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Border trade over 4 months worth US\$4.1 billion, a decrease of US\$260 million

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**in**  
Picture

## National Verification Process speeds up

Members of a Hindu family led by Authiyan, 48, far right, of Zedipyin Village in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State wait outside the office of a mobile immigration team in Zedipyin Village for national verification, the next step toward achieving citizenship. The family received their National Verification Cards three days ago. **PHOTO: YE KHAUNG NYUNT**

## Peace Commission, DPN hold talks over ceasefire

THE Union Government's Peace Commission and representatives from the government and the United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC) who have yet to sign the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) held a meeting yesterday to discuss matters related with military issues.

At the opening of the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, Dr. Tin Myo Win, Chairman of the Peace Commission, called on representatives of both sides to reach a ceasefire deal, as progress was seen in the previous meeting.

"Making the best use of the progress we have seen in the previous meetings, the leaders of both sides at this meeting are to cooperate with each other to be able to bring peace to the entire indigenous people of the country," said Dr. Tin Myo Win.

The 7<sup>th</sup> meeting will focus on issues related with the Joint Monitoring Committee, including locating military camps, measures to be taken during the transition period and the role of foreign experts in the joint monitoring sector, said Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, representative of the Tatmadaw. In the meeting, representatives of the Tatmadaw will make clear some points of the JMC's works, as they are considered unclear by the ethnic armed organisations, he added.

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## Mrauk-U in Rakhine touted for UNESCO's cultural heritage list

Thura U Aung Ko, the Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture, said that the Ministry is making arrangements for putting Mrauk-U, an ancient city in Rakhine State, on the tentative list of 2018 UN-

ESCO cultural heritage sites.

At the 10<sup>th</sup> day meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> Amyotha Hluttaw 6<sup>th</sup> regular session held yesterday, concerning the question raised by U Maung Kyaw Zan of constituency 9 in Rakhine State, the

Union Minister replied, "The 1<sup>st</sup> Coordination meeting was held for putting forward Mrauk-U, the ancient city of Rakhine cultural heritage.

At the meeting, it was decided to systematically carry

out the tasks of designating Mrauk-U as a world cultural heritage site in combination with global countries, to cooperate with local people and Rakhine State Government and

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**BEST BANK IN MYANMAR**

Awarded by FinanceAsia 2017

## Pyithu Hluttaw

2<sup>nd</sup> Pyithu Hluttaw 6<sup>th</sup> regular session holds its 10<sup>th</sup> day meeting

By Aye Aye Thant

At today's meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, replies to five asterisk-marked questions and discussion from the Hluttaw representatives over one motion and acquisition of the approval of the Hluttaw concerning one bill were made.

Concerning the motion urging the Union Government to monitor the use of Information Technology which can possibly ruin youths' characters and threaten regional peace and stability put forward by Daw Yin Min Hlaing of Gantgaw constituency, Hluttaw representatives discussed at length.

Major Ne Win, Tatmadaw Hluttaw representative said, "Myanmar has reached the stage where every individual can use the internet. It has been found that effective use is very weak. Social media, especially ethnics in using Facebook, should be educated. It is of great importance to avoid the use of words which can ruin Myanmar culture, facts and stories which can badly affect readers, state-

ments and writings which can damage national security, and cause hate speech, which can result in hatred between races, individuals, institutions and religions, facts which can harm national solidarity and rule of law. Being the best and most effective weapon in organising and instigating people, social media should broadly be used only in the supportive spheres for the people and organisations."

He also added, "Previously, SIM Cards were available freely. Now, SIM Cards were made to be used by having them registered with the National Scrutiny Cards. It was found that online registration is easy, but registration can be made by dubious ways and means — such as purchase on behalf of others and transfers of users. Responsible officials from respective companies should effectively control the sale of SIM cards through systematic registration.

Measures for promulgating Cyber Law should be implemented as soon as possible. Regarding excessive use of social websites by youths and



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint. PHOTO: MNA

the spread of rumours and false news, educating, sharing knowledge and organising should be made among users. Simultaneously, those who violate existing rules and laws should be found out and arrested in accord with the law".

U Win Win of Minbu constituency, U Ne Htoo Aung of Nantogyi constituency, U Myo Zaw Aung of Kawlin constituency and U Ye Lin of Ahlone constituency also took part in the discussion.

