13th ASEM FM’s’ Meeting kicks off
Peace is essential for achievement of UNSDGs: State Counsellor

THE 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM FMM13) opened in Myanmar’s capital city of Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with an opening address by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has stressed the vital need for new and stronger partnership to address far-reaching challenges such as the impact of regional and international conflicts on domestic security and the threat of terrorism and violent extremism in their various forms and manifestations.

“Partnership is crucial for the maintenance and promotion of peace and sustainable development which can only be achieved through collective efforts,” said the State Counsellor.

Conflicts around the world are giving rise to new threats and emergencies; illegal migration, spread of terrorism and violent extremism, social dis-harmony and even the threat of nuclear war, she said.

“All countries even the developed and powerful have to cope with constraints and difficulties. I believe that if policy makers develop a true understanding of each other’s constraints and difficulties, the process of addressing global problems would become easier and more effective. It is only through mutual understanding that strong bonds of partnership can be forged,” she added.

She also pledged to continue to nurture the partnership and to create new connections— not just between governments, but also across the private sector and civil society and of course, people-to-people.

Themed “Strengthening partnership for peace and sustainable development,” the two-day meeting includes three sessions, during which the ministers discussed measures to enhance cooperation in areas of shared concern, as well as partnerships in implementing sustainable development goals (SDGs), combating climate change, mitigating and managing natural disasters, ensuring food, energy and water resource security, and narrowing development gap.
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to debate formation of two new ministries

By Aung Ye Thwinn, Aye Aye Thant
U Htun Htun Oo, Union Attorney General, clarified seeking approval from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw yesterday for formation of two new ministries.

The two new ministries are the Ministry of the Office of the Union Government and Ministry of International Cooperation.

U Htun Htun Oo said, “The President sent the message to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to get the approval of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw concerning formation of two new Ministries, in addition to 22 ministries in the tenure of the incumbent government. One of the ministries to be newly formed is the Ministry of the Office of the Union Government. As regards the duties and responsibilities of the Union Government, the Secretary of the Union Government, Director-General of the Office of the Union Government is carrying out, submitting it to the President.

The Union Government is performing numerous tasks including matters on the administration of the Union, matters on Planning and Finance, matters on submission of the bills and others. In doing so, the tasks are assumed to be more effectively implemented provided that the Union Minister to be newly appointed will take the responsibility for the President, hence the need for the new Ministry to be formed. In forming the Ministry of the Office of the Union Government, the office routine work will be carried out with the labor forces of the current set-up of the Office of the Union Government.”

2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 6th regular session 14th day meeting held

By Aye Aye Thant
Sixth regular session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw 14th day meeting was held yesterday morning in Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall.

Replying to a question raised by U Thant Zin Tun of Dekkhinathiri constituency on plan to take action against licensed slaughter houses that are not operated according to set procedures, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aung Myint Tun said pork, beef and mutton production and sales works in 8 townships of Nay Pyi Taw are supervised and managed by Veterinary and Slaughter House Department of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee. Slaughter house permit is granted via auction system, market stall system and stall auction system. Actions are taken against production (slaughtering), transport and sales without permission and not according to set procedures. Rules, regulations and procedures for slaughtering animal for sales of meat, meat sales, permission and management in Nay Pyi Taw Council area is clearly prescribed by Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee notifications. Inspections were also conducted to expose and take action against irregularities and illegal slaughter houses answered U Aung Myint Tun.

Next, U Tin Aye of Metmung constituency asked about plan to open district or township offices of border area and national races development department. Ministry of Border Affairs Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Than Htut answered that expansion and reorganization of Ministry of Border Affairs is being conducted according to procedure. In the expansion and reorganization of border area and national races development department, Metmung Township development office is setup under the management of State Development Office (Lashio) and once authorization is granted, district and township offices will be established based on regions where development works were being conducted answered the Deputy Minister.

2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 6th regular session holds its 14th day meeting

By Aung Ye Thwinn
At yesterday meeting held at 10 am yesterday, Mahn Win Khang Than, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw put forward to the Hluttaw for approval, substitution of committee members in Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee, Women and Children’s Rights Committee and Citizens’ Rights, the Democracy and Human Fundamental Rights Committee.

U Win Maw Tun, Deputy Minister for Education replied to the question raised by U Soe Moe of constituency 1, in Ayeyawady Region, “A total of 218 students from Kanni Village SHS in Ngapudaw township in Ayeyawady Region went to sit for BEHS examinations at Ngapudaw SHS and Shwe Mya Kwin SMS(branch) examination centres. In scrutinizing as to whether Kanni examination centre can be allowed this year, Kanni village has been found to have only a mobile security team for the time being. In allowing an examination centre to be opened, the location essentially must have a respective police station. It must have sufficient security forces. Essentially, it needs recommendation of Regional Government’s approval, and a bank or treasury level security vault in the police station compound. Accordingly, Myanmar Examination Board has no program to open a new examination centre in Kanni village for now.”

Afterward, Deputy Minister added concerning the question raised by U Man Law Maung of constituency 8 in Chin State, “The Ministry of Education is supplying basic education schools which are in need of teachers with B.Ed graduates from the Universities of Education, those who completed D.Tod and PPTT annually. More needed teachers are invited for primary assistant teachers (PAT) who are monthly paid on daily-wage-basis and appointed under the arrangement of Region and State Governments. They are given 30-day trainings in summer vacation and then appointed as PATs. Those who attended township-oriented PAT trainings they are made to attend more one-year correspondence courses to be conferred PAT certificates. Budget needed to appoint monthly-paid teachers on daily-wage-basis is to be drawn up one year ahead, they cannot be appointed as permanent teacher urgently. Only if budget allotment has been granted, will they be able to be appointed as Permanent teachers.”

Then, Deputy Minister replied to the questions raised by U Kyint Khant Pau of constituency 6 in Chin State and U Ngun Hay of constituency 1 in Chin State. Following that, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw informed Amyotha Hluttaw approved Myanmar Companies Law (Bill) with amendment attached sent back by Pyithu Hluttaw, simultaneously announcing that interested parliamentarians to discuss the bill be enrolled to the Hluttaw.

Similarly, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw that parliamentarians interested to discuss the Law on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance Act (Amendment) to enroll their names.

After that, Sai Tun Aung, member of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee read out the report of the Bill Committee concerning Law on Statistics (Bill) for clarification. Hluttaw announced that the report submitted by Bill Committee was approved.

U Win Aung, Committee Member of Government’s Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee read out the report of the committee, among concerning motions put forward and questions raised at the 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 5th Regular Session, followed by the announcement to enroll the names of parliamentarians interested to discuss the report.

