation is expired. This announcement also includes the contract number of the Labour Attaché of Myanmar Embassy for further information.

More CI service centres were opened that can issue CIs in Mahachai-1 and 2, Samut Sakhon, Mae Sai, Mae Sot, Ranong, Chiang Mai and Nakhon Sawan.

Dredging task begins at Mann Shwe Settaw

IT was discovered by a local trustee that the Mann Shwe Settaw Pagoda festival is usually held on the 5th waxing of Tabadwe. The dredging tasks have been started in the area of Minbu (Sagu) Township in Magway region.

“The beach that the festival is being prepared at is being prepared. The Mann Creek is a confluence that includes The Ngaphae and Pann Tien Creeks located in the Rakhine mountain range. So facilities will include: shops, guesthouses, administrative offices, clinics, fire services and a bus station. These facilities will be constructed around the creek will take two months to complete construction” said a member of the Mann Shwe Settaw trustees.

More aquatic products exported via Kawthaung border trade camp

“Besides heavy machinery, engine drivers and engineers are needed and they volunteer annually courtesy of the Irrigation department. The dredging committee and Irrigation department jointly work and carry out the tasks in a timely fashion and at the same time save money be added.”

Aside from the Mann Shwe Settaw Pagoda Festival, the construction of the Hleitinn Bridge, 3 miles from the entrance to Mann Shwe Settaw will be completed in time for the festival.

—Poepyae (Minbu)

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports, please email us at globalnewlightofmyanmar@gmail.com with your name and email.

Due to the limitation of space we are only able to publish “Letter to the Editor” that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.
Bilateral trade with China hits US$5.5 billion in first half of this FY

TRADE value with Myanmar’s main partner China in the first half of the current fiscal year totalled US$5.5 billion, with estimated values of $2.46 billion worth of exports and $3 billion worth of imports, according to figures released by the Commerce Ministry.

Regional trade with ASEAN countries showed the largest figure, closely followed by bilateral trade with the most populous neighbouring country China. Border trade performed better than sea routes in trading with China.

Bilateral trade value with populous country China was about $10.7 billion in 2016-2017 FY, $10.9 billion in 2015-2016 FY, $9.7 billion in 2014-2015 FY, $7 billion in 2013-2014 FY, $4.95 billion in 2012-2013 FY and $5 billion in 2011-2012 FY.

Between 1st April and 27th October in the current FY, values of border trade through China-Myanmar checkpoints reached $3.3 billion. However, the figure plummeted sharply compared to the same period of last year on account of a steep drop in trade at the Muse border gate.

Chinswehaw, Kengtung also had a slight decline. The remaining gates had small increases in trade.

Rice, various peas, sesame seeds, corns, vegetables and fruits, dried tea leaves, fishery products, rubber, minerals and animal products are exported to China, whereas machinery, plastic raw materials, consumer products, and electronic tools flow into Myanmar.”— Ko Htet

Import of airplanes, accessories skyrockets within seven-month period

THE import of airplanes and accessories has increased over 10 times within a seven-month period of this fiscal year, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

Myanmar has imported many more airplanes and accessories this year when compared to the same period of last year.

This year, imports of airplanes and accessories reached US$237 million, up from US$216 million in the same period last year.

The reason for the increased import of airplanes and accessories is that there have been many investments in airline services.

As of 20 October of this fiscal year, Myanmar’s import value amounted to US$9953.944 million, including over 3,380 million of the invested items and over 2,476 million of work products.

During this fiscal year, imports of invested items reached over US$3.6 billion, up from US$3.4 billion in the same period last year.

Imports of machines and equipment have increased by US$129 million, while US$12 million for computers and its accessories were used.— GNLM

Dried prawn business faces scarcity of product

THE dried prawn business in Mawlamyinegyun Township, Ayeyawady Region, is facing difficulties because of the lack of prawns due to recent heavy rain coupled with high seasonal demand.

“Dried prawn is in high demand during Tazundaing period because people are buying more dried prawn for donation. But we find it difficult to operate our dried prawn businesses because of the scarcity of raw material. If we still continue our businesses with this situation, we will definitely get in trouble”, said Daw Htay Yu, a dried prawn seller.

Starting from the first week in November, dried prawns were selling very well in the local market. But dried prawn businessmen are tracing with scarcity of raw materials due to untimely incessant rain. Previously, fishermen could count on catching from five to seven visses of prawn per day. Since the third week of October, they have only caught about one viss of prawn a day.”— GNLM
National Verification Cards issued in Maungtaw

STAFF from the Rakhine State Immigration and Population department led by the state head of the department issued National Verification Cards (NVCs) to residents in Shwezar Village in Maungtaw Township, northern Rakhine yesterday.

The issuing process of the NVC took place at the post primary school of Shwezar Village. U Aung Min, the state head of the department, explained the NV Card to local residents, who were also provided with mosquito nets and food.

This work was already being conducted earlier in the year; but was delayed due to the ARSA extremist terrorist attack on 25 August. The work was restarted in Maungtaw Township, Shwezar village tract on 12 October. For a national ID, up until 8 November, after scrutiny using a biometric system, 625 people, including 364 men and 279 women, were issued National Verification Cards and 77 people, including 44 men and 33 women, were recorded and will be issued cards.

— Myanmar News Agency

Monsoon paddy harvested in Rakhine State by Agricultural Mechanisation Department

AREAS of Rakhine State where there were terrorist attacks were facing difficulties in harvesting monsoon rice, prompting the Agricultural Mechanisation Department to deploy harvesting machines to harvest the monsoon rice. A total of 334 acres in Kanpu, Kyaungtaung, Myothu, Ohtanhla, Aalethankaung, Nwayo Netaung, and Wah Cha villages of Maungtaw Township were harvested from 26 October to 8 November.