In regards to the motion, U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for Transport and Communications replied, "Most internet

users in Myanmar are using social media such as Facebook, Messenger, Viber and Twitter. Out of them, Facebook users are on the top of the list, reaching nearly 14 million, according to estimates made in January, 2017.

Weather forecasts, situations on natural disasters, local and international news on politics, education, social activities and economic situations can be known with the changing times. It helped people to broaden their knowledge scope. But without judgment and reasoning as to the news and information, it can

ruin characters of youths, cause sexual arousal, drug trafficking, defamation of a person or an organisation, accusations, racial and religious conflicts, and ruination of regional peace and stability due to political agitation. "

The Union Minister added, "For emergence of social website users who are dutiful and conscientious, educating, promulgating necessary rules and laws, controlling licence-holding telecommunication operators, cooperating with those that are giving services of social media and website, monitoring and arresting from the respective authority are to be carried out. In doing so, so as not to harm privacy of users the tasks are to be implemented in negotiation with President Office and the Office of Union Attorney General.

Concerning the motion, U Win Myint, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw announced the motion was approved by the Hluttaw.

The 11th day meeting of the 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw, 6th regular session will be convened on 14 November, it was learnt. ■

## Overripe rice fields in Maungtau, Rakhine State harvested

ABOUT 779 acres of overripe fields had already been harvested in Maungtau region from 26 October to 7 October according to Agricultural Mechanization Department.

Over 620 acre of overripe rice paddy fields in Myothugyi ward in Maungtau Township were harvested by two harvesters yesterday morning.

An official of the Yangon Agricultural Mechanization Department U Maung-MaungLwin said "We are attempting to harvest paddy fields near Myothugyi ward using two harvesters but we can only harvest about 7 acres of rice paddies per day by a harvester as the fields are narrow".

There are about 40,000 acres of paddy fields among the total of 70,000 acres of rice paddy fields across the Buthidaung and Maung-

tau region are healthily ripened and ready for harvest. This year the production rate of the paddy are falling.

Last year's production rate of the paddy was about 65.84 baskets per acre while it is expected to produce only 54 baskets per acre this year.

As some terrorist attacks occurred in the region, we could not use sufficient fertilizers on the plantations said deputy head of Maungtau Agriculture Department U Than Kyaw.

All rice paddies will also be harvested with a total of 32 harvesters, including 14 State owned harvesters and 18 state government owned harvesters starting from 26 October until January 2018 according to the Agricultural Mechanization Department.—Nay Htet Khaung ■

## Mrauk-U in Rakhine touted for UNESCO's cultural heritage list

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to put forward the designation of Mrauk-U as a world cultural heritage site in the UNESCO world heritage conference to be held in June 2018, by combining an advisory board, a scholar group, local people and historians."

Concerning the question raised by Dr. Kyaw Than Tun (Canton) of constituency 3 of Mandalay Region, the Union Minister replied, "Tagaung Old Region in Thabeikkyin Township

was being conserved under the law on conservation of the regions as cultural heritage sites on 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2007 by designating an ancient edifice zone, ancient region zone and conserved area zone. To put forward as a world heritage site there are many requirements, data on the history, strength, accuracy, perfectness, being qualified with designated standards, cooperation and participation of the local populace, effective conservation of

cultural heritage and abiding by restrictions strictly. Moreover, Tagaung Old Region is of great importance for Myanmar history, but there are many necessities to include the region in the world heritage nomination list, and historians and researchers are to be sent for further research work. Accordingly, there are not any plans yet for putting forward Tagaung Old Region as the tentative list of world cultural heritage."—Aung Ye Thwin ■

## Peace Commission, DPN hold talks over ceasefire

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He also said that the Delegation of Peace Negotiation (DPN) proposed a better way for discussion with the UPDJC, as there are some deadlocks between the Peace Commission and the DPN.

During the meeting yesterday, the two sides reached agreement on inviting interna-

tional representatives for the joint-monitoring committee.

Khu Oo Ral, leader of the DPN, expressed his hope that the leaders of both sides could find consensus of the deadlock.

The two sides have met seven times in 15 months in seeking ways for all to sign the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.