2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 6th Regular Session’s 13th Day Meeting will continue to be held on 22nd November, it was learnt.
State Counsellor separately receives heads of ASEM partner countries and associations

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi separately received heads of partner countries of Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) who were attending 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers Meeting yesterday in MICC-I, Nay Pyi Taw. State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received European Commission Vice President H.E. Mrs. Federica Mogherini and party at 8:15 a.m. and discussed promoting Myanmar-Europe relation and cooperation and possibility of cooperation in Rakhine State affairs.

Next, French Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr. Jean-Yves Le Drian and party at 2:30 p.m. and Finland Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. Timo Juhani Soini at 7 p.m. called on the State Counsellor respectively and were exchanged views and discussed on matters relating to bilateral relation and cooperation and areas of cooperation in Rakhine State affairs.—Myanmar News Agency

President receives Deputy Defence Minister of Laos

President U Htin Kyaw received a delegation led by Lt. General Chansamone Chanyalath, Deputy Defence Minister of People’s Republic of Laos at the presidential palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed promotion of friendship, relation and cooperation between the two countries, border stability, peace and the rule of law and cooperation between the armed forces of the two countries.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Union Minister Lt Gen Soe Win, Deputy Minister U Min Thu, Lao Ambassador to Myanmar and other responsible officials also attended the meeting.—Myanmar News Agency
Myanmar bean price reaches record high in local market

The price of beans which is mainly consumed in Myanmar reached a record high in the local market while the price of exported bean has declined, according to the local Mandalay bean market.

The price of Pigeon bean and Mung bean, green gram which is mainly exported to abroad has decline in the local market while Myanmar has suspended to export various pulses to India. But, the price of beans varieties which is mainly consumed in Myanmar has reached a record-high price, said U Soe Win Myint, the owner of the Soe Win Myint brokerage.

“The price of Myanmar bean is unstable these days. The local consumption of bean price has increased two times,” he added. The local farmers rely heavily on the export market to sell their bean products. Now, the price of bean has increased because the local bean production has been low for this year.

Currently, the lablab bean is selling for Ks 200,000 per bag while that of green peas costs Ks 100,000 per bag. The price of lentil bean is Ks 95,000 per bag while haricot bean is selling for Ks 100,000 per bag.

In 2016, the lablab bean price was Ks 100,000 per bag and Ks 120,000 for green peas, Ks60,000 for lentil bean and Ks 50,000 for haricot bean. Myanmar people do not consume the Pigeon bean which is one of the export products as well as Mung bean and green gram. Therefore, authorities is planning to hold the bean show which will display the exported bean.—Min Htet Aung (Mdyub printing house) [Image 358x689 to 765x900]

Mandalay attracts FDI of US$230 million more than last FY

Mandalay Region received more than US$860 million of foreign direct investments as of end of October in current fiscal year, according to Mandalay Region Directorate of Investment and Company Administration. Last FY saw only FDI of over $720 million flowing into Mandalay Region. Therefore, the amount exceeded over $220 million against last FY.

Since 1988, Mandalay Region has attracted more than $3,100 FDI, according to the statistics of DICA. Businesses from China, Thai, Singapore, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Taiwan, American and France mostly invested in the region, especially in industrial enterprises.

According to new Myanmar Investment Law, region and state DICA offices are authorized to give approval to investment proposals with capital of not more than $5 million. Land lease are also permitted from regional office. In addition, there is also tax relief for investments. Myanmar Investment Commission set three different zones in which the entrepreneurs will enjoy the benefits of tax exemption and relaxation from three to seven years. The zones are divided upon these statuses: the places which are still weak in development identified as zone 1, places which are fairly developed as zone 2 and places which are developed as zone 3, according to an announcement of MIC with an approval of the Union Government. The zone 1 is granted tax holidays of seven consecutive years whereas the investors in zone 2 can enjoy tax exemption in five straight years and zone 3 will have three consecutive year tax break.

Mandalay region is designated as zone 3 and investors can enjoy three-year tax holiday in 14 townships.—KoHtet

Plan to release actual amount of FDI every three months underway

Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) is conducting to disclose actual amount of foreign direct investments every three months in an attempt to have transparency in the record, according to a report of Myawaddy Daily. This report will be based on MIC’s report, statistics of the Central Bank of Myanmar and Myanmar Customs’ import data. During the past three months July to September, the actual amount of Foreign Direct Investment for 2017-2018 financial year was US$8.2 billion and the amount approved by Myanmar Investment Commission was over US$4 billion.

Similarly, another three-month investment data from October to December will be unveiled. The report will be continued to release until March 2018. The figure will be released on official website of MIC and media and social network.—GNLM

Harbour Trade Tower being developed with capital of US$30 million

Mottamia Development Group Co Ltd (MGC) and Peace Myanmar Electric Holdings Limited (PMEH) are developing Harbour Trade Tower in Ahlton Township, Yangon Region with capital of US$30 million, creating job opportunities for construction site workers. Although real estate market tends to downward trend, Myanmar hopes to attract more foreign direct investments next fiscal year. Therefore, we invest in this Harbour Trade Tower Project to grasp this opportunity, said U Tin MaungJun, managing director of Mottamia Development Group Co Ltd (MGC) at press conference held at Sedona Hotel on 18th November.

This tower project is designed by Taiwan architecture, including office rooms. Through this building, wonderful and stunning views of the City and Yangon River can be enjoyed. Twenty percent of foundation has been installed and this project is slated to complete in 2020.—ThiThi Min
Shwebo Pawsan price reaches two-year record high

SHWEBO Pawsan (local popular rice of high quality) hit a two-year highest rate of Ks55,000 per bag, said rice merchants.

During that time of 2015 and 2016, a bag fetched only Ks45,000 and 46,000 respectively.

The demand surpassed the supply in the market as the erratic climate scales down the production. Shwebo Pawsan is highly demanded in the domestic market due to its high quality.

Price of Shwebo Pawsan has become high with attractive package and high quality.

Currently, efforts are being made for Shwebo Pawsan to get Geographical Indication (GI) as a specific origin of the country, and then, this association will proceed to receive a copyright.

In a bid to maintain quality and protect crops from dangers of pests, soil and water experiments are being carried out. —Zar Lin Thu (AMIA) ■

FISHERIES export income this Fiscal Year is expected to reach US$650 million whereas last FY saw export revenue of $605 million from this sector, according to yesterday’s report of Myanma Alin.

Fisheries Department is exerting concerted efforts to boost export volume targeting to receive financial aids, said U Win Kyaw, secretary of Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

Myanmar is lagging behind neighbouring countries to practice advanced fishing methods despite having rich water resource.