Similarly, 77 acres in Thin-ganet, Chaungnwe, Kyitai, Kankawkyung, Purtalat villages were harvested from 30 October to 8 November, it is learnt.

Also, 15 acres in Pya Hla, Hsin Yoe Shae were reaped from 5 October to 8 November while 11 acres in Hlaung Shae, Kin Seik, Maw Ywar, Phar Pyaw villages in Minbya townships were harvested on 7 and 8 November. Five acres each in Lannmadaw village in Kyawtaw township and Phnomarkyung village in Ann township were also harvested, it is learnt.— Myanmar News Agency

The Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department is providing free medical treatment to animals in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State. The department has already provided medical treatment to 266 cattle and 616 goats.

The local township veterinary team is still providing free medical treatment in the villages and has not been able to find more ownerless cattle, which were numerous in recent months. The veterinary team plans to go to other villages in the region to provide vaccinations.

— Myanmar News Agency

1,696 villages in Rakhine State now have light

Hmwe Kyu Zin  
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

A ceremony was held in Ministry of Electricity and Energy in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday to celebrate the ongoing work being done that has so far provided electricity for dozens of towns and nearly 1,700 villages in Rakhine State.

At yesterday’s ceremony, it was noted that of 26 towns targeted, 15 have been provided with electricity from the system, while 11 were being lighted by other means.

Of the 3,738 villages listed, 222 were provided with electricity from the system while 1,674 villages were provided with light by other means, totaling 1,696 villages that now have electricity.

In terms of households, 77,408 out of 459,722 households now have light.

Arrangements were made to provide electricity from the grid to Yathedaung, Buthidaung and Maungtaw townships in Rakhine State, and the plan is to have electricity in Yathedaung by March 2018, Buthidaung by June 2018, and Maungtaw Township by December 2018. At a total cost of Ks5.75 billion, 44 villages, 18 in Yathedaung Township, 11 in Buthidaung Township, 15 in Maungtaw Township will have continuous light from the grid. For now, electricity is provided every day to Yathedaung town for 5 hours, Buthidaung town for 9½ hours and Maungtaw town for 12 hours using diesel generators.

The permanent secretary of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy said emphasis has been placed on providing electricity from the power grid to Rakhine State. Before this is accomplished, power will be provided with diesel generators.

Officials yesterday explained how full electricity usage was achieved in Mayangone, Hline, Kamayut, Bahan, Sanchaung and Kyiminpyin townships now have full and stable electrical voltage, and electricity can be provided to building and houses that are being built.

Next, the status of constructing 66.79 miles Ye-U-Budalin-Kani-Mingin 66 KV power line, 180 miles Na-Bar-Shwebo-On Daw 230 KV power line projects, constructing locks in Moeybe Dam for boat passage, the thermal energy factory department, power plant projects, signing agreements on renting and operating two liquid petroleum gas (LPG) factories and four LPG sale shops, inspection of illegal electricity usage in September 2017, providing good public service, implementation of e-government, implementation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Project in Dawbon Township to reduce blackouts, how the public in Mandalay region has stable and full electric power and clearing of service lines were explained.

Officials from Ministry of Electricity and Energy then replied to questions from local and foreign media.
Machinery of cooperation on statistics to be accelerated with added momentum

Vice-President U Henry Van Thio, Patron of the Committee on Data Accuracy and Quality of Statistics, yesterday stressed the importance of accurate statistics for Myanmar’s development and ability to compete on an international level.

“So as to be well- -convinced of actual situations of respective sectors in drawing projects and plans, laying down principles for national development, original data collection, socio-economic data collection and natural disaster data collection are needed by combined teams of organisations included in the Myanmar national statistics system. For successful implementation of the statistics process and for releasing well-standardised statistics and figures, a new law on statistics was re-compiled in accord with international standards and was approved by Pyithu Hluttaw on 25th October 2017.”

Then, Vice-President went on to say, “For overall coverage of national statistics system and upgrading skills of statistic staff, development courses on statistics are to be opened. I hereby urge respective departments to continually cooperate projects on registration of birth and death for the development of data sphere on birth and death.”

“F for success of designs included in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, sectorial and regional objectives are to be laid down for implementation. Here, I would like to urge to find out solutions in combination, concerning definitions and means which are suitable with the country for development of indices. As the Central Statistics Board is to collect data on natural disasters of the present year; Regions and States are urged to co-operate.”

Though some projects can be carried out in a short term period, some are to be performed in the long run. Similarly, some projects can spend national funds, where some are to be operated in cooperation with development partners. For national development, reliability of statistics on the ground and acquisition of data in time with changing time are to be carried out,” the Vice President said.—Myanmar News Agency

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
MV PATHENIN STAR VOY. NO ( )
Consignees of cargo carried on MV PATHENIN STAR VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.11.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.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: MS CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

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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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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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Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
MV SINA BALI VOY. NO (041)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINA BALI VOY. NO (041) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.11.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS SILKAGO LOGISTICS PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185
We will overcome difficulties with our firm resolution

By Khin Maung Oo

The Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor issued a Press Statement on November 7 in response to the Presidential Statement issued by the UN Security Council on November 6, 2017, saying that the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar regrets that a Presidential Statement has been issued with regard to a situation that is in the process of being resolved amicably between two neighboring countries.

The issuance of the Presidential Statement ignores the fact that the issues of being resolved amicably between two neighboring countries.