The meeting was attended

by Dr. Tin Myo Win, U Thein Zaw, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Lt-Gen Min Naung, Lt-Gen Tin Maung Win, Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint, U Naing Ngan Lin and members of the Peace Commission, members of the JMCU, members of the DPN and observers. The meeting continues today at the same venue.—Zaw Gyi ■

## Union Auditor General attends 4<sup>th</sup> ASEANSAI Summit



Union Auditor General U Maw Than and senior officials pose for a documentary photo at 4th ASEANSAI Summit in Vientiane, Lao. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

U MAW THAN, Union Auditor General, attended the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEANSAI Summit held in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic

Republic, on 6 November. Present at the summit meeting were Auditors General from ASEAN and represent-

atives and those who represent donor countries.

At the summit meeting, reports on the working per-

formances of the years 2015 to 2017, of the Strategic Planning Committee, Rules and Procedure Committee, Knowledge Sharing Committee, Training Committee, Head of Administration Function and Head of Secretariat Function were clarified and approval was made. Following that, Financial Statements of ASEAN Auditor General Offices for the years 2016 and 2017, preparation for Rules and Procedures and strategic project for the years 2018-2021 were approved.

Then, projects and budgets of working committees for

the year 2018-2019 and ASEANSAI were explained and approval was made.

At the summit meeting, chairman of the Office of LPDR Auditor General was appointed as the chairman of ASEANSAI for the year 2018-2019, with the Malaysian Auditor General appointed as vice-chairman.

For the tenure between 2018-2023, the Indonesian Auditor General Office was approved as the secretariat office, with Office of Auditor-General, Thailand approved as the auditor to check financial statements for the years 2016-2017, it was learnt. ■



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and party inspect the harvesting rice paddy fields. **PHOTO: MIN HTET**

## Rakhine State Chief Minister inspects storage of grains in Maungtaw

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, the State Ministers and entrepreneurs from building and infrastructure construction inspected the conditions of the storage of grains after harvesting in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State yesterday morning.

The Rakhine State Chief Minister and party also inspected the rice harvesting in the fields near Chainkhalain village and Myinlout village in southern Maungtaw region. The paddy fields are harvested by the Agricultural Mechanization

Department and the Settlement and Land Records Department.

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu also viewed the drying storage places in Alalthankyaw village. The Chief Minister, the State Ministers and entrepreneurs inspected the harvesting paddy fields in Ohntaw village and Kyaukpadu 100 houses construction project. The cabinets members and officials from the Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Department gave sector-wise clarifications

regarding the difficulties of the construction.

Then, the state chief minister and officials met with the local people at construction of Kyaukpadu 100 houses construction project implemented by the Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Department in Kyaukpadu village. Afterward, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu encouraged the local people during implementing the construction of the project. —Nay Htet Khaung ■

## Three men arrested for illegal logging in Bamauk

A TEAM from local forestry department in Bamauk, Katha District in Sagaing Region, found three men illegally logging teak trees and sawed teak weighing more than 42 tons and an elephant near Thayatkon Village

in Bamauk Township, Sagaing Region, on 7<sup>th</sup> November.

Acting on a tip-off, the team comprising officials of the Forest Department and local police inspected a forest reserve No. 12 near Thayatkon Village and dis-

covered 100 logs weighing more than 29 tons, sawed timber weighing more than 13.5 tons, one chainsaw, one elephant and three men. Bamauk Police Station has opened a file against them. —Maung Chit Lin (Indaw) ■

## American companies introduce digital advances at tech summit

May Thet Hnin

In an attempt to persuade Myanmar businesses to use digital technology, the US ICT Council for Myanmar, which includes the American companies Microsoft, vmware, Oracle, Google, Cisco, and Visa, held a Digital Transformation Summit yesterday at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI).

Some of those tech companies have been providing technical solutions to banks and telecommunication enterprises for the past two years. This summit aims to further introduce digital technologies to Myanmar commerce.

Small firms are far removed from digital technology due to monetary problems and other difficulties. However, this summit aimed to prove that digitizing can actually reduce costs, a technology expert said.

“The smaller the firm is, the more they need to change into digitisation. It can save labour costs and it is cost effective. This summit also aims to help local businessmen understand about digitisation. Digitising awareness needs to be raised among SMEs. At present, most of the local banks are using digital technology. We also supported our technical solutions for the e-government process by establishing data centres”, said U Tun Tun Lin, territory manager of vmware. “Oracle introduced the Oracle Cloud solution. We

are providing our solution for large companies. They can run their business at low cost with a cloud application”, said May Lei Thiri, sales manager for Oracle.