Fisheries export revenues were $536 million in FY 2013-2014 with estimated volume of 345,267 tons, $482 million in FY 2014-2015 for about 228,290 tons and $503 million with volume of over 368,970 tons.

Myanmar’s fish farming enterprise was experimentally conducted in 1953. With subvention of government, the business has expanded in late 1970. Freshwater fish from farming lakes has penetrated export markets.

Workers work at a fish factory in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

This FY intends to attain US$650 million from fisheries export sector

There are about 450,000 acres of fish farming lakes. Fish farmers have loan access only from Global Treasure Bank (previously called Myanma Livestock and Fisheries Development Bank). If they cannot take out loan from it, they will find microfinance or other individuals or association for loan, said those engaged in livestock and fisheries businesses. —GNLM ■
From page 1

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Asian (ASEAN) Coordinator, Mr. Jose Luis G. Montales, Under Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, said the Philippines is committed to the cause of peace and sustainable development through key priorities and advocacies identified in the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. He said the informal nature of ASEM is its biggest strength as it allows for more open and honest exchanges between leaders, policy makers, experts and civil society.

He said it is important for more open dialogue to take place especially in a time where there is more focus on the problems and the negatives than the positives. He said the Philippines will continue to support ASEM and ASEF and it will continue to advocate for the continued balanced treatment of ASEM’s three pillars to realize the full potential of Asian-Europe cooperation. He said the citizens, “our stakeholders,” should be at the center of the efforts of the countries and that ASEM should be more inclusive.

Following his opening remarks, Asian (ASEAN) Coordinator, Mr. Jose Luis G. Montales, Under Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, said the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent the most ambitious development agenda in history while the development challenge has become more imposing due to the combined constraints of climate change, rising protectionism, fraying international cooperation and conflicts.

He also expressed his hope that a focus on SDGs will increase international cooperation as both the developing and the developed countries would be engaged in a constructive partnership rather than a relationship of dependence based on donor-recipient perspective.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mrs. Federica Mogherini, Vice Chairperson of the European Commission, said she thinks the ASEM is even more important during the present time of great change and challenges where the cooperation of everyone is needed to solve global problems. Asia has immense potential and great economic strength and there are many issues where Europe’s cooperation and partnership can benefit Asia saying that Asia needs Europe’s help on security, connectivity, nonproliferation and climate change.

She also said that in turn Europe needs Asia as both continents’ securities are connected and the economies can benefit from more exchanges. The world needs the European Union as a strong, reliable, predictable and cooperative partner, she added.

She said the EU has renewed its commitment to work together as a union for their citizens’ security and prosperity.

The EU wants to reform global multilateral institutions as a pillar of prosperity and security for all believing that nuclear proliferation is a danger for everyone and that diplomacy is the only effective way to prevent it, she added.

Speaking at the ceremony, Minister of Foreign Affairs for Estonia Mr. Sven Mikser, European Coordinator, said the ASEM is an irreplaceable forum for free and open discussion between Europe and Asia in times of crises and conflicts.

He said the 2030 agenda is neither modest nor easy, therefore he wishes everyone an open mind and endurance to accomplish the 2 days of discussions to come.

Afterwards, youths representing Asia-Europe Foundation expressed the role of youths in ASEM. The world needs the European Union as a strong, reliable, predictable and cooperative partner, she added.

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He said two years ago in Luxemborg, in a meeting before the United Nations’ climate change conference in Paris, climate change continues to be a high relevance issue but today there needs to be more focus on new and equally critical topics and challenges. Some examples he gave were the developments in the Korean peninsula, the high numbers of people displaced around the world, issues of sustainable growth and development, the condition of women and children and other more honorable groups especially in times of crises and conflicts.

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Education is one of the big issues we can cooperate with Myanmar: Finland FM Timo Soini

Q: What do you think are the priorities for the relationship and friendship between Myanmar and Finland?

A: I think education is one of the big issues we can cooperate with and also the forester sector too. Of course, we want to see peace prevailing in your country. It’s very painful when there are shortages of security and we hope that these matters can be taken care of and that Finland can be part of that process as a member of the international community.

Q: We hear there are plans for Finland to support Myanmar with Euro 4 million between 2016 and 2019 via Finnish civil society and higher education institutions, so could you please tell us more about that?

A: Myanmar is one of our top priorities when it comes to development aid. We encourage our companies to come here and cooperate with your people and your companies here. Our aim is to help Myanmar to fulfill its full potential as there are a lot of riches in your country. There are chances to go forward in economical means so we think development aid should also be available for women.

Q: How should Myanmar seek out to utilize private sector funding offered by Finland?

A: Private companies are very strict on certain issues and they want to invest in a country that is safe and where rule of law prevails, and where there are good long term investment, chances and developments for the far future. I think these are coming in due course of times. Finland has a big forest industry and you have a lot of resources in that way. There is also engineering, energy, connectivity with all kinds of technical networks but the main thing is there needs to be a good environment with safe system of rule of law because then you are going up very rapidly.

Q: How do you see Myanmar’s Peace Process and what kind of support and cooperation will you provide in the different ethnic issues?

A: If I was briefed correctly this morning, what I heard is that there are 130 minorities here and there are 60 ongoing conflicts and there are also terrorist attacks and certain unrest. As part of the international community we want to help in that. We know that these processes have long standing roots and in that sense we want to encourage that all the peace processes and all the schemes, like Kofi Anan’s, are very important to go forward with.

This morning the chairmen of Foreign Ministers Mr. Gabri said this country was quite a bad boy in Europe last century but the whole system has been healed and they are now part of the international community. I think the moral of that is that we can forgive all the bad things around the world if we continue to look towards the future.

Q: Can you tell us your opinion Myanmar’s democratization process so far?

A: I think you are on the right track but your constitution is very different from what I’ve seen before. But you cannot anticipate that you are getting all the results done in one and a half year; you must be persistent every step of the way. For example, Finland started a hundred years ago when we got independence and after the Second World War we were a very poor country but there were certain steps which were essential.

Access to schools, access to healthcare, rights of the women and children are extremely important and by this gradual approach and confidence building, learning democracy, taking responsibilities and being a little bit patient will help.

Nowadays we live in a world with the social media, people want to click and they want the result instantly; that won’t happen; you must be able to construct it piece by piece and then as part of the international community.

That’s why it’s very helpful here that you have these kinds of meetings (of ASEM) between Asia and Europe being hosted by Myanmar. There is something that I say back home: “Rome wasn’t built in the one day; miracles are not done on the one day but one day we have to do step by step policies ongoing,” and that is important.

