Action taken on resolution related to Myanmar at Special Session of UNHRC

Myanmar dissociates itself from the resolution

At the request of the member states of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the 27th Special Session of the Human Rights Council on Myanmar was held on 5 December 2017 in Geneva. At the meeting, Bangladesh delegation submitted a draft resolution entitled “Situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar”.

After the introduction of the resolution, Permanent Representative U Htin Lynn of Myanmar delivered a statement. Main points of his statement are as follows:

- Myanmar opposes any country-specific resolution. The resolution gives rise also to polarization, division and confrontation. It does not reflect the principles of the Human Rights Council such as impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity.
- Some elements in the draft resolution are infringing on the state sovereignty of Myanmar. Allegations without sufficient and concrete body of evidence are also incorporated in the text.
- International assistance should be part of the solution, not part of the problem.
- It fails to condemn the attacks of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army-ARSA.
- For these reasons, Myanmar delegation shall dissociate itself from the resolution under consideration.
- Myanmar will continue to work relentlessly to address challenges of the Rakhine state with or without a resolution by the Human Rights Council.

SEE PAGE-3
Union Minister for Information meets Vice President of China Radio International in China

UNION Minister for Information, Dr Pe Myint met with Vice President of China Radio International, Mr Hu Bangsheng at the building of China Radio International in Beijing, People’s Republic of China yesterday afternoon. During the meeting, the cooperation of media, exchange of Information Technology sector between the two countries were discussed. At night, a delegation led by Union Minister arrived back in Yangon and they were welcomed by responsible officials of the Ministry of Information and Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang at the Yangon International Airport. — Myanmar News Agency

Analysis on poppy cultivation, opium production released

A ceremony for releasing an analysis on poppy cultivation and opium production in 2017 was held at the Kempinski Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the ceremony, Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Union Minister for Home Affairs and Chairman of Central Committee for Prevention from the Dangers of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, said, “The Central Committee for Drug Abuse and the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crimes made a data collection survey in cooperation since 2001 concerning poppy cultivation and opium production under the program ICMP. The ICMP is launching the data collection in cooperation with respective governmental departments, according to the projects laid down by the 53rd Session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs held in March in 2009. Poppy cultivation and opium production in Myanmar decreased, reaching to the lowest level in 2006 — 21500 hectares. But it rose up again during the period — from 2007-2013. And then it dropped to some extent during 2013-2016. In 2017 it decreased remarkably. Poppy cultivation was mostly done in Shan State, but also within Kachin, Chin and Kayah states. In 1999, a narcotic drugs eradication project — a 15-year plan and 5-year added plans were drawn up till 2019 and eradication of drugs including opium was launched.”

Also, Union Minister added, “UNODC Projects — poppy-substituted crops, coffee plantation, timber plantation and forest conservation — were carried out in Hophone and Loilem regions with the assistance of the EU and Germany. The Central Committee for Drug Abuse approved the new policy on national drug control based on various sectors such as prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, reduction of production and development in substitution, concerning drug control in November; 2017 in cooperation with UNODC and its related partner organisations. Having approved the new policy on narcotic drugs, reduction of poppy cultivation based on the new policy must be included as the major sector. So as to reduce poppy cultivation, tasks for rural development, which included all-round development, must be prioritised in poppy-growing areas. Substituted crops, livestock breeding, acquisition of market and sources for other income must be brought about for farmers.”

In addition, Mr. Jeremy Douglas, UNODC resident coordinator on Southeast Asia and the Pacific, clarified the facts and figures included in the report with a power point presentation. Afterward, representatives from UNODC and responsible officials from the central committee replied to questions raised by members of the news media. Present at the meeting were Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers, diplomats in Myanmar members of Central Committee for Prevention from the Dangers of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Directors-General of the Ministries of Home Affairs, representatives from UNODC, high-ranking officials from Myanmar Police Forces, journalists, it was learnt.—Myanmar News Agency

Workshop for HDI users held in Nay Pyi Taw

A workshop for Human Development Index users was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. The Human Development Index is a composite statistic of life expectancy, education, and per capita income indicators, which are used to rank countries into four tiers of human development.

At the opening ceremony, U Thein Swe, the Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population, spoke of the importance of the statistical index. “For systematic compilation and implementation of Human Resource Management Projects, it mainly depends on the acquisition of accurate and reliable statistics on human resources. The Vice-President instructed us to make concerted efforts for emergence of statistics that reflect current economic conditions and social welfare”, the Union Minister said. The Union Minister said one of the purposes of the workshop was to give updates on how this information is being used. “For the development of human resources, efficiency training schools are being conducted with a view to encouraging vocational education. The Manual on Human Development Index (2017) includes facts and figures of certain periods — from 2011-2012 to 2016-2017. And it represents 62 indexes including national population, education, health, social affairs, employment, agriculture, etc. For emergence of the Human Development Index, which will be of great use for the nation as well as for the region, I hereby urge representatives from departments to wholeheartedly give suggestions based on their experiences and skills”, the Union Minister said.

Awards, U Win Shein, Director-General of the Department of Labour said, “Being the index of great importance for HDI Users, facts and figures sent from the respective ministries need to be accurate and authentic and the respective departments need to take responsibility and accountability for the statistics they sent.”