Oracle is a technology provider that helps businesses transition their IT operations to the cloud, an online storage system that is always accessible provided there is adequate internet connections.

Myanmar is lagging behind neighbouring countries in utilisation of digitisation in commerce. Businesses utilising digital technology account for less than one per cent of the entire industry, according to a survey of the US ICT Council. However, the survey points out that the number of businesses using digitisation has increased from 2,500 to over 9,000.

“Frankly I say, tech companies will persuade the businesses to sell their solutions. We requested them to offer reasonable price with our small firms. We also asked for technical sharing to our local businesses. If many businesses are interested in it, they will make a profit later”, said U Thaug Tin, the vice chairperson of UMFCCI.

Officials from the US ICT Council at the tech summit discussed topics such as “Digitising Business Processing and aAdvancing Cybersecurity” and “Using the Internet to Improve Marketing and Business Expansion”. Attendees also raised questions for further discussions. ■

## Let us open the door to negotiation

Khin Maung Oo

**I**N regard to the Rakhine State affair, the international community is criticizing Myanmar based on one single point of view, that of human rights. They do not seem to understand that Myanmar is a country made up of 135 national ethnic races. That is, they do not seem to be able to understand there is a huge difference between ethnic nationals and citizens. They are saying that loss of human rights is the only matter of importance.

The international community needs to acknowledge without fail that the Union Government had already agreed to grant citizenship rights to those who are worth recognizing as citizens in accord with rules and laws among those of Bengali extraction. At the same time, it is necessary for the international community to recognize that Myanmar and Myanmar nationals cannot make any concessions regarding the claim by these people of Bengali extraction that they

are one of the national ethnic races of Myanmar. This claim of ethnicity is not a matter open for negotiation. Plus, the international community needs to realize is that Myanmar had agreed to carefully scrutinize in accord with the law and accept people of Bengali extraction who had fled to Bangladesh for reasons best known to themselves. There may be two factors at play here, one is the pull factor and the other is the push factor. The pull factor may be that they may have heard from their relatives and friends in the refugee camps that cash subsidies had been paid to the refugees in Bangladesh. Another simple answer may be that they wish to be together with members of their own community who share the same religion and race. At this point these are mere conjectures.

Provided that the global community is really desirous of peace and stability in Rakhine State, they are essentially required to recognize a fundamental fact of social science. That is none other than the fact that those of Bengali

origin living in Rakhine State are under the compulsory obligation to search for ways of peaceful co-existence with the remaining national races such as the Rakhines, the Mro, the Thet and also with Hindus of Bengali extraction. In this matter, the simple fact is that all those who live in Rakhine State must learn to live in harmony with full understanding that all national ethnic races and people of Bengali extraction who have been permitted to return to live in Rakhine State must learn to live like brothers and sisters of the same Union.

As for the international community, they should have openly disclosed that they will never accept any deeds and behaviors which will harm the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Union of Myanmar. During the period of performing the two processes—accepting and offering citizen rights after scrutiny, they should suggest as to how they would like to help in practical ways instead of trying to interfere in the internal affairs of a sovereign country with demands, allegations

and accusations which are totally uncalled for. Yet, what they are actually doing is completely different from what really should be done. The recent hasty decision to impose targeted sanctions on the Myanmar Tatmadaw shows a total lack of understanding of the real situation at the ground level. It is unfortunate that a foreign power has led its foreign policy to be swayed and influenced by lobbyists whose sole interest is to get what they want. If foreign policy makers are unable to think through the consequences of their actions, they would certainly get instant gratification but in the long run, the national interests of their own country would certainly suffer. It is a sad state of affairs when the loud voices of interest groups and well-paid lobbyists can drown out the logical reasoning of well-trained diplomats with years of relevant country experience. They should realize the fact that Myanmar does not stand alone and that Myanmar's national leaders and the Myanmar Tatmadaw have the full support of the people. ■

## King Bayintnaung Bell, the fourth Memory of the World

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)

**U**NITED Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has started the program “Memory of the World” in 1992 to do assessment on the heritages of the countries and select the heritages that meet the required criteria to be registered in the “Memory of the World” UNESCO had issued the list of heritages that went as far back as 1700 AD registered in the “Memory of the World”. Those heritages registered in “Memory of the World” included both tangible objects and intangible culture.