Q: The Finland Minister for Foreign Trade and Development visited Myanmar in early February so we would like to know if there will be more support in the other sectors.

A: We are putting more effort to get involved and to get to know more about Myanmar. We know that the economical opportunities and commercial chances are there but when we are subcabinet ministers we need to promote our firms and we have to be sure everything here is okay so that they are encouraged to do business if they are safe here.

We opened an official embassy here a few weeks ago and there will be an opening ceremony tomorrow in Yangon and I think that shows Finland’s commitment to Myanmar.

Q: Do you have any message for Myanmar government and Myanmar people?

A: My message is be persistent and optimistic and peace is the most precious thing that you can have. “Love thy neighbor and be more happy.”

Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor receives Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Office of Britain

U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor, received Minister of State for Asia and the Pacific at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed matters of mutual interest.

Present at the meeting were officials from the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar as well as British Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Andrew Patrick and officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of Britain.—Myanmar News Agency
The 7th ASEAN Summit

(Continued from 20-21-2017)

The 7th ASEAN Summit meeting, 11th ASEAN Summit Meeting would be described. Before the ASEAN Summit Meeting, the meeting of men- nent. The topics of discussion included the promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation. ASEM will support the United Nations to implement the objectives of sustainable development, to mitigate the damage due to natural disasters, to help strengthen the Paris Agreement to be able to implement the implementation of convention of 75 climate change.

Moreover the Chair’s Statement urged the member countries to practice the co-operation among the ASEAN members for ASEM to be more equal and efficient. As 11th ASEAN Summit Meeting, it was announced that member countries shall try to strengthen the social organizations, businesses, labour organizations, women organizations, intellectuals, students, experts to more included in ASEM programs. It was also mentioned that ASEM welcomed the report of South Korea to hold next ASEM meeting in South Korea and also the request of Myanmar to hold 12th ASEAN foreign ministers’ meeting at Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Chairperson Declaration stated as ASEM partnership has come into the 3rd decade, basing on the past experience, the member countries are needed to strengthen the partnership between European and Asian countries, to focus on the cooperation in the sector that will practically benefit the people and on the immediate and long-term health.

Evaluation

ASEM meeting is a forum to promote the cooperation between Asia and Europe which are politically, economically and culturally significant. ASEM started to hold South China Sea issues and the war and now it reaches to 21st year. It has overcome the various challenges for two decades and it also can enhance the cooperation in all sectors of the future. As a result, the growth of the people of Asia and Europe. For example, the problems among us are most affected.

The youngest, oldest and poorest people of middle-income countries air quality is the most pressing environment is the most pressing environmental threat. By WHO Regional Director Dr. Toshiro Nishimura, the challenge is to empower and engage communities to take action on the climate change, to encourage public forms of transport and take steps to reduce emissions and fueling mechanisms. Despite these steps are small, they could also benefit from or the opportunity to do likewise.

The latest action plan of clean air and better health

By WHO Regional Director Dr. Toshiro Nishimura

Air pollution is a massive threat to health and wellbeing in all ASEAN countries. It is aiming to provide the infrastructure and environment and taking steps to encourage public forms of transport and take steps to reduce emissions and fueling mechanisms. By building quality bus and rail public transport systems, we can reduce our carbon footprint and pedestrian-friendly and bicycle through the provision of increased access to public transport and facilities for cycling. In 18% of cities in low and medium income countries, access to clean energy that to cleaner energy sources that are benefiting the people and vulnerable. Emissions continue to degrade largely as a result of cost and accusations. There is now an alternative that can promote change at the personal and policy levels – a role could be encouraged and where possible supported.

In the wider cities across the Region are urban or rural, creative and green city campaigns, WHO lead of mobilize individuals and their communities to take action on the air pollution against air pollution. More than 100 million people are joined, and are working from the grass roots up achieving cleaner urban environments. All cities and towns can and must work together to take action, and could also benefit from / or the opportunity to do likewise.

As the air pollution is well-known, the air pollution is becoming a priority in practical challenge, it also represents a chance to curb the health risks and air pollution is not just to be combated. In the future, the air pollution is not just to be combated. In the future, the air pollution could also be combated in the future.
Head of service organizations appointed

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>(1) U Khin Zaw</td>
<td>Managing Director</td>
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<td>General Manager (Production)</td>
<td>Myanmar Shipyards</td>
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<td>Myanmar Shipyards</td>
<td>Ministry of Transport and Communications</td>
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<td>(2) U San Myint</td>
<td>Director-General</td>
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<td>Deputy Director-General</td>
<td>National Archive Department</td>
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<td>Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration</td>
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<td>(3) Daw Si Si Pyone</td>
<td>Director-General</td>
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<td>Deputy Director-General</td>
<td>Treasury Department</td>
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<td>(4) U Zaw Naing</td>
<td>Director-General</td>
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<td>(5) U Myint Oo</td>
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<td>Deputy Director-General</td>
<td>Revenue Appellate Tribunal</td>
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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to debate formation of two new ministries

From Page-2

The Union Minister for Foreign Affairs will attend some international meetings, whereas the Union Minister, Ministry of the International Cooperation to be newly formed will attend some international meetings. The Office of the Ministry of International Cooperation will be opened in the same building of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The two ministries will closely operate the tasks. Now, foreign diplomatic affairs are being carried out by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with matters on international organizations carried out by the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

At present, matters on the international organizations will be carried out by the Ministry of International Cooperation to be newly formed. By doing so, international relations will be able to be carried out more conveniently.”

Mahn Win Khaing Thaw, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw announced that parliamentarians wishing to discuss the matter be enrolled, followed by submission to the Hluttaw, concerning the appointments of two Union Ministers sent from the President.

Afterwards, the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw announced that any parliamentarians desirous of objecting over nominations can enroll their names with solid evidences of invalidity, if ever, attached.

And, the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw reported to the Hluttaw concerning the formation of Anti-Corruption Commission sent from the President.

After that, the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw announced that any parliamentarians desirous of submitting objections over nominations can enroll their names with solid evidences of invalidity attached. 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 6th Regular Session’s 10th Day Meeting will continue to be held on 21 November.

2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 6th regular session 14th day meeting held

From Page-2

A motion by U Sai Ngaung Hsang Hein of Maukmauk constituency urging the government to draw up a policy involving the people in basic good democratic practice on disposing plastic products separately and to reduce the usage of plastic products was then discussed by U Thein Tun of Kyaunggon constituency, Dr. Daw Khin Sithu of Loikaw constituency, U Saw Tun Mya Aung of Hapun constituency, U Sai San Thein of Moene constituency, U Sai San Thein of Moene constituency, U Sai San Thein of Moene constituency, U Sai Nan Tun of Htin of Machanaw constituency.