Following that, departmental heads, representatives from NGOs and experts went into in-depth discussions about the use and importance of the data. The workshop for HDI Users was held with a view to making policy makers, project planners and managers well convinced of the importance of HDI in studying the national economic and social affairs with the changing times. The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population is implementing the task of discovering HDI, in consultation with 39 enterprises from its related department and experts from NGOs.—Myanmar News Agency

Photo shows pictures of opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY
State Counsellor receives Executive Director for Human Rights and NBC Director

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Union of Myanmar, received Mr. Jostein Hole Kobbelværd, Executive Director at Rafto Foundation for Human Rights and Mr. Audun Aagre, Omsensgt, Director of Norwegian Burma Committee (NBC Myanmar), on 6 December 2017 at 10:00 am at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During this meeting, they exchanged views on matters pertaining to the peace process in Myanmar and situation in Rakhine State.—Myanmar News Agency

Statement by Ambassador H.E. Mr. Htin Lynn, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Myanmar at the 27th Special Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council
Consideration and action on A/HRC/S-27/L.1
Geneva, 5 December 2017

Mr. President,

Paragraph 117 of document A/HRC/RES/50/1 on working culture of the Human Rights Council explicitly mentioned the need for minimizing unnecessary duplication of initiatives with the General Assembly/Third Committee. The holding of Special Session today and its intended outcome thereon is a clear departure from this decision.

As a matter of principle and like many is this chamber, Myanmar opposes any country specific resolutions. They are not conducive to meaningful dialogue but give rise also to polarization, division and even confrontation.

The country specific resolution today is no exception. It is regrettable to see that our collective efforts in acting as responsible members of the council for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe are slowly and gradually drifting away from the cardinal principles of impartiality, objectivity, non-selectiveness and balance. Pre-determined politicization and partiality seems to be taking roots in our work.

Myanmar undoubtedly is the one who has the highest concern about challenges in Rakhine State. Myanmar welcomes the assistance and efforts by the international community in addressing the issue. However, it should be part of the solution, not part of the problem. While we share the concern by the international community, any effort by the international community should not be fanning the flame on the ground.

The draft resolution is focusing on a particular group of people belonging to a particular faith. Promoting and Protection of Human Rights should be for all people of the globe irrespective of race, religion and gender. A United Nations forum such as Human Rights Council should not be a platform for such a biased approach, setting a bad precedent for the Council.

Let me turn to the text of draft resolution under consideration.

Some elements in the draft resolution is infringing on the state sovereignty of Myanmar. Some are far from truth and not in line with situation on the ground. Using unverified figures in the draft resolution is also unethical and unprofessional. Allegations without sufficient and concrete body of evidence are also incorporated in the text.

It is also questionable that whether considering Myanmar at all forums of the United Nations is based on a genuine goodwill or otherwise. It is also questionable that whether we are spending the budget of the United Nations effectively and efficiently.

Mr. President,

- Multiple elements in some of the PPs and OPs are simply copied from the recommendations of Rakhine Advisory Commission led by Dr. Kofi Annan and pasted in the text of the draft resolution. Elements such as freedom of movement, humanitarian access, inter-communal dialogue, economic and social development, citizenship law, national verification in the recommendations of the Rakhine Advisory Commission were pick up selectively and reproduced negatively. As the government is already implementing the Advisory Committee’s recommendations, we should ask ourselves what is the value added we could possibly achieve in this exercise.

- The draft resolution fails to condemn the attacks of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army - ARSA against police and military posts on 25 August 2017 which had triggered unprecedented humanitarian situation in Rakhine State. Since their first attack on October 9, 2016, the so-called “ARSA” claimed responsibility in an 18-minute video released very shortly. Shying away to denounce such terrorist attacks by their name is tacitly approving their acts. If it is the cases, these acts will go on wherever these people are.

- We have been dissociating ourselves from an independent, international Fact-Finding Mission to Myanmar as it is not in harmony with the situation on the ground and our national circumstances. As of today, this position remains unchanged.

- In relation to the OP 20, Myanmar has been responding and providing all necessary information as and when requested by all special procedure mandate holders. Like many member states, we are not in a position to invite and receive them all into the country at this juncture.

- By virtue of OP 21 and 22, Myanmar will be on the agenda of almost all forthcoming regular sessions of the Council if we include reporting requirements of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar and Fact-Finding Mission. This undue attention is redundant and excessive for a country which has been facilitating the mandate of successive Special Rapporteurs into the country since 1992.

Mr. President,

For these reasons, my delegation shall dissociate itself from the resolution under consideration.

The complexity of Rakhine issue is gigantic, and thus requires a closer and better understanding of the challenges in Rakhine State by the International Community.

Myanmar is responding the calls made by the international community with progress being made and continue to make on the ground. We shall continue to work relentlessly to address immediate and long term challenges of the Rakhine State, with or without a resolution by the Human Rights Council.—MNA

Action taken on resolution related to Myanmar at Special Session of UNHRC

FROM PAGE:1
(The full text of statement is appeared separately.)

The delegation of the People’s Republic of China, member of the Human Rights Council, called for a vote on the draft resolution.