The Statement will not help Myanmar’s efforts in solving the problem, instead, causing to increase tensions between different religious communities. As a result, it can create an increase of global pressure on Myanmar, unnecessarily. It is disappointing not to take notice that such unnecessary pressure may harm the activities of UN and NGOs.

At the time when representatives including their members are criticizing over excessive spending certain UN organizations, it is not appropriate to repeatedly exaggerate concerning the Myanmar affair.

Myanmar will make objections over unfair statements, simultaneously making efforts to gain success in implementing the process.

Concurrently, any harms against the process of implementing peace, stability and development of Rakhine State will be removed. Accordingly, in spite of the fact that there are statements, pressures and hindrances which are likely to cause harmful effects more than good ones to Myanmar, all the people of Myanmar will make our dedicated efforts hand in hand with the Government, for success in implementing eternal peace, stability and development in the country including Rakhine State.

Bagan Archaeological Zone touted for UNESCO’s World Heritage

By Suthethmu (Mayangon)

Historically and religiously, Bagan is a place of great importance for Myanmar People. Now, it is very near to have Bagan, ancient city of Myanmar designated as UNESCO’s a world cultural heritage.

In trying to become a world heritage from grandeur, splendor and importance of Bagan, file-part 1 (draft) was submitted on September 22, 2017. Final copy must be tendered in January 2018, to have the region designated as a world heritage site. In doing so, final copy must be submitted together with the first and second volumes—Management Plant. It must undergo the examination of the UNESCO in the same year. Upon completion of the examination, the UNESCO Conference to be held in June or July 2019 will decide as to whether it should become a world heritage or not.

The importance of Bagan ancient site is the importance for the whole nation, hence the need to do performances adapted to pagodas and stupas including natural environment and landscapes where ancient Bagan cultural heritages are situated, for having the region designated as the ancient cultural heritage site.

In fact, it is not appropriate to build concrete roads in Bagan region. In case needs come up unavoidably, it is necessary for all to cooperate so that kinds of renovations or buildings adapted to the cultural heritage site can become. A person or an institution’s decision is of great importance so as not to be an error. Simultaneously, cooperation of authorities concerned cannot be left aside.

Previously, pagodas and stupas were painted white with lime wash for lack of knowledge. Frequent painting with lime wash caused lime layers impress on murals. Due to the cutting-edge technology of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to come lime layers on the Aranda Pagoda off, murals appeared again, it was found.

These facts exist as a support for Bagan Region to be put on the world heritage map. If asked which kind of a support it is, it is none other than a support to re-discover hidden cultural heritage. It is also a lesson for us not to do such things.

Besides, to mark the visits to Bagan, some youths wrote on the wall paintings damaging the cultural heritage. Law enforcements should be tightened in Bagan to prevent such kind of destruction to the wall paintings.

Meanwhile, irresponsible attitude such as leaving food, candle lights and flowers inside the caves without throwing them away systematically has attracted insects and animals causing destruction to the ancient wall paintings indirectly.
Chairman of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission meets Chinese Ambassador

CHAIRMAN of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr Hong Liang at the (I-11) Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, the ambassador discussed peace and development of Rakhine State with positive cooperation of China for Myanmar’s peace, development, stability and security.

Chairman of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann also mentioned his recognition of China’s good will over Myanmar’s sovereignty and territory possession and he also recognised on China’s firm standing for Myanmar regarding Rakhine issue and take value for China’s participation for world peace.

Present at the meeting were member of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw’s Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission U Ko Ko Naing, U San Shwe Aung and officials from the office.—MNA

Mobile teams give health care to local people

UNDER the supervision of Ministry of Health and Sports, mobile teams are giving health care to local people in Rakhine State.

A delegation led by Maungtaw Township Head of the department of Health, Dr Kyaw Maung Maung Thein launched a mobile clinic and gave H1N1 vaccination to local people in a Hindu refugees’ camp opened in the compound of BEHS (1) Kanyin Thann, Maungtaw Township.

Specialists from Magway University of Medicine who also arrived in Maungtaw also volunteered in the healthcare free service. There are a total of 158 households with a total of 992 people staying in the refugee camp.—Myanmar News Agency

Federation of Rakhine Nationals funds monastery construction in Maungtaw

A total of Ks 75 million for the construction of a monastery in a new village in Khone Tai Town in Maungtaw Township were donated by donors led by Federation of Rakhine Nationals and monks led by Tipatka Dara Sayyadaw Bhadanta Eaindar Parla yesterday.

“There was no monastery in an old village in Khone Tai. If we want to go to a monastery, we have to go to Natale village. We are very glad to hear the news about the construction. All the villagers will express their gratitude for the construction and feel really happy,” said a village administrator U Maung Hla.

The donation were also included Ks 1 million for 42 house holding in Nanthar Taung village, Ks 1 million for Nhantha Taung Philanthropic school students and teachers, Ks 3 million for police and security force, Ks 0.5 million for donation for foods and 32 bags of clothing by Nay Lha Thitsar family. Then, attendees for the donation ceremony took five precepts and listened to the preaching from the Sayadaw.—Myanmar News Agency

Correction

Please read “non-traditional challenges” instead of “traditional challenges,” in the news story “3rd Co-ordination meeting held for convening youth multi-development festival” on page-7 of November 8 Issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar.—Myanmar News Agency

Bagan Region to be Put in the List of UNESCO’s World Heritage

FROM PAGE-8

Tourist arrival to Bagan ancient archaeological zone reached 390,000 in the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year and it is expected that Bagan would attract more visitors when it is listed in the world’s cultural heritage by UNESCO.