In his discussion on the motion, Union Minister U Ohn Win said education and information on waste for the public are provided by one of the work committees, committee on human resources development in environmental conservation, information, and education.

Subjects on environmental protection are also prepared to be included in the school curriculum and education.

Responding to a question by U Kyaw Hay of Leshi constituency on plan to construct a township road connecting Labe and Leshi townships, Ministry of Border Affairs Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Than Htut said the plan to construct this road is included in the border area development 5-years plan and will be conducted starting from fiscal year 2018-2019.

Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Than Htut then replied to questions raised by U Than Lin Lin of Meisei constituency and U Wom Hla of Nanyun constituency.

Next, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint announced the receipt of a bill on Myanmar Parliament Union sent with amendment by Amyotha Hluttaw and announced for parliamentarians who would like to discuss the bill to enroll their names.

As Hluttaw agree to approve without amending a bill to repeal municipal law, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced the approval of the bill.
Partnerhips is crucial for the maintenance and promotion of peace and sustainable development which can only be achieved through collective efforts: State Counsellor

Following is the full text of the Opening Statement delivered by State Counsellor at the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting.

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

• It is a pleasure to welcome all of you to Nay Pyi Taw.
• Myanmar is honoured to host the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting. This is a dialogue mechanism unique in the multilateral arenas that allows Asia and Europe to engage informally.
• As we are all aware our world has never been free from crises arising from multiple causes. Today we are faced with a new period of global uncertainty and instability. Conflicts around the world are giving rise to new threats and emergencies; illegal migration, spread of terrorism and violent extremism, social disharmony and even the threat of nuclear war. Conflicts take away peace from societies, leaving behind underdevelopment and poverty, pushing peoples and even countries away from one another.
• These challenges have been compounded by the devastating effects of natural disasters which have become more frequent and intense as a result of climate change and lack of adequate concern and care for the environment.
• The history of numerous countries, including that of Myanmar, illustrates that conflict and instability cast a long and lasting shadow on a country’s development. Without peace, there can be no durable progress and prosperity. Peace is essential for the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
• All countries even the developed and powerful have to cope with constraints and difficulties. I believe that if policy makers develop a true understanding of each other’s constraints and difficulties, the process of addressing global problems would become easier and more effective. It is only through mutual understanding that strong bonds of partnership can be forged.
• In our ASEM context, there is a vital need for new and stronger partnerships to address far-reaching challenges.

In our ASEM context, there is a vital need for new and stronger partnerships to address far-reaching challenges...

• Partnership is crucial for the maintenance and promotion of peace and sustainable development which can only be achieved through collective efforts. It is for this reason that we have proposed as the theme of this Meeting: 'Strengthening Partnership for Peace and Sustainable Development'.
• In the past two decades of ASEM’s journey our partnership, based on the cardinal principles of equal collaboration and mutual respect, proved its vitality by enabling ASEM to withstand repeated and varied crises. We must continue to nurture this partnership and to create new connections – not just between governments, but also across the private sector and civil society and of course, people-to-people.
• ASEM is gathered here today to reiterate our commitment to accomplish the tasks entrusted by the Heads of State and Government of 51 nations and leaders of two organizations who resolved to work together to promote further connectivity, partnership and cooperation between Asia and Europe at the last Summit held in Ulaanbaatar in 2016.
• Today, there will be two sessions of Plenary Meetings. In the first session, the emphasis will be on the maintenance and promotion of peace and the sustainable development under the heading of “Synergizing Peace and Sustainable Development”.
• The subject of the 2nd Plenary Meeting will be “3rd Decade of ASEM: Making ASEM Partnership more Dynamic and Connected” - there we will explore possible ways of enhancing ASEM’s efficiency and connectivity for the third decade.
• The ASEM mechanism provides a unique opportunity for policy makers of Asia and Europe to exchange informally views, share best practices and explore the best ways and means of addressing the challenges of global affairs.
• In accordance with the usual ASEM practice, we will have a Retreat Session tomorrow, keeping the whole morning for a free and informal dialogue on International and Regional Issues. For that meeting I would like to propose that we focus on the promotion of peace, and address traditional and non-traditional security challenges in Asia and Europe.
• The role of youth is central to all areas of cooperation in our ASEM mechanism, as they will be the inheritors of the consequences of our actions. I am happy that two student representatives of ASEF’s “Model ASEF” will also be delivering speeches at this opening ceremony. I congratulate ASEF for their relentless efforts in bringing the two continents together by enhancing cultural, educational and people-to-people contact.
• In conclusion, may I express the hope that our meetings today and tomorrow, will provide opportunities for all of us to reflect on progress made and to explore future avenues for the enhancement of political, economic and socio-cultural engagement in line with the three pillars of ASEM cooperation.

Thank you.

VP U Henry Van Thio receives Finland Foreign Minister and party

VICE President U Henry Van Thio received Finland Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. Timo Juhani Soini and party at the diplomatic hall of the Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting matters relating to peace and stability in Rakhine State, rule of law and development, increasing bilateral relations and cooperation were discussed. Together with the Vice President at the meeting were Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung, Deputy Minister Dr. Tun Naing and U Set Aung and officials while Finland Foreign Minister and party were accompanied by Finland Ambassador to Myanmar Ms. Riikka Laatu. —Myanmar News Agency

Vice President U Henry Van Thio holds talks with Finland Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. Timo Juhani Soini at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on 20 November. PHOTO: MNA
Opening ceremony of 8th meeting for traditional medicine of Mekong region countries launched

Under the supervision of Department of Traditional Medicine, Ministry of Health and Sports hosted the 8th meeting for traditional medicine of Mekong region countries and the opening ceremony at Novotel Hotel in Yangon yesterday morning.

At the opening ceremony, Yangon Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein delivered an opening speech.

After the opening ceremony, the meeting was held at Summit Park View Hotel in Yangon on the same day.

During the meeting, officials discussed therapy using traditional medicine and herbal medicines preservation, rights for intellectual property, fair and equitable sharing of utilization of resources of Nagoya Protocol, guidelines and ethics in doing research for traditional medicine practitioners, making records of list of traditional medicine practitioners, medicinal herbs and therapies in the sector of the traditional medicine in Mekong Region Countries, budget supplied by Government of China in research projects of traditional medicine in Mekong region countries.

In the evening, dinner was hosted to the representatives by the Department of Traditional Medicine, Ministry of Health and Sports at Karaweik Palace Hotel.