The resolution was adopted with 33 vote in favour, 3 against and 9 abstention. Two members of the Human Rights Council did not participate in the voting. Those who voted against the resolution are the People’s Republic of China which called for vote, the Republic of the Philippines, the ASEAN Chair for 2017 and Burundi.

The Government of Myanmar has been exerting its efforts to resolve the issue of Rakhine State internally as well as through cooperation with Bangladesh at bilateral context. The delegation of China has called for vote citing the reason that the resolution would not positively contribute to the situation on the ground, but even further complicate the situation. As 14, out of 47 members Human Rights Council, did not support the resolution consensus was not reached in adopting the resolution.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar expressed its appreciation to those member states of the Human Rights Council who have shown their understanding towards Myanmar by calling for a vote or by voting against or abstention or by not participating in the voting amid enormous pressure encountered with regard to the issue of Rakhine State, it was learnt.—MNA

Photo: My an Ei
7 December 2017
The Global New light of Myanmar

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Executive Director Mr. Jostein Hole Kobbelværd in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY
Number of housing savings account holders at CHDB exceeds 20,000

THE number of housing savings deposit account holders at Construction and Housing Development Bank (CHDB) currently reached more than 20,000, according to a report of the Myawady Daily.

The CHDB has been offering housing saving accounts since August 2016. Under the bank’s rules and regulations, people wishing to buy an apartment from housing projects need 30 per cent of the home’s value in their savings account. The qualified account holders may join the bank’s installment payment plan.

For the time being, over 20,000 individuals opened housing savings accounts at the bank. However, there are only a thousand account holders, who are able to pay 30 per cent down payment for the apartment, said a spokesperson of the bank.

Housing demand will be driven by Myanmar’s growing population, which is estimated to rise from its current population of 51 million to 70.56 million by 2040. It is estimated that the commercial city Yangon will require one million new units by 2040. According to the 2014 census, there were 1.58 million housing units in the city.

To fill the housing requirement of people, the Housing Development Department plans to build around 100,000 housing units within next five years.

Over 20,000 individuals opened housing savings account at Construction and Housing Development Bank. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Thilawa road project to start in April 2018

THILAWA Road stretching from Thanlutpin, Kayan and Thongewa to Thilawa Special Economic Zone will be implemented in April, 2018, according to a report in the Myawady Daily.

The project will be implemented with the assistance of Asian Development Bank (ADB). Currently, the officials are discussing the implementation of road project.

The Region Government is planning to construct a detour in Thongewa with an aim to avoid traffic jam problems. The Region Government will develop Bago-Thilawa Road project to facilitate the smooth flow of goods to Yangon, said Daw Nilar Kyaw, Yangon Region Minister for Electricity, Industry and Transport.

Currently, only small vehicles are using the road. The road will be upgraded into one container trucks can use.

Upon completion of the project, townships along the road will see more development. Besides, the road will help the smooth flow of goods, reduce travel times and bring about educational, health and social development of people in nearby regions.—GNLM

MoNREC plans to extend new offices nationwide under nine-year plan

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MoNREC) said it is working to extend the opening of new offices throughout the nation, aiming to efficiently implement environmental conservation projects, according to the Myawady Daily.

Concerted efforts are being made to draw up plans to recruit and conduct capacity building trainings to exert efforts into preservation of natural resources, said Daw Khin Thida Thin, director of the Department of Environmental Conservation.

More township-level offices are to be opened in states and regions under a nine-year plan.

Established in 2012, the Department of Environmental Conservation managed to form district-level offices in Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions as well as Shan State the following year.

The aforesaid department continued to open five more branch offices in other regions and states in 2014. It also established four more in the rest regions in 2015. The last office was opened in the capital Nay Pyi Taw this year.—GNLM

Three young men killed in single motorcycle crash

THREE young men died in a single motorbike crash on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway road on Monday early morning, according to a police report.

According to witnesses, a speeding motorbike carrying three people en route to Bago Town collided with an iron-framed rail entry gate between mile posts No. 52/6 and 52/7 on Yangon-Mandalay Highway near Kali Village located two miles from the north of Bago Township Police Station at around 3 a.m. on 4 December.

The collision killed two motorcyclists on the spot—Chit Ko, 25, and Ko Wai, 19. The third one named Aung Thiha, 16, also died in the Bago Region General Hospital. Action is being taken by local police under Section 304(a) and 338 of the Penal Code.

Traffic police say that the majority of motorcycle accidents are caused by speeding or alcohol use and crashes involving speeding or alcohol are much more likely to result in death or serious injury. Traffic police is urging people to follow traffic rules to prevent possible risks of road accident.—Zaw Shin (Ottha)
Myanmar cement now exporting to India

CEMENT manufactured in Myanmar is starting to be exported to India as a result of strong market conditions, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Although Myanmar manufactures cement, Myanmar has to import cement from abroad to satisfy local demand. The consumption of cement is so high in Myanmar that, until recently, no surplus cement was available for export. Until now.

According to Ministry of Commerce statistics, Myanmar imported cement weighing a total of 21,244 tons worth US$999,118 via sea routes from 12 to 18 November.

The cement bags were imported 26 tons from Thailand and 21,218 tons from Malaysia. Moreover, Myanmar has also imported cement weighing over 5,600 tons via border trades from 11 to 17 November.