Bagan attracted more than 240,000 foreign visitors in the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year.

While the government is making efforts for Bagan to be included in the world’s cultural heritage list, the ancient cultural zone was hit by an earthquake on 24 August. The destruction to the pagodas in Bagan has brought a high level anxiety to the people who have a dream that Bagan would be included in the world’s heritage list.

Following the earthquake, experts restored the quake-hit pagodas without damaging their original styles luring UNESCO to consider the Bagan for the world’s heritage.

It is not possible for archaeology department only or individually to take care of the protection of Bagan Cultural Heritage. All people of Myanmar are needed to take part in this task. Cultural Heritage can be found all over the country at different places. However, Bagan Cultural Heritage can be seen collectively in 42 square mile area. There are 3800 archaeological edifices according to the record of the survey. All people in Myanmar are obliged to preserve and maintain those ancient religious edifices for life-long existence.

In maintaining and preserving those ancient buildings and pagodas which reach almost 1000 years of age it is very important to be systematic. Moreover it is the national duty for all people to protect those cultural heritage and to try those to be registered in UNESCO world heritage list.

In this respect people have to abide by the disciplines to be followed in the cultural heritage area. Many human activities are to be avoided in the heritage zone. The activities that jeopardize the nature of historical and cultural, scenic, natural habitat of plants and animals and water resources should be avoided in the heritage area.

Federation of Rakhine Nationals funds monastery construction in Maungtaw

A total of Ks 75 million for the construction of a monastery in a new village in Khone Tai Town in Maungtaw Township were donated by donors led by Federation of Rakhine Nationals and monks led by Tipatka Dara Sayyadaw Bhadanta Eaindar Parla yesterday.

“There was no monastery in an old village in Khone Tai. If we want to go to a monastery, we have to go to Natale village. We are very glad to hear the news about the construction. All the villagers will express their gratitude for the construction and feel really happy,” said a village administrator U Maung Hla.

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In this respect people have to abide by the disciplines to be followed in the cultural heritage area. Many human activities are to be avoided in the heritage zone. The activities that jeopardize the nature of historical and cultural, scenic, natural habitat of plants and animals and water resources should be avoided in the heritage area. Furthermore, gold panning, earth excavations, pond digging, quarrying, leveling of hills and hillocks, earth filling the lakes, ravines and plains should be abstained in the heritage zone. Then the repairing, renovating and maintaining the old buildings, mechanized farming, and planting the trees that will grow higher than 6ft. should also be avoided.

Especially, only when the true nature of Bagan area can be maintained, the more chances for Bagan Heritage to be registered in UNESCO World Heritage List will be secured. The responsible personnel in coordination with the local people should manage the placement of buildings of villages or towns in the heritage area according to the guide lines set by the UNESCO. Cooperation of local people and regional administrative arrangements are vital in the management of Bagan area.

When Bagan is registered in UNESCO heritage list, the socioeconomic development of the local people, increase in pilgrimage and research on the area, increase in the number of tourists and the systematic maintenance and protection of the heritage with the assistance of international professionals will be obtained. (Translated by Rhin Aye Win)
WE take a lot of pride in introducing quality Myanmar’s traditional foods of international standard to the world by a Myanmar citizen-owned company,” said Marketing Director Daw May Zin Soe Htet of City Mart Holding Company Limited.

She referred to “The Pride of Myanmar” programme carried out by her company which has opened many shopping centres across Myanmar.

The initiative has been introduced since 2013 when Myanmar hosted SEA Games. The sports event provided a good opportunity for the company to introduce quality Myanmar’s traditional foods of international standard to the world.

The company selected quality foods produced by SMEs in the country after carefully scrutinizing to put them on the stalls of such shopping centres as City Mart Supermarket, Ocean Supercenter, marketplace by City Mart under City Mart Holding Company Limited.

The initiative has been carried out in line with the motto “Growing together with local communities”, and at the start, 57 items of foods were placed on the stalls of shopping centres. Food items and Fresh Food items namely tamarind toffy, peanut jam, sunflower seed, jaggery, pickled tea, green tea, Thanatka and such instant food such as tea, coffee and Monhinga.

The company sets standard in categorizing foods – they are of pure Myanmar traditional foods, they are not hazardous to health, the raw materials contained in the food must be of good quality, the good manufacturing practice shall be applied throughout the process, and weight, and instructions for how to consume the items and other details are to be described. As a result, such food of 119 brands which strictly follow the rules are now included in the Pride of Myanmar initiative.

Regarding the products which will be put on sale at shopping centres, City Mart Holding Company Limited gives suggestions of how the product should be packed or how it should be promoted. Many businessmen have been attracted by the programme thanks to the suggestions made by the company.

According to Business Development Manager U Pyay Nyein of Thuriya Win Company which is producing Nagar Pyan tea, there are two kinds of benefit for entrepreneurs by putting on sale their goods on the stalls of City Mart: one is their goods have been advertised and the other is the product win the trust of consumers at home and abroad.

The Pride of Myanmar gives exclusive space for products which are on the stalls of shopping centers under City Mart Holding Limited not just for the promotion period but permanently.

If you look from business point of view, market expansion cost can be saved thanks to many branches of City Mart Holding Company Limited which deliver goods to reach directly into the hands of end users, said Daw May Zin Soe Htet. She also pointed out that public is becoming aware of the fact that locally made products have abilities to compete with imported FMCG (Fast Moving Consumer Goods), it is a good opportunity to attract investments into the business.