The second day meeting is held today and traditional medicine practitioners from Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam will show the demonstration on the traditional therapies.

Delegation led by Senator Jeff Merkley calls on Rakhine State Chief Minister

OPENING ceremony of 8th meeting for traditional medicine of Mekong region countries launched.

Delegation led by Senator Jeff Merkley and US Ambassador to Myanmar HE Mr Scot Marciel called on U Ngyi Pu, Chief Minister of Rakhine State at the Hall of State Government Office at 2pm yesterday.

In the meeting, Senator Jeff Merkley asked the Chief Minister and party to recount on-the-ground-situations as US would like to know from where US would give supports to Rakhine State.

Chief Minister replied, “We are very grateful for international communities to be interested in Rakhine State affairs and to be desirous of helping eagerly in collaboration. Since the time when the Rakhine State Government took office, we are prioritizing the tasks of regional peace, stability and development.

The two sectors are simultaneously implemented and security matters are also being carried out as a priority. And, the tasks of mitigating the distrust and misunderstanding between the different communities and making them co-exist in peace forever was our priority works. The tasks are being carried out by the Rakhine State Government alone, but the State Government is also supporting the implementation of the Central Committee of UERHD in Rakhine State led by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. Rakhine State affairs were solved by forming advisory commission on Rakhine State led by Mr Kofi Annan. Plus, Rakhine State Affairs were solved by forming the investigation commission led by Vice President U Myint Swe.”

Chief Minister added, “While performing the tasks of regional development, conflicts took places again. During the outbreak of conflicts, series of events were managed to be controlled under the leadership of State Counsellor. State leaders felt sorrowful for false news spread by global media, managing to solve them. After the events, we are carrying out the tasks of providing humanitarian aids, resettlement and rehabilitation, sustainable development of the area with great momentum. Concerning those tasks, State Counsellor formed the UERHD, implementing successfully so far. In doing so cooperation, mutual understanding and practical implementation of the tasks play the important role.”

The delegation led by Senator Jeff Merkley met with responsible officials from Arakan National Party and Wun Let Foundation and Islamists town-elders and Islamist women at Aung Mingalar ward of Sittway. — Tin Tun (IPRD)

Delegation led by Senator Jeff Merkley and US Ambassador Mr Scot Marciel in Sittway. PHOTO: MNA

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Ngyi Pu holds talks with a delegation led by Senator Jeff Merkley and US Ambassador Mr Scot Marciel in Sittway. PHOTO: MNA

Framework, ToR, SoP Work Group meeting concludes

FRAMEWORK, Terms of Reference (ToR), Standard operating procedure (SoP) Work Group meeting was continued yesterday morning in National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC), Nay Pyi Taw and was successfully completed in the evening.

In the day’s meetings Frame work, ToRs, SoPs and structure, decision making concept, composition, national dialogue related to political discussion framework were discussed by officials from group representing the government, group representing the ethnic armed organisations and group representing political parties. Next, on behalf of the group representing political parties, U Thein Tun said frank and open discussions were held and open discussions to prepare ToRs and SoPs for conducting union level peace negotiations were made. Basic principle for processes that remains to be discussed were also achieved. He added that good results were achieved because discussions were held with an aim toward establishment of a long term sustainable peace throughout the regions of the union, uninterrupted and connected rule of law, peace, stability and development.

On behalf of the group representing ethnic armed organisations, Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win said efforts were made to obtain good results from this meeting. If all work together in future to find a solution, the peace process will be successful. All must strive to achieve peace for the country and its people.

Brig-Gen Sein Tun Hla, on behalf of the group representing the government said if peace discussion were conducted patiently, success will be achieved. There were agreements and disagreements in making decisions. Success will be achieved by continuing the negotiations.

With regards to the results of the discussion, U Hla Maung Shwe said “Our main duty is for political discussion framework. It is to submitted after reviewing and discussion about it. Secondly, all work processes were reviewed. Based on the previous congress, discussions were made to achieve a better result quickly. From this, proposals will come out. Most of the framework is agreed upon. Some differing views will be submitted to UPDJC meeting. We can discuss to achieve a result. Discussion on SoPs was completed.”

Framework, ToR, SoP Work Group meeting was held from 17 to 20 November and was attended by officials from the government group, ethnic armed organisations group and political parties group.—Myanmar News Agency
Dinner hosted in honour of participants of 13th ASEM

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi hosted a dinner in honour of participants of the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

She extended greetings at the dinner held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre 1 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Afterwards, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi enjoyed the dinner together with foreign ministers, deputy ministers and senior officials from member countries.

At the dinner, Myanmar artists performed dances accompanied by the traditional orchestra of the Myanmar Radio and Television, and music of Japanese musician Mr. Yamamoto.

— Myanmar News Agency

Workshop titled Democracy administration launched

By the collaboration of British Embassy and Chevening Alumni Association Myanmar, a workshop titled “Democracy Administration” was held at the Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the workshop, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker delivered an opening speech. Next, President of Chevening Alumni Association Myanmar U Aung Kyaw Thein discussed the title named “Introduction of the Workshop and Chevening Alumni Association Myanmar”.

Then, chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Government’s Guarantees, Pledges and Undertaking Vetting Committee U Thein Swe discussed the title named Experiential Sharing on check and Balance. Following, President of Chevening Alumni Association Myanmar U Aung Kyaw Thein also discussed the title “Democratic Governance”.

Afterward, representative from Amyotha Hluttaw and other departmental staffs also discussed at the Workshop.

— Myanmar News Agency

Myanmar anti-corruption committee in cooperation with UNODC launched Financial Investigation Course

Myanmar anti-corruption committee launched Financial Investigation Course yesterday morning at Royal Nay Pyi Taw Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw with the aim of elevation the ability of inspection for anti-corruption, prosecution and pleading ability for the departmental staffs.

A total of 34 trainees from the office of Myanmar anti-corruption committee attend the course and the course will be conducted till 30 November.

The course conducting was led by technical advisor from UNODC and personal skill evaluation was made before the course according to the Myanmar anti-corruption committee. — Myanmar News Agency

13th JMC-U meeting starts in Yangon

FIRST day of 13th Union Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC-U) meeting was held yesterday morning at Yangon office of National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Shweli Road, Yangon. First, JMC-U chairman Lt.-Gen. Yar Pyae delivered a message of greeting. He said today’s meeting will discuss and coordinate thoroughly work implementation status of JMC-U and future works in relation with our own organisations.