According to the Ministry statistics, Myanmar exported the cement weighing 150 tons worth US$0.010 million via Tamu-Moeyay border trade from 10 to 15 November.

The AAA brand cement made in Myanmar was sold as retail at the Nampharlon market in Myanmar-India border trade and other stores in Tamu township. Then, AAA brand cement penetrated the India market because of its good quality. The cement is selling for Ks6000 per bag at the retail market at Tamu Township.

Low pomelo production cannot satisfy export demand

POMELO production in Mon State is so low that it cannot cope with export demand despite China market’s keen interest on pomelo, said local pomelo growers.

Mon State has more than 2,000 acres of pomelo farms but only 11.5 million of pomelo are produced per season, which can keep up with only the local consumer demand. The production cannot meet the export target yet, said U Myo Han, a pomelo grower from Mawlamyine, Mon State.

China show strong interest on Myanmar’s pomelo. However, we cannot provide enough supply for it. There is no vacant plot of land to extend the cultivation. Additionally, the growers still cannot determine the pedigree varieties to get quality fruit and fetch good price, he continued.

Having the land problem, pomelo can be placed on export market only if a series of pomelo growers group and the competent authorities decide to set up pomelo zone with a view to boosting the production.

We will make efforts to grow pomelo in line with Good Agriculture Practice (GAP). Our pomelo can penetrate more export markets if it receives GAP certificate, said an official from Trade Department.

Pomelo can be produced twice a year. If there is good weather condition in the rainy season, it produces higher than the summer season, allowing the growers to earn a healthy profit. If the authorities create a market and the growers get access to government’s subsidies, it can make handsome profits, said the pomelo growers.

— Zar Lin Thu (AMIA)
Over 5500 acres of paddies winnowed in Maungtaw

The Rakhine State government announced yesterday that more than 5,549 acres of paddy fields belonging to farmers who fled to Bangladesh have recently been winnowed.

Authorities formed a committee to winnow the fields using tractors from 26 October to 5 December.

According to the committee, the winnowing process led by Agriculture Mechanization Department, has been carried out in many villages, such as Myothugyi, Ohntaw, Kanpu, Kyaungtaung, Ale-tankyaw, Nwaryonetaung, Warcha, Thanda, Myinlut, Kyeekanpyin, Thihokyun, Oo-daung, Laungdon, Aungshipyn, Sabeigone, Thabyetaw, Zawmathtet, Doetan, Ywarthikay, Kyaukpannu, Tatoochaung, Ducheeyartan, Thayaykone- tan, Thawonchaung, and Ngakuya.

Many villages in Sittway Township, totaling 378 acres of rice fields, have been winnowed in Chaungpwa, Partalate, Thin- ganet, Kweetae, Kantkawkun, Mingan and Naryikan villages.

Using tractors, many villages in Minbya township were winnowed, totaling 238 acres of paddy fields, 330 acres of paddy fields in Kyauktaw Township, 276 acres of rice fields in Yathaytaung Township, and 276 acres of paddy fields in Buthi- taung Township.

Similarly, 96 acres of paddy fields were winnowed in Buthidaung Township from 10 November to 5 December.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Border Affairs Department builds four new villages in Maungtaw District

Houses for four villages of Mro ethnic villagers in Maungtaw District are under construction at a new location.

The new village of Kontaing for Mro ethnic villagers would have 48 single storey buildings each worth Ks 7 million and will include a traditional Mro house with bamboo.

Khnhtaining (Mro) village near Dewanali village, northern Maungtaw region and 2 miles from the base of Mayyu Moun- tain was burnt and destroyed by more than 400 ARSA extremist terrorists on the afternoon of 28 August killing 7 and wounding 5 ethnic Mro nationals.

Remaining villagers had to flee to safe areas.

“The new Khntai Village project is targeted to complete at the end of this fiscal year. Currently, developers of all housing projects here are facing shortage of labours and some has hired labours from mainland,” said U Sow Lwin, Deputy Director of the Border Areas and National Races Development Affairs Department.

The department is also de- developling other four villages in- cluding Kyaukpandu and Nan-rankaing in Maungtaw District and Zeton Village in Buthidaung.

Meanwhile, new Khnhtaining village beside Kyeeinchaung-Bandoos road and Padaka creek will be on 35 acres of land. 96 single storey buildings each worth Ks 7 million will be built on a 40×60 ft. plot of land and will include a traditional Mro house, 3 multiple use hall, a clinic, a school and a monastery as well.

Ethnic Mro nationals lived peacefully with agriculture and new Khnhtaining (Mro) village will soon be developed with the full requisite of a village.—News Team ■

Village in-charge killed in Maungtaw

An in-charge of a village in Maungtaw District was killed by two unknown attackers on Tuesday. —Shaw Feik Amen from Dun- yangpingyi Village in the dis- trict died on the spot with cuts and two bullet wounds at 9 pm.

Following an information on the attack, security forces inspected the place and found two bullet shells. A witness said three unidentified men intruded the victim’s home, gunned down and cut him. One bullet wound is found in his womb with several cuts on his neck and other parts.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Embassy personnel meet locals in Maungtaw

EMBASSY staff led by Mr. Da- vid Galbraith, First Secretary of the US Embassy and other embassies from the embassies of Britain and Australia and from the Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) arrived in Maungtaw to meet with local people.