Moreover, local SMEs have another opportunity in addition to selling their products at the shopping centres – gaining international experience through the arrangements made under Pride of Myanmar initiative.

For the development of SMEs, she said, pure Myanmar products have been displayed at the Promotion Area during the promotion period and then they have been led to such an event as ProPak Asia thereby gaining new experience in packaging industries.

Among the products participated in the Pride of Myanmar initiative, best seller award and popular choice award are presented to the winners.

Pride of Myanmar’s best seller award for 2017 went to Top Chew Nut brand which produces cashew nuts, the product of Chin Chin Company. Royal Tea Mix fetched Pride of Myanmar’s Popular Choice award.

Also brought glory to the country in 2016 is Tree Food Company’s jaggery. The company processed jaggery, Myanmar’s traditional snack, to gain global market share.

“The business is dubbed Small and Medium Enterprise, but actually it is very hard to run the business especially food business. There are many challenges to produce food because it straightly goes into the mouth of a person and thus we have to struggle harder than other SMEs,” said Founder and CEO of Tree Food Co., Ltd. Daw Cho Lei Aung.

Although SMEs are self-reliant economy, one should not looks down on it, she said. Daw Cho Lei Aung disclosed that with innovative packaging system, jaggery is being mixed with the flavour of lime, yogurt, ginger and jujube, and jaggery with the taste of tamarind will be sold at Pride of Myanmar initiative.

Not only creating a foothold for the locally made products, the Pride of Myanmar initiative will surely be bringing glory to the nation by showing that Myanmar’s products can compete with imported goods.

City Mart Holding Company Limited has been making arrangements to hold the fifth special promotion programme of the Pride of Myanmar which will be from 26 October 2017 to 28 February 2018. So, everyone has a chance to test the quality Myanmar foods.

Pride of Myanmar cordially invites you and your loved ones to visit the show and see the quality of pure Myanmar’s products.
Voices from volunteers of UEHRD

By Zaw Gyi (Panita)

VOLUNTEERS who will take part in UEHRD are being conducted preliminary on-job trainings from November 6 till 8 at the Women’s Development Centre on Than Lwin Street, Kamayut township, Yangon. 83 Volunteers are attending the training conducted by professionals from the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and external voluntary teachers.

Here are interviews with Myanmar News Agency.

Dr San San Aye, Director-General of Social Welfare Department

UEHRD is the Union Enterprises and youths across the nation will take part in it. For successful implementation of 20 days for the people from youths, the Ministries, Rakhine State Government, local entrepreneurs, donors, youth team for negotiation on humanitarian assistance, organisations performing the tasks of provisions of humanitarian assistance, public-orientated volunteer groups and youth who will work as volunteers for 20 days from the whole country will take part in the campaign. The present training is being conducted with a view to sharing knowledge on provision of humanitarian assistance in Rakhine State to volunteers from the whole country.

I was ready to take part in the project as a youth, I joined UEHRD. The present training is the first-ever one conducted by UEHRD. We learnt that similar trainings will be conducted in future. I am very proud of having an opportunity to take part in the campaign. I feel that it will be a beneficial one for the public.

Ma Htoo Thet Naing (trainee)

Being a program led by the government, I assumed that I should take part in it. I will be able to perform on the ground based on lesson knowledge and personal knowledge.

Phyo Ko Ko Zaw (trainee)

By combining our efforts and our knowledge on provision of disaster relief, I firmly believe that it will be surely successful.

Nine tasks forces of UEHRD to meet with Rakhine Gov't

Nine private forces of Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD), together with Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industries (UMFCCI) will meet with Rakhine State government on 15 November and discuss resettlement and development in Rakhine State. UEHRD’s chief coordinator Dr Aung Tun Oo, UMFCCI’s officials and representatives from nine tasks forces of UEHRD held meeting at UMFCCI and discussed to systematically and effectively fulfill the needs of Rakhine State.

Nine tasks forces of UEHRD, Construction and infrastructure; Agriculture and livestock breeding; Economic Zones Development, Information and Public Relations, Job creation and Vocational Training, Healthcare, Micro-financing, Fund raising through crowd-funding and Tourism promotion and UMFCCI’s officials are now preparing and planning for constructing infrastructure buildings, installing water and electricity access and up-grading roads.

On the visit, they will present their planning to Rakhine State government and local residents and the region’s needs and expanding works will be discussed.

One best result will be obtained when the needs of local residents meet with the assisting works of private business persons, said UEHRD’s chief coordinator Professor Dr Aung Tun Oo.

Phyo Ko Ko Zaw, U Aung Kyi Soe, UMFCCI’s general-secretary also said that as the development strategy for Rakhine State was already set, UEHRD’s tasks forces will discuss with Rakhine State government to carry out the strategy properly.

All 17 townships in Rakhine State, in the state will see the development works, he added. The tasks forces are also planning to conduct the Vocational Trainings for the local residents for their development in their education and skills.

— MNA

Ethnic armed groups close to signing ceasefire

FROM PAGE 1

Khu Oo Ra, leader of the Delegation for Political Negotiation (DPN), said his side needs to discuss usages in the agreement and they are also expected to be agreed upon in the upcoming meeting.

“We believe that NCA would be signed after the outcomes of the meeting have been submitted to the leaders of both sides,” he said. The two sides have met seven times over the past 15 months, seeking ways for all to sign the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement. But I could not due to various reasons. Now I came to have a chance. I believe I can do successfully on the ground by combining lesson knowledge and personal knowledge.

Phyo Ko Ko Zaw (trainee)

Being a program led by the government, I assumed that I should take part in it. I will be able to perform on the ground based on lesson knowledge and personal knowledge.

