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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

US\$1.3 million in trade at Maungtaw border in July

BORDER trade values at the Maungtaw border in Rakhine State was estimated at US\$ 1.3 million in July, according to the Maungtaw Township Trade Department.

The trade projection for July was \$350,000, with \$300,000 in exports and \$50,000 in imports, said U Tun Kyaw, staff officer of Maungtaw Township Trade Department.

The main export items at Maungtaw gate are ginger, rice, garlic, mushrooms, saltwater prawn and dried fish.

Other exports include soap, candy, plum jam, footwear, and ointment.— A One Soe, Myo Thu Hein ■



Labourers loading sacks of rice to boat in Maungtaw, Rakhine State. PHOTO: A ONE SOE

Myanmar man arrested over stabbing of ex-girlfriend near Tokyo Station

A 28-year-old man was arrested Monday on suspicion of attempted murder after stabbing his 26-year-old former girlfriend on a street in the Otemachi business district near JR Tokyo Station.

Both the victim, who temporarily fell unconscious, and the suspect, Nyein Chang Aung, are students from Myanmar; the Metropolitan Police Department

said, adding the man has admitted to the charge.

The police arrested Nyein at the scene, alleging he stabbed the woman in the back with a knife at around 6:45 a.m.

The victim and the suspect became acquainted in June 2012 in Myanmar and broke up in April last year, the police said.

The victim consulted with

the police on 14 January, saying the suspect was waiting for her in front of her home and posting slanderous messages about her current boyfriend on Facebook. At her request, the police warned Nyein the same day to cease such behavior and he said he would desist, according to the police.

A 53-year-old man, who

passed the scene of the incident on his way to work, said, "A woman was lying limp in a pool of blood...A man was holding her while another woman was talking on the phone in a panic," he said.

The suspect was doing a part-time cleaning job at a building near the scene, the police said.—Kyodo News ■

Traditional retailers in Yangon urged to use card payment system

By May Thet Hnin

U Myo Min Aung, vice-chairman of Myanmar Retailers Association, said it is now working to implement card payment system in Yangon's retail market, urging traditional retailers to use card payment system instead of paying with cash.

He said; "The move is aimed at solving a shortage of small banknotes. In the retail market, both buyers and sellers are facing scarcity of small banknotes, with the result that the prices of goods increase a bit from its regular selling prices. It is also aimed at controlling the commodity price to a certain degree. For the time being, awareness raising programmes have been made by

the association in cooperation with Ayeyawady Bank in retail stores. A good internet connection and banking networks are required to successfully install a card payment system at retail shops. It needs to take a time to implement the plan. We are working to implement the plan as quickly as possible."

In the first phase, the association is introducing the card payment system at traditional retail stores in commercial city Yangon, encouraging them to use this system. It is planning to implement the plan in other regions and states through our syndicates in the future.

U Myo Min Aung said; "We invite retailers to come to seminars to understand the benefits of this payment system, which

will be needed at the time when international companies enter the country. Awareness raising campaigns have always been made every two months, resulting that some retailers show their interest in the system."

He continued to say that in making payment by card system, the aim for all different kinds of cards currently used in the country are able to use the system with an appropriate machines. Banks are ready to sell necessary equipment as well as methods of using the system. The association will perform as a bridge between retailers and bankers.

U Myo Min Aung said that he hopes that this payment system is likely to be used not only in retail market but in related

businesses in the future.

He went on to say that proposal relating to the use of card payment system in retail market have already been submitted to the government. Currently, some supermarkets started using the system, only 4 % of the total retailers. According to a survey conducted in 2015, the country has about 350,000 traditional retail stores.

To educate people about the use of card payment system in retail market, a seminar entitled "Towards Retail Stores Excellence" is planned to take place at the upcoming Myanmar Retail Sourcing Expo 2017 to be held at Yangon's Tatmadaw Exhibition Hall on 18 August. ■