Next, JMC-U Vice chairman (1) Saw Isaac Po delivered a message of greeting. He said conflicts occur in stages through action and thought against each other, differing views and opinions. It needs to be coordinated in stages. Through gives and takes, both side need to be satisfied so that a fair and beneficial peace can be established.

In his message of greeting, JMC-U Vice Chairman (2) Rex Saw Mathew Aye told of civilian representatives conducting how to prevent engagements and how to participate. In the day’s meeting implementation status of decision made at 12th meeting were submitted, second meeting of civilian representatives involved in the stages of JMC were explained, discussed and confirmed SOPs and general discussions were held. The meeting will be held for three days from 20 to 22 November it is learnt.

— Zaw Gyi

MARRIAGE ANNOUNCEMENT

MAUNG KYAW THUREIN TUN & PHUE PWINT PHYO (Pinky)

Are pleased to announce their marriage on Thursday, 19th October, 2017 at Supreme court of Yangon Region.

— Myanmar News Agency

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.11.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T.M.L.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV WEST SCENT VOY. NO (160)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY. NO (160) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.11.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV OEL MALAYSIA VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV OEL MALAYSIA VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.11.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185
Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Deputy Speaker of Indonesian Regional Representative Council

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint holds talks with Lt. Gen (Han) Dr Nano Sampono in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint received a delegation led by Deputy Speaker of Indonesian regional representative council of Lt. Gen (Han) Dr Nano Sampono at the guest room of the Hluttaw building yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, bilateral relations and cooperation between the parliaments of the two countries and affairs on humanitarian aids were discussed.

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T F Khun Myat and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw also attended the meeting.— Myanmar News Agency

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives Deputy Speaker of Indonesian Regional Representative Council

SPEAKER of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than received Deputy Speaker of Regional Representative Council of Indonesia, Lt. Gen (Han) Dr Nano Sampone, M.Si, at 3:30 pm at Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matter concerning promotion of social, economic and promoting bilateral friendship between two countries. Also present at the meeting were Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, secretary of Amyotha Hluttaw Myanmar-Indonesia Hluttaw friendship association and officials of the Amyotha Hluttaw Office.—Myanmar News Agency

Vaccination of Children against Encephalitis in Maungtaw

By News Team

MOBILE health team comprising of Specialist Medical Surgeons form Maungtaw Health Care Centre visited Pan Taw Pyin village where Islamists live, giving medical care and vaccinating children aged 9 months and those under 15 against encephalitis, yesterday morning.

Specialist surgeon Dr Kyaw Maung Maung Thein, leader of the mobile health team said, “We are giving medical treatment at Pan Taw Pyin under the mobile health team program. Until now, infectious diseases were not found yet. Minor cases such as cough and normal gastric ulcers were found. To have them vaccinated against encephalitis we organized through ward or village administrator and health staff.”

Over 200 children were vaccinated against encephalitis, with more than 170 were given medical treatments, it was learnt.

U Annawar, the Muslim Village administrator of Pan Taw Pyin said, “Most are poor in the ward, so it is convenient for them to have such mobile medical treatments. Frequently health teams come here. In the meanwhile, they go to Maungtaw General Hospital. Today, children were vaccinated against encephalitis. Most children came here today.”

Maungtaw township health department is giving mobile health care services twice a month to distant regions which is not easily accessible. Starting from November 15, vaccination of encephalitis was carried out in over 100 villages in Maungtaw township, it was learnt.

Nurses giving medical care and vaccinating children for prevent Encephalitis to Islamists in Pan Taw Pyin village. PHOTO: NE LIN

40 per cent of edible oil consumption imported from abroad

ABOUT 40 per cent of edible oil consumption is dependent on import market due to the high price in the local market, according to a report of Myawady Daily.

Growing methods need to be upgraded in order to boost production.

Local production of edible oil can cover about 60 per cent of consumption. In order to fulfill the requirements, 40 per cent is imported from foreign countries.

High prices for edible oil crop raw materials such as peanuts and sesame are contributing factors for the millers to scale up the price.

As a result, low-income people are forced to buy imported edible oil, which is cheaper than locally produced peanut oil, U Myin Kyu, the chairperson of Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers Association, told Myawady Daily.

In a bid to reduce import edible oil consumption and compete against them in the market, raw material prices need to be reduced.

Traditional growing methods cannot help boost the yield, so growers need to keep up with advanced technology.

In addition, edible oil crops are in high demand from the export market.

The aforementioned association is conducting publicity awareness campaigns concerning edible oil in cooperation with Consumer Affairs Department.

At present, sunflower oil and soybean oil are imported from America, Argentina and Russia while palm oil is imported from Malaysia and Indonesia. —GNLM

34 illegal overseas recruitment cases reported in Yangon this year

THE No.6 Anti-Human Trafficking Division (Yangon) announced that 34 illegal overseas recruitment cases have been reported in Yangon this year, according to a report of the Myawady Daily issued on Saturday.

Police Lt. Colonel Wai Lwin said that action is being taken against overseas employment agencies that illegally sent Myanmar workers to Thailand, Japan and China (Taipei) in accordance with four sections of the Law Relating to Overseas Employment.

According to Section 26 of this law, those overseas employment agencies that illegally sent workers to other countries without a licence shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years in maximum.

Under Section 27 of this law, the registered overseas employment agencies that collect agency fees higher than the rates fixed by the supervisory board shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to a maximum of three years.

Concerted efforts are being made by the government to regulate the system and officially send workers to other countries.—GNLM
Angels or demons? Political shadow hangs over Victoria's Secret China show

SHANGHAI — Victoria's Secret's glitzy annual fashion show hits the stage in China on Monday night for the first time, but will do so without several of its “angels” and star names who had been expected to attend, including model Gigi Hadid and pop singer Katy Perry.

Hadid has confirmed her absence, while reports have swirled ahead of the show about visas being denied over political sensitivities and strict controls around the Shanghai event — a potential headache for the brand famed for its racy lingerie.

Perry and Hadid have both drawn criticism in state media and online in China, the former for appearing at a concert in 2015 to show support for Taiwan, a self-governed island that China considers a wayward province and an integral part of its territory.

The furor underscores the challenges for global firms looking to hold major live events in China, even as music producers, Hollywood and sporting franchises increasingly look to tap into the country's fast-growing entertainment market.

"Brands have to be much more aware of politically or morally sensitive topics here," said Ben Cavender, Shanghai-based principal at China Market Research Group, adding the lure of the market meant most people would nevertheless take risks.

"It's a very different political environment than their home markets and we're at a time when China is on a drive to clean up behavior and push a sort of moral code." China has long kept tight control of performers it allows into the country.