The aims and objectives of the “Memory of the World” program is primarily to promote the conservation works on historical and cultural heritages of the respective countries.

104 countries in cooperation with 5 organizations had carried out the program and could have registered 338 heritages in the “Memory of the World” till 2015. Out of 338 heritages which won the registration in “Memory of the World”, the King Bayintnaung Bell Inscriptions at the Shwezigon pagoda in Bagan has become Myanmar’s fourth registration in “Memory of the World” recently.

The first three heritages were from Myanmar. UNESCO usually makes the assessment on the heritages submitted and issues the list of winner biennially. The first three winners from Myanmar are the 150-year-old Pitakas Stone Slabs in the Maha Lawka Marazein Pagoda of Mandalay, Gold Leaf letter of Alaung Mintaya U Aung Zeya, the 904-year-old

Yaza Kumar Stone Inscription, the oldest-surviving inscription.

### Fourth Registration in “Memory of the World”

The King Bayintnaung Bell Inscriptions document the donations made for Buddhist religious merit and are inscribed in 3 languages; 43 lines in Myanmar language, 35 lines in Mon language and five lines in Pali language.

Recorded on the bell, are the name of the donor, their endeavor for the country, their meritorious deeds, prayers, and occupied regions with the dates; the date of throne ascendance and the donated date of this bell. Also the inscriptions include the accurate regal titles for the king and his chief Queen. The Bell inscriptions are now located at the Shwezigon Pagoda in Bagan and were donated by King Bayintnaung in 1557 AD.

Ministry of Culture made the submission on King Bayintnaung’s 16th Century Bell to the UNESCO’s program in December 2014.

The Bayintnaung Bell was cast with 2100 bowls of brass.

### Bayintnaung Bell

The Bayintnaung Bell is 3 feet 8 inches high, girth is 3 ft. 6 in., girth of the base is 10 ft. 3 in., thickness is 6 in., diameter is 1 ft. 7 in., height of the hanger (paunggaing) is 1 ft. 7 in., girth of the hanger is 1 ft. 4 in. and the girth of the neck is 4 ft. 1 in. The inscriptions in both Myanmar and Mon language can be seen on the face of the bell. There are also 5 lines in Pali language inscribed in the part above neck and below the hanger.



Bayintnaung Bell was cast and donated to the pagoda in 1557 and since the military and political activities, victory in war against the neighbouring lands, meritorious deeds in culture during the reign of King Bayintnaung was written on the bell, the Bayintnaung Bell has been kept under national level protection.

According to the inscription record on the bell, King Bayintnaung had cast a bell and donated at the Shwezigon Pa-

goda which was one of the product of meritorious deeds of King Anawrahta and Kyansittha on 23 May 1557.

The inscriptions of 35 lines on the bell in Mon language was translated into Myanmar and published in the Anthology of Stone Inscriptions in Mon language in 1965.

King Bayintnaung won the Kaytumadi on Sunday, 11 January 1551 and could defeat the Thaye Khitaya (Sri Ksetra) on Saturday, 30 August 1551. Then the king conquered Hanthawaddy on Saturday, 12 March 1552 and ascended the throne in the Kanbawzathardi palace.

In 1555 January 22, Tuesday King Bayintnaung conquered Inwa and the king and queen together with his ministers, retinues and military transferred along the river to Inwa. The king and queen arrived in Inwa on Thursday, 24 December 1556. During the riverine trip to Inwa, the royal barge of the king and queen was splendidly and profusely ornamented and decorated.

Bayintnaung had vanquished Momeik, Thibaw and Ruby Land on Monday, 25 January 1557 and two weeks later the king held the ceremony of stake driving for Yadana Zedi (pagoda) in the northwest angle of Momeik and enshrined the sacred relics of enlightened one on 8 February 1557. Then the king left Momeik and marched to Htichaint (Diky) and reached it 3 days later. He then built a bridge across Diky river and proceeded his march and could occupy Monhyin on Saturday, 6 March 1557. On 25 March he won Mokaung.

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