S-Korean National Day, Armed Forces Day celebrated

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— MNA

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification 28/2017

6th Waning of Tazaungmon, 1379 ME
November 9, 2017

Permission of registration as a political party

Union Ethnic Federal Democracy Party headquarted at No. 496, Kyunpintha Ward in Myitkyina in Kachin State, permitted an application for registration as a political party in accordance with the Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law on 9 November 2017. The registration number of Union Ethnic Federal Democracy Party is 106.

(Hla Thein)
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Han at a ceremony to mark the Korean National Day and Armed Forces Day which was held in Lotte Hotel in Yangon at 6:30 pm on 9 November—Myanmar News Agency
NAHA, (Japan) — A US Air Force F-35A fighter jet made what appeared to be an emergency landing at a base in Okinawa on Wednesday, only about a week after the US military deployed the stealth aircraft there in the first such deployment in the Asia-Pacific region.

The US Air Force said the jet made a “precautionary landing” at the US Kadena Air Base. But the Kadena town government said it was an “emergency landing,” citing an observation by one of its officials who saw two fire trucks on standby either side of the runway when the landing was made.

After decades of hosting the bulk of US military facilities in Japan, many people in Okinawa are frustrated with noise, crime and accidents linked to the US bases. Recently, safety concerns have been rekindled over a series of accidents involving US Marines Osprey aircraft and a transport helicopter stationed in Okinawa. According to the town of Kadena, multiple F-35As left the base from around 9:45 am, but one returned and made the landing around 10:40 am. Firefighters were seen checking the aircraft afterward.

The US Air Force said it was a minor incident and “there was no appreciable risk of injury or property damage.”

A dozen F-35As belonging to a US Air Force base in Utah flew to the Kadena base from late October to early November for a six-month rotation, marking the first operational deployment of the aircraft to the Asia-Pacific region overseen by the US Pacific Command. The move has been seen as the latest show of force toward North Korea that has continued conducting nuclear tests and launching ballistic missiles, some of which have flown over Japan. On Tuesday, eight of the jets engaged in the first flight training after the deployment around Okinawa. F-35s are equipped with high-performance radar that can detect ballistic missiles and are capable of evading radar detection.

The US Marines’ variant of the F-35, known as the F-35B, which are capable of making short takeoffs and vertical landings, have been stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni in Yamaguchi Prefecture, western Japan, since January. Regarding Osprey aircraft, the US government has said the rate of severe accidents involving the Marines’ V-22s rose about 1.7 times from the figure released in April 2012, when the aircraft was not yet deployed to Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in Okinawa, the Japanese Defence Ministry said Wednesday.

The rate represents the occurrence of what the US military calls Class A mishaps per 100,000 flight hours. A Class A mishap is categorized as the severest on a scale of four, resulting in loss of life or permanent total disability, destruction of an aircraft or damage worth $2 million or more, according to the US Naval Safety Center. —Kyodo News

US Air Force F-35A jet makes “emergency landing” at Okinawa base

Bank Holiday
All Banks will be closed on “13th November 2017” “NATIONAL DAY”, under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar
For the speedy development of the country’s economy, and the intention of fully supporting the financial sector, together with the support from the public.

“The 500th Branch”

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Tribute to Las Vegas victims marks CMA Awards as Brooks wins top award

NASHVILLE, (Tennessee) — The Country Music Association’s (CMA) annual awards on Wednesday blended sombre reflections on recent tragic events including the Las Vegas mass shooting, with show-stopping performances by top music stars and even a dose of political humour.

Eric Church opened the live three-hour broadcast from Nashville, which aired on ABC, with an a cappella rendition of the hymn “Amazing Grace.”

Church was joined by Keith Urban and Darius Rucker, who led a roster of A-list country music stars including Lady Antebellum, Tim McGraw and Faith Hill, Reba McEntire and Luke Bryan in a stirring group performance of “Hold My Hand.”

Veteran hosts Brad Paisley and Carrie Underwood took the reins, with Underwood declaring, “This has been a year marked by tragedy impacting countless lives, including so many in our country music family.”

Underwood referenced mass shootings in Las Vegas and Sutherland Springs, Texas, fatal car attacks in New York and Charlottesville, Virginia, and deadly storms that hit Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico.

“Tonight,” she proclaimed, “we’re going to do what families do, come together, pray together, cry together and sing together, too.”

Paisley then dedicated the 51st CMA Awards “to all those we’ve lost, and to all of those who are still healing. We love you, and we will never forget you.”

Two hours into the show, the CMAs acted on that vow, ending a segment memorializing country stars who died this year by showing pictures and names of the 58 people killed by a gunman in Las Vegas at a country music festival on 1 October.

Earlier the hosts lightened things up with banter about the CMAs edicts on avoiding controversial subjects, before launching into jokes about Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders.

President Trump wasn’t immune, lampooned for his cabinet news watching and Twitter habits and his personal style as Paisley sang “Before He Tweets,” a take-off on Underwood’s hit “Before He Cheats.”

He sang about Trump tweeting “from a gold-plated White House toilet seat.”

“It’s fun to watch that’s for sure, ‘til little Rocket Man starts a nuclear war. Maybe next time he’ll think before he tweets,” which drew cheers and applause, but fans’ reaction on social media was divided. Country music legend Garth Brooks was among the big winners, taking home the top award of Entertainer of the Year for a second straight year.

“We’re a family,” Brooks said, echoing a sentiment repeated often throughout the ceremony. —Reuters

Kenya set to host international film conference

NAIROBI — Over 100 delegates are expected to attend an International Film Conference in Kenya next week to seek ways of promoting and accelerating development of film industry.