Justin Bieber, Lady Gaga, Bjork and Bon Ivi are all banned over perceived bad behavior or for broaching sensitive topics like Tibet or Taiwan.

Under President Xi Jinping, a push to reinforce socialist "core values" in cultural products has also meant firms like game developer NetEase Inc to the producers of the Grammy Awards have had to clean up their offerings.

Hadid, penned to be one of the Victoria's Secret "Angels" at the show, tweeted last week she was no longer attending. The tweet followed a video posted online of her squinting her eyes while holding a small Buddha statue dressed in ire in China.

—Reuters

DENVER, the United States — Singapore's Nanyang Technological University and China's Tsinghua University finished 1-2 in the 11th annual highly competitive Student Cluster Competition (SCC) at the Super Computer Conference (SC17) this week in Denver in the US state of Colorado.

SCC was introduced in 2007 to expose undergraduate and high school students to high performance computing.

Over the past few months, six-person student teams designed and built small clusters with hardware and software vendor partners, learned designated scientific applications, and applied optimization techniques for their chosen architectures.

In the final days, students competed in a non-stop, 48-hour "mystery" challenge at the SC17 conference — to complete a real-world scientific work challenge. A total of 16 teams competed in the 2017 competition, hailing the top honor was announced.

"No one's a loser in this competition," Harrell emphasized, as he met with, and complimented all of the teams after the top honor was announced.

"All of these students will be very successful in life and in the HPC field," he said. Harrell, who emphasized the integrity displayed by the Chinese students from both teams, said that interviews and a poster competition also factored into the decision-making.

This year's all decisive "mystery" question dealt with the migration of carbon dioxide around the world, and students were asked to simulate the flow of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere using calculations and creating an algorithm.—Xinhua

Students get medical examinations in Pyay Township

The doctor examines a student to vaccinate the Encephalitis vaccination. Supervised by Pyay Township Public Health Department, Bago Region, the students from age 5 to 15 were vaccinated against Encephalitis at No 3 Basic Education Middle School,Pyay Township yesterday. PHOTO: MAUNG SHWE WIN (PYAY)

Models Daniela Braga get ready backstage before the 2017 Victoria's Secret Fashion Show in Shanghai, China on 20 November, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Chinese students take top honors in SC17 supercomputer competition

U Thayne Soe (70 years)

Son of U Sein Lin and the late Daw Hla Sein, beloved husband of Daw Swanti, residing at University Avenue, 77(E), Shwe Taung Kyar (1) Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon, eldest brother of U Soe Aung and Daw Li Li Hau, U Kyaw Thin, Dr. Ohmar Moe Myint and U Moe Myint, father of Daw Sandy Soe, Daw Saw Marlar Soe and U Nyau Phyo Min, Daw Soe Myat Soe and U Ponnya Kyaw, Daw Soe Pyae Soe Soe, grandfather of Ma Shin Mya Kha Kha Kyaw, Maung Agga Min, Ma Piti Min, Maung Min Myat Ponnya, peacefully passed away at his residence at 10:00 a.m. on 19 November 2017 (Sunday).

The funeral ceremony will be held at Yewa Cemetery at 4:00 p.m. on 21 November 2017 (Tuesday).

(U) Bodies will leave from the residence at 2:30 p.m.

Bereaved Family
Manchester United chasing Premier, Champions League titles — Ibrahimovic

LONDON — Manchester United are able to mount a serious challenge for both the Premier and Champions League titles this season thanks to a stronger squad, striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic has said.

Ibrahimovic, Paul Pogba and Marcos Rojo returned to United’s squad for Saturday’s 4-1 league win over Newcastle United as Jose Mourinho’s side, who are second in the league, remained eight points behind neighbours City. With four wins from four Champions League group games this season, United need just one more point from two matches to qualify for the last 16. They visit FC Basel on Wednesday.

Ibrahimovic told British media that a domestic and European double was very much a target.

“I think there is a possibility for everything. We are stronger this season. We believe we can do it — that’s the aim. To win and get the trophies,” he said.

“I think we can chase City, why is it not a possibility?”

“This week the manager has been very happy because he has a full team. He knows what he is doing, even when the number of players are limited because he’s a winner and has been winning every season.”

Ibrahimovic and Rojo returned from serious knee injuries sustained last season and started on the bench for an almost full-strength United squad. The Swede came on in the latter stages of the game.

Frenchman Pogba recovered from a hamstring injury and scored in his first game since September.—Reuters

FIFA MA Refereeing Course 2017 gets underway in Myanmar

By the cooperation of Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) and World Football Federation (WFF), FIFA MA Refereeing Course 2017 was launched yesterday morning at the meeting hall of the Myanmar Football Federation.

A total of 30 trainees are being participated in the training program of the course which will be concluded on 24 November.

The Russian instructor Mr. Lvanov is being coached the trainees according to MFF.

Manchester City must keep their cool despite stellar start, says Kompany

LONDON — Manchester City extended their winning run in the season to 16 games across all competitions but captain Vincent Kompany has urged the Premier League side to remain composed in their pursuit of silverware.

City maintained their eight-point lead at the top of the Premier League table with a 2-0 win at Leicester City on Saturday and are unbeaten in the Champions League heading into the knockout stages.

“It’s exceptional, but it’s just something at the start of a beautiful story.”

Pep Guardiola’s team finished third in the league last season and ended the campaign trophyless and defender Kompany is wary of a repeat this time around.

“We have played well last season as well, and therefore we need to be cautious that it’s not just about how well we play, but how much we can actually do the damage when we’re on the pitch,” Kompany said.

City top their Champions League group and face Feyenoord in their penultimate group stage match on Tuesday.—Reuters

Barcelona to appeal Suarez, Pique yellow cards

BARCELONA — La Liga leaders Barcelona will appeal the yellow cards handed to defender Gerard Pique and striker Luis Suarez during Saturday’s 3-0 win at Leganes, the Spanish club has said.

Pique was booked in the first half for fouling Leganes midfielder Nordim Amrabat and will miss Barcelona’s league game against second-placed Valencia through suspension if his yellow card is not repealed.

Suarez, who scored twice against Leganes to end a five-match goal drought, was cautioned for impeding goalkeeper Ivan Cuellar in the second half.

“FC Barcelona appealing yellow cards shown to Gerard Pique and Luis Suarez during Saturday’s 3-0 win at Leganes,” the Catalanian team said on their Twitter.

If the appeal is unsuccessful, Barcelona will have to rely on their only two fit centre-backs — Thomas Vermaelen and Samuel Umtiti — as they try to maintain their four-point lead at the top of the standings when they visit Valencia on Sunday.—Reuters