The first secretary and party went to see first-hand the situation on the ground sever- al months after the 25 August terrorist attacks by the Ara- kan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) extremist terrorists. The group saw efforts being car- ried out by the State in the area — provisions of foods and other commodities needed by those who returned — and tasks of implementation of resettlement, it was learnt. The first secretary and party met with young vol- unteers from the programme 20 Days Youth for the People in Koetankauk village, Rathedaung township and Imin Village in Maungtaw township and local nationals, asking about their health and welfare. In the af- ternoon, they visited the con- struction of a new Mro village in Kaigyi along with harvest, winnowing and drying systems.

The party will stay for three days to observe responsible officials and regional officers and witness activities being carried out on the ground.—News Team ■
Deputy C-in C-of Defence Services meets Director of DCAF

DEPUTY Commander in Chief of Defence Services Commander in Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win received a delegation led by Director of Geneva Center for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), Ambassador Mr Thomas Gueber at Bayint Naung guest hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, DCAF to be launched the courses of disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) and security sector reform (SSR) due to Myanmar’s peace process, promoting the cooperation of security development sector and conditions on supporting advices and technological data were cordially discussed.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Dinner hosted in honour of officials who contribute to 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ meeting

A dinner hosted in honour of the officials from respective Ministries and Sub-Committees who made efforts for success of the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting and other related meetings held at Thingahla Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

At the ceremony, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe received the delegation of Global Fund led by Dr. Urban Weber at the meeting room of the Ministry yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, matters relating to the draft legislation for using drugs and intoxication, assessment of healthcare project with Office of Inspector General (OIG), RAIE project which includes elimination of malaria which will cooperate with the regional countries, grant agreement of total US$ 321.44 million, including US$ 94.04 million for TB eradication, US$ 129.96 million for prevention of HIV/AIDS, and US$ 97.44 million for Malaria treatment, were discussed.—MNA ■

Sagaing Region tourism up by 14 per cent in seven months

THE rate of local visitors and tourists entering sites in Monywa, Kalay, Sagaing, Katha and Shwebo in Sagaing Region from April to October this year has increased by about 14.7 per cent compared to the similar period of last year, according to a report of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Sagaing Region).

The Sagaing Region government is leading efforts to effectuate the development of Sagaing Region tourism, distributing guide maps and brochures for tourism destination sites and historical sites and documenting sites of interest. This has caused the visitor rate to Sagaing Region to improve this year, officials said. This year, the peak season has only just started this month, but the tourist inflow is already higher than last year. Of five tourist zones in Sagaing Region, Monywa has recorded the highest rate. Kalay is the second most popular place to which travelers come. The other three places cannot compete against those two towns. Community-based tourism site has been established in Sagaing Region this year. There are plans to create more tourist attraction sites, said U Aung Thu Oo, the head of Sagaing Region Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

Local and foreign visitor rates from April to October this year were recorded 57,666 in Monywa, 12,139 in Kalay, 7,101 in Sagaing, 2,718 in Shwebo and 4,131 in Katha, totaling 83,755. In the similar period of last year, visitor rate was recorded at 73,036.—Win Oo (Zeyar Tine) ■

Feedstuff, drug factory to be built in Thilawa

MYANMAR’s first animal feedstuff and drug factory will be opened in Thilawa Special Economic Zone in January, according to a report in The Myanmar Daily yesterday.

The factory will be an investment by Netherlands-based Trouw Nutrition Company, which is spending two million euros over an investment period of three years. When the factory is operational, it will distribute its products to local companies in the country. Six months after the start, it will market its products to other countries including the Philippines and Bangladesh.

Moreover, the factory will conduct laboratory tests with the use of Mycomaster. The factory will start its operation with 15 foreign experts and 40 local staff.

The factory will mainly manufacture animal feed and drugs for chickens, pigs, cows, fish and prawns.—GNLM ■

Grant agreement of US$ 321.44M for healthcare sector

 UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe received the delegation of Global Fund led by Dr. Urban Weber at the meeting room of the Ministry yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, matters relating to the draft legislation for using drugs and intoxication, assessment of healthcare project with Office of Inspector General (OIG), RAIE project which includes elimination of malaria which will cooperate with the regional countries, grant agreement of total US$ 321.44 million, including US$ 94.04 million for TB eradication, US$ 129.96 million for prevention of HIV/AIDS, and US$ 97.44 million for Malaria treatment, were discussed.—MNA ■

Official attend the dinner which is held to appreciate their efforts for 13th ASEM Ministers' Meeting. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

Grant agreement of total US$ 321.44 million, including US$ 94.04 million for TB eradication, US$ 129.96 million for prevention of HIV/AIDS, and US$ 97.44 million for Malaria treatment, were discussed.—MNA ■
Restore our national dignity by anti-corruption

COUNTRIES free from corruption, bribery and malpractices are difficult to find these days. Because bribery and corruption may be found in many countries, the only difference being that the extent of involvement may be big in some countries and small in others. According to a survey conducted by an overseas institution in 2014, Myanmar stood at 126 out of 174 countries in all. Our country’s corruption index is very high. Similarly, a survey conducted by the UN in 2015 also showed that the greatest hindrance to set up businesses in Myanmar is not easy to overcome the barrier of malpractices for them.