The Cabinet Secretary for Sports, Culture and Arts Hassan Wario said the conference will help create a platform for actors in the region to exchange ideas and network with others from different parts of the globe.

“The conference will help harness the potential of the creative arts in East Africa region,” Wario said in a statement on Thursday.

The 15-17 November meeting is a collaborative effort between the Kenya Film Classification Board (KFCB), the European Union (EU), the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the French Embassy in Kenya.

Wario noted that the conference will lead to better understanding of the opportunities available in the industry by promoting co-productions to further shared valures.

“The wide range of participants will provide a rare opportunity for Kenyan film makers to exchange ideas with some of the best actors from the global arena,” Wario added.

The theme of the convention is “Faking the audio visual and film industry in Eastern Africa to the next level.”

Franch Ambassador to Kenya Antoine Sivan revealed that there is growing international interest in the potential of the cultural and creative industries to drive sustainable development.

“The industry contributes to economic growth with estimated revenue of 250 billion US dollars a year besides creating jobs for many in our country music family. —PTI

When SRK backed out of a film starring Dilip Kumar and Big B!

MUMBAI — Director Subhash Ghai had planned an ambitious war film with three of the biggest Bollywood superstars — Dilip Kumar, Amitabh Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan — but he had to shelve it.

The director said he had even a title for the film, which was to be called “Mother Land”.

“In 2003, I wanted to start a war film called ‘Mother Land’, where I had cast Dilip Kumar, Amitabh Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan.

The script was ready and three songs were also recorded, but at the last minute Shah Rukh backed out,” Ghai says in a PTI interview. The filmmaker, who has previously worked with Shah Rukh in the 1997 hit film “Pardes”, said the superstar wanted a solo-hero project back then and hence the dream project could not go on the floors.

“He (Shah Rukh) felt there are so many characters in the film. He wanted to do a solo hero film then, but mine was not. It was a story of Dilip saab, Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh. On my wish list were also Aishwarya Rai, Priety Zinta and Mahima Chaudhry for the film but that’s destiny,” he says.

“Mother Land” did not take off but there was another film, called “Shikhar”, that Ghai had planned to make with Shah Rukh. However, that also got shelved, thus giving birth to “Pardes”—PTI

Fox in the Mouse House could give Disney an edge in streaming wars

LOS ANGELES — If Walt Disney Co (DIS.N) buys some Twenty-First Century Fox (FOX.A) businesses, it could provide a quick path for the traditional media giant to create a substantial competitor to Netflix Inc (NFLX.O) in the battle for TV and movie viewers.

The two companies reportedly held talks in recent weeks about a potential sale of Fox’s FX and National Geographic channels, its movie studio and some other international assets to Disney, according to media reports. The discussions had stopped as of Monday but could restart, the reports said. Television viewers have been rapidly embracing online services like Netflix over traditional pay TV packages, a shift that is enticing deep-pocketed technology companies like Amazon.com Inc (AMZN.O) and Facebook Inc (FB.O) into video offerings.

Investors who have driven Netflix shares to record highs this year were selling on Tuesday, sending the company’s stock down more than 2 per cent. Disney and Fox shares rose roughly 1 per cent each as analysts said a deal between the two media giants could benefit Disney’s planned streaming push. “It could be very formidable,” said Bruce Tuchman, a media investor, entrepreneur and adviser to streaming services like iFlix. “They wouldn’t have to leave the confines of their own company to build a competitive service.” —Reuters
Smiling wax figure of Theresa May belies prime minister's torment

LONDON — British Prime Minister Theresa May gained a wax doppelganger on Wednesday that projected an air of strength and permanence sorely lacking in her crisis-prone government.

The wax figure of May, stepping out of Number 10 Downing Street in a red power suit and leopard-skin kitten-heel shoes, was unveiled by Madame Tussauds, a waxworks museum that is one of London’s top tourist attractions.

The real May, meanwhile, was battling multiple crises at once, with several of her cabinet ministers embroiled in scandals, open strife in her party over how to deliver Brexit, and open strife in her cabinet ministers embroiled in scandals, open strife in her party over how to deliver Brexit.

May called a snap election in June expecting to win by a hefty margin, but her campaign failed to inspire the voters and she instead lost her parliamentary majority.

Since then, her divided government has lurched from one crisis to another, with May’s humiliation culminating in a speech at her party conference during which a prankster joined her on stage and letters fell off a slogan behind her.

There was none of that sense of chaos and drift in the scene presented by Madame Tussauds, which shows a smiling May holding a smart black folder and stepping forward from the famous black door of her Downing Street office.

The red suit worn by the wax figure is the same as the one donned by May for a visit to the White House during which she held hands with US President Donald Trump — one of the most widely published images of her term as prime minister.

The real May also wore the red suit on election night in June, an unhappy occasion that saw her appear on stage to acknowledge victory in her local electoral district even as the scale of the debacle on the national scale was becoming clear.

“This is a celebration of one woman who has proven that a woman can be a leader, and that women can be leaders,” said Edward Fuller, general manager of Madame Tussauds’ London branch.

Standing on a platform as the red carpet was pulled back to reveal the wax figure, Fuller said: “We wanted to celebrate the real Theresa May, who is a role model for women everywhere.”

The wax May will now reside at the museum in close proximity to the likenesses of other world leaders including Trump and German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Ancient Hebrew manuscripts to go online in Israel-Russia deal

JERUSALEM — One of the most treasured collections of ancient Hebrew manuscripts and books will be digitised and available for public view online under an agreement by the state libraries of Russia and Israel announced on Tuesday.