In our country, the existing Union is not under modernization to link with other roads of other countries in the region by extending the road areas on both sides to become 4-way roads, paving nyio-tear-mar roads and rebuilding narrow bridges which existed for many years into extended bridges. And cities and towns along the Union Road started to be developed with pavements, car stands and parking grounds included according to the designated standards of modernized urbanization system.

Finding pavements in the cities such as Yangon and Mandalay

If asked what people want most in such a time, it is neither other than bringing about the comparatively acceptable pavements for the grass-root people. The cause of it can be found on studying Yangon and Mandalay, the cities of which the country where one thousand miles is living.

In some major parts of the cities, the streets are walk-able, but in many parts people are forced to use the side roads. Not only in Yangon and Mandalay, but also in many towns, same patterns can be seen. Bisdade dwellers and sellers are causing obstacles for pedestrians to freely move on pavements. They monopolized these pavements for their own sake only.

Occupy more spaces for ones sake

On seeing some places with pavements as well, streeting abuses on roadconditions can be seen extending curbs or stalls in front of their houses, placing things or barhagers, growing flower beds in their houses and so on. Not only in Yangon and Mandalay, but also in many towns, same patterns can be seen. Bisdade dwellers and sellers are causing obstacles for pedestrians to freely go on pavements. They monopolized these pavements for their own sake only.

Finding solution over current performances

Here, I would like to talk about the matter to the actual incident. The Union Road (the former one) was being extended into 4-way Road-Nylon-Tarmar-Streets. In doing so, bridges along the roads are being renovated in accord with the designated standards. Consequently, houses along the road were fulfilled with characteristics of a town area and drainage ditches made in front of houses. In doing so, with the increasing amounts of vehicles, for bridges, kerries and home-used se-dans to safely commute in towns roads are being extended, with pavements made for pedestrians to safely walk as that road accidents cannot claim lives.

Mistunderstanding the falsity as truth & public disobedi-ence of rules

Yet, town dwelling popu-lace does not seem to be well convinced of the fact, returning to previous conditions—attempts to cover ditches of their own accord to open stalls on the pavements. They fail to recognize the pavements are for pedestrians to go on, until now. In fact, these pavements ex-isted since the old days when rule of law covered the whole region. But later on, with the changing time rule of law gradually abandoned and more, occupying pavements by opening stalls and building annexes and canopies.

Prescriptions included in the promulgated law for us to study

In actually, we have a lot to learn, concerning the prescription included in the promulgated law. These are strictly pre-scribed in township development committee law, which includes beautification and construction of buildings in detail. It is separately prescribed for administration bodies to perform and for town-dwellers to abide. For example, town-dwellers must keep rubbish packed in a bag and prior to the arrival of garbage collector for systematic disposal of garbage. Garbage collectors

must regularly come to collect, with a view to developing habits of caring environmental sanitation. Also included in it are pedes-trians and passers-by to be paid care and damage for cars to be blocked with dirt. It is strictly prohibited not to open stalls on pavement and carelessly dispose.

For beautifying urbanization system, it requests people to supervise in accord with all the instructions to inspect places necessary ‘to know as to the whe-ther those living in abodes ensure abide by rules and laws. The law includes sections on giving punishments if rules are violated, and those taking responsibility of the tasks are also be taken action if they fail to perform duties.

Risks of car accidents

Due to weaknesses of authori-ties concerned who are practical-ly implementing who deal with the law and fail to abide by, as for inhabitants in towns people had last pavements for them to freely walk for a long time. In most townships, people had to live on streets as they lost pave-ments instantly. There, people become prone to accidents. The township itself is gradually be-coming a place where one cannot safely go.

Collective cooperation for future generation

To sum it up, as for the staff and government service person-nal they are required to bring about creation of pavements for pedestrians to freely and safely walk while. It will also exist since a long time ago, for the sake of people on a daily basis, as prescribed in the law.

Translated by Khin Myoing Oo

Give Back Pavements to Us!

By Than Phyo Naing

Kanyingya

WHILE the changing development of the era, the present-day highways across the nation are being extended and upgraded in accor-dance with the international standards. Now is the time more and more urbanization programs are also being renovated for the better-terms.

In the country, the existing Union is not under modernization to link with other roads of other countries in the region by extending the road areas on both sides to become 4-way road, paving nyio-tear-mar roads and rebuilding narrow bridges which existed for many years into extended bridges. And cities and towns along the Union Road started to be developed with pavements, car stands and parking grounds included according to the designated standards of modernized urbanization system.

Finding pavements in the cities such as Yangon and Mandalay

If asked what people want most in such a time, it is neither other than bringing about the comparatively acceptable pavements for the grass-root people. The cause of it can be found on studying Yangon and Mandalay, the cities of which the country where one thousand miles is living.

In some major parts of the cities, the streets are walk-able, but in many parts people are forced to use the side roads. Not only in Yangon and Mandalay, but also in many towns, same patterns can be seen. Bisdade dwellers and sellers are causing obstacles for pedestrians to freely move on pavements. They monopolized these pavements for their own sake only.