Israel has long sought the transfer to its national library of the 14,000-item Guenzburg collection in the Russian State Library, Moscow, and the digitisation compromise effectively shelves a century-old ownership dispute.

The collection includes medieval books, rare works of Jewish ritual law and mysticism, prayer books and biblical commentaries amassed by three generations of the Russian-Jewish Guenzburg family.

It was purchased by Zionist activists in 1917 for shipment to Jerusalem that was delayed by fighting during World War I and was ultimately seized by Soviet authorities after the Russian Revolution. Under what was described as an historic agreement with the Russian State Library, thousands of “new high quality images” of the ancient Hebrew texts will be integrated into the Israeli institution’s online Ktiv manuscript site.

Greta Gerwig explores complexities of growing up in ‘Lady Bird’

LOS ANGELES — “Why won’t you call me Lady Bird? You promised that you would.” That is the line that popped into actor and filmmaker Greta Gerwig’s head one day and went on to become the opening statement from the precocious teenage heroine of her directorial debut, “Lady Bird.”

“Lady Bird, in a way, wrote herself,” Gerwig told Reuters on Sunday.

“I was like, ‘Who is this girl, who’s this girl who makes (people) call her by a different name?’ It’s one of those things where it’s like I discovered the character as I was writing.”

The titular character, played by Saoirse Ronan, is a teenage girl growing up “on the wrong side of the tracks” in Sacramento, California, attending Catholic school and wrestling with her identity as she figures out life after graduating from high school.

“I wanted to make a movie that was about home, and how home is something you only understand when you’re leaving,” said Gerwig, who grew up in Sacramento and pens a love letter to her home town in “Lady Bird.” The film, which opened in limited theaters last week and will roll out in more US theaters this month, marks the solo directing debut of Gerwig, 34. She carved a career co-writing and starring in independent darlings such as 2010’s “Greenberg” and 2012’s “Frances Ha.”

“Lady Bird” has already garnered critical praise and early awards buzz.

“She just has this unique lens of seeing the world,” actor Beanie Feldstein, who plays Lady Bird’s best friend Julie, said of Gerwig. “It makes so much sense that she was to direct because that lens has always existed in her acting and in her writing.”
AFF inspects stadiums in Yangon for 2018 AFF Championship

Dato Sri Azzuddin Ahmad, the General Secretary of the ASEAN Football Federation (AFF), checked the training grounds and football stadiums yesterday in Yangon that will be used for the 2018 AFF Championship matches, according to the MFF webpage. Officials from the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) accompanied Mr. Azzuddin Ahmad and explained the current status and future plans for the football facilities.

Mr. Azzuddin Ahmad arrived in Myanmar yesterday and first checked the training grounds of Yangon United FC, and the artificial turf pitches of Thuwunna Stadium and Aung San Stadium. The General Secretary of AFF will also go on to check hotels in Yangon, which will house teams and officials during the Championship, it is learnt.—Kyaw Zin Lin

LONDON — Anthony Joshua woke up on Wednesday to find himself more of a wanted man than ever in boxing’s entertaining new era of old-fashioned heavyweight hoopla and intrigue.

The Briton is at the heart of a long-overdue heavyweight revival, the money-spinning focus for three other unbeaten champions who, like him, believe they can unify the division and become undisputed owner of the sport’s most prestigious title.

Joshua, who holds the WBA and IBF versions of the crown, was called out by both America’s WBC heavyweight champion Deontay Wilder and New Zealand’s Joseph Parker, the WBO holder, on Wednesday as the hype really began to take hold.

The pair both see a fight with Britain’s 2012 Olympic champion as their passport to global superstardom while in the background another Briton, Tyson Fury, the unbeaten former three-belt holder, still keeps trumpeting his claims too. Between them the quartet have had more than 100 professional fights and not one, so something has to give once, as seems inevitable in 2018, boxing sees the first punches thrown in a bid to find the first undisputed champ since the WBO was founded in 1988.

It is all a far cry from the fairly stagnant decade during which Wladimir Klitschko ruled the division with mechanical efficiency. Once beaten by Fury and Joshua, though, the Ukrainian’s era was consigned to history.

The chiselled Joshua’s perfect 20-fight, 20-knockout record, allied to a personality that has turned him into the poster boy of the division, has given him a profile that puts his camp in the driving seat for big fight negotiations. Yet his potential challengers, encouraged by how Joshua made hard work in disposing of tough late replacement Carlos Takam in his last defence, are now ramping up the noise as they jostle for position to face the 28-year-old. Wilder, whose one-round demolition of Bermane Stiverne in New York on Saturday took his blemish-free record to 38 knock-outs in 39 wins, delivered a taunting message on social media, declaring he would beat Joshua in his British “safe haven”.

“Do you know I’m coming for you... 2018 is what you should be worried about. The people want it. Do you want it? Or do you have some hidden agendas? Are you hiding anything? We’re on it so you either fight or shut up,” boomed the 32-year-old in classic trash-talking fashion.

Joshua’s promoter Eddie Hearn had proposed Wilder should face another Briton, Dillian Whyte, a former Joshua victim, before any potential match, leaving the American to growl: “A king doesn’t chase the peasants, a king takes on kings.” On Wednesday, though, Hearn told Sky Sports that negotiations with Wilder’s representatives over a potential fight with the American would now begin this week.

Meanwhile, New Zealand’s Parker, widely portrayed as the least threatening option for Joshua despite being unbeaten in 24 contests, appeared to have believed he had moved into pole position for a bout in March or April of next year.