Occupy more spaces for ones sake

On seeing some places with pavements as well, streeting abuses on roadconditions can be seen extending curbs or stalls in front of their houses, placing things or barhagers, growing flower beds in their houses and so on. Not only in Yangon and Mandalay, but also in many towns, same patterns can be seen. Bisdade dwellers and sellers are causing obstacles for pedestrians to freely go on pavements. They monopolized these pavements for their own sake only.

Finding solution over current performances

Here, I would like to talk about the matter to the actual incident. The Union Road (the former one) was being extended into 4-way Road-Nylon-Tarmar-Streets. In doing so, bridges along the roads are being renovated in accord with the designated standards. Consequently, houses along the road were fulfilled with characteristics of a town area and drainage ditches made in front of houses. In doing so, with the increasing amounts of vehicles, for bridges, kerries and home-used se-dans to safely commute in towns roads are being extended, with pavements made for pedestrians to safely walk as that road accidents cannot claim lives.

Mistunderstanding the falsity as truth & public disobedi-ence of rules

Yet, town dwelling popu-lace does not seem to be well convinced of the fact, returning to previous conditions—attempts to cover ditches of their own accord to open stalls on the pavements. They fail to recognize the pavements are for pedestrians to go on, until now. In fact, these pavements ex-isted since the old days when rule of law covered the whole region. But later on, with the changing time rule of law gradually abandoned and more, occupying pavements by opening stalls and building annexes and canopies.

Prescriptions included in the promulgated law for us to study

In actually, we have a lot to learn, concerning the prescription included in the promulgated law. These are strictly pre-scribed in township development committee law, which includes beautification and construction of buildings in detail. It is separately prescribed for administration bodies to perform and for town-dwellers to abide. For example, town-dwellers must keep rubbish packed in a bag and prior to the arrival of garbage collector for systematic disposal of garbage. Garbage collectors

must regularly come to collect, with a view to developing habits of caring environmental sanitation. Also included in it are pedes-trians and passers-by to be paid care and damage for cars to be blocked with dirt. It is strictly prohibited not to open stalls on pavement and carelessly dispose.

For beautifying urbanization system, it requests people to supervise in accord with all the instructions to inspect places necessary ‘to know as to the whe-ther those living in abodes ensure abide by rules and laws. The law includes sections on giving punishments if rules are violated, and those taking responsibility of the tasks are also be taken action if they fail to perform duties.

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Translated by Khin Myoing Oo

IFC Supports Good Agricultural Practices Protocol and Guidelines in Myanmar

I FC is a member of the World Bank Group, supported the Department of Agriculture of the Myanmar’s Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI) to launch Myanmar’s Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Protocol and Guidelines recently.

The objective of the guidelines is to boost the productivity and profitability of farmers through sustainable agriculture.

The GAP Protocol and Guidelines for 13 crops— including tomatoes, peanuts, rice, and chilli, among others, will guide cultivators on how to produce safe and quality products for the local and international markets.

It will further improve access to quality agricultural inputs, and help farmers de-velop the requisite skills for sustainable farming through training and knowledge transfer.

Myanmar’s agricultural sector is a key pillar of the economy and provides employment to about 15 percent of the labor force. Agricultur-ality is a source of livelihood for a significant proportion of the rural population.

The guidelines will support the government’s objective of increasing produc-tivity, sustainability and competitiveness of the agri-cultural sector by improving access to quality inputs.

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Translated by Khin Myoing Oo
Dinner hosted in honour of ethnic delegation

UNION Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung meets with 100-member ethnic delegation at the Ministry of Border Affairs on 6 December. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

The 100-member delegation includes youths from southern Shan State, Sagaing Region, the Naga Self-administered Zone, and Taninthayi Region.

At the meeting, the minister said the excursion trip is aimed at strengthening friendship, trust and respect among ethnic people.

“The experiences you gained in your trip are to be utilized in development of human resources in border areas when you arrived back,” said the Union Minister. He emphasized the importance of peace and stability of the country.

He also urged all ethnic brethren to participate in eternal peace building process and to understand the menace of drug in the country.

With the aim of enhancing friendship and understanding among ethnic people, the Ministry of Border Affairs arranged the excursion programme for the ethnic people from remote areas to visit Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw and other regions.

On behalf of the delegation, Ma Khin Than Oo, who is from Sagaing Region, expressed thanks to the minister and all officials concerned. The group was then entertained with traditional dances and songs which showed the essence and special glamour of their culture.—MNA

Russian Pacific Fleet to visit Myanmar

A detachment of the Russian Pacific Fleet led by flagship Admiral Panteleev under command of Rear Admiral Eduard Mikhailov will pay a friendly visit to the Thilawa Sea Port from December 7 to 10.

The large anti-submarine destroyer Admiral Panteleev is Udaloy-class destroyer which has been in active service since 1988.

The warship has the length of 163 m, speed of 35 knots, range of 10 500 nautical miles and 293 crew members aboard. During present voyage the flagship is accompanied by tanker Boris Butoma.

Staring from March 29, 2009 Admiral Panteleev was deployed as a part of operation to combat piracy off the Somalia coast and since then has regularly participated in the patrol operations of the Russian Naval Task Force in the waters of Horn of Africa. Safeguarding the international navigation routes in this part of the ocean, her crew members and the attached unit of the Marine Infantry successfully prevented pirate attacks against numerous commercial vessels from different countries.

While in Myanmar, the crew members will visit the Ayeyawady Naval Regional Command and naval facilities, as well as to go for a sightseeing tour around Yangon. During its anchorage in the Thilawa Port the warship will be opened for public on Saturday, December 9 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.—GNLM

Public Peace Movement Week events held in Taninthayi Region

PUBLIC Peace Movement Week events including musical entertainment and peace movement talks were held in Sakhanthit Village, Kyunsu Township and Myeik University in Myeik, Taninthayi Region, on 5 and 6 December.

The event held at Sakhanthit Village, Kyunsu Township where singers Be Wa, Naung Yo, Kar Kar and Bo Bo Htut entertained by singing songs – “Stop wars right now” and “Our Land in Peace” at 6:00 pm on 5 December. Meanwhile cartoonist Maung Maung Foun-tain discussed and explained about the peace and the essence of peace logo with local peace loving populace.

He then drew pictures and images about peace. U Jimmy and U Min Ko Naing of 88 Generation Peace and Open Society then gave speeches on the Public Peace Movement.

Later, attendees to the public peace talk event lighted candles and prayed for eternal peace.

The event held at the theatre 1 in Myeik University at 10 am on 6 December was opened by a speech of Pro Rector Dr. Win Win Than from Myeik University and reciting peace poem by poet Mg Yu Pine. U Jimmy and U Min Ko Naing of 88 Generation Peace and Open Society then discussed peace and they were given the presents by Pro Rector Dr. Win Win Than. And then they took documentary photos.—Zaw Myo Naing (District IPRD)

Anti-corruption commission Chairman U Aung Kyi receives UNODC delegation

U AUNG KYI, Chairman of Anti-Corruption Commission received a delegation led by Southeast Asia and Pacific representative from United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) at 10 am yesterday at the guest room of the Office of Anti-Corruption Commission in Nay Pyi Taw.

In the meeting, matters concerning the process of the anti-corruption commission in 2018 were discussed.—Myanmar News Agency
Saudi-led coalition intensifies Yemen air strikes after Saleh’s death

ADEN — A Saudi-led coalition intensified air strikes on Yemen early on Wednesday as the armed Houthi movement tightened its grip on the capital after it killed former president Ali Abdullah Saleh, who switched sides in the civil war.

Saudi Arabia and its allies struck a day after Saleh’s son vowed to lead a campaign against the Houthis.

The intervention by Ahmed Ali, a former leader of the elite Republican Guard once seen as a likely successor to his father, gives the anti-Houthi movement a potential figurehead after a week of fighting that saw the Houthis rout Saleh’s supporters in the capital.

Yemen’s war, pitting the Iran-allied Houthis who control Sanaa against a Saudi-led military alliance backing a government based in the south, has brought what the United Nations calls the world’s worst humanitarian crisis.

Saleh helped the Houthis win control of much of the country’s north, including Sanaa, and his decision to switch allegiances and abandon the Houthis in the past week was the most dramatic change on the battlefield in years.

But the Houthis swiftly crushed the pro-Saleh uprising in the capital and killed him.

Coalition fighter jets carried out dozens of air strikes, both sides said, bombarding Houthis positions inside Sanaa and in other northern provinces.

Yemen’s pro-Houthi Al Masirah television station said the coalition bombed Saleh’s residence and other houses of his family members.

Residents told Reuters loud explosions were heard in downtown Sanaa. Masirah said air strikes also hit northern provinces including Taiz, Haja, Midi and Saada. There was no immediate word on casualties.

In a sign of support and defiance, tens of thousands of Houthis supporters staged a rally in Sanaa on Tuesday to commemorate the death of Saleh. They chanted slogans against Saudi Arabia and its allies.

The proxy war between regional arch-rivals Saudi Arabia and Iran has already killed more than 10,000 people, with more than two million displaced. Nearly a million have been hit by a cholera outbreak and famine threatens much of the country.

The United Nations says millions of people may die in one of the worst famines of modern times, caused by warring parties blocking food supplies.

The UN Secretary-General Special Envoy for Yemen, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, called on all parties to show restraint in a briefing to the Security Council.

“Increased hostilities will further threaten civilian lives and exacerbate their suffering,” he said. The commander of Iran’s Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), Major General Mohammad Ali Jafari, said Yemen’s enemies had been behind Saleh’s armed uprising and praised what he called the Houthis’ swift quashing of the “coup against the holy warriors”, the semi-official Fars news agency reported.

The death of Saleh, who once compared ruling Yemen to dancing on the heads of snakes, deepens the complexity of the multi-sided war.

Much is likely to depend on the future allegiances of his loyalists, who had previously helped the armed Houthi group, which hails from the Zaidi branch of Shi’ite Islam that ruled a thousand-year kingdom in northern Yemen until 1962.

In a statement sent to Reuters by an aide, his son said his father was killed at “the hands of the enemies of God and the country”.

Ahmed Ali said he would “confront the enemies of the homeland and humanity, who are trying to obliterate its identity and its gains and to humiliate Yemen and Yemenis”.

The Arabian peninsula’s poorest country, Yemen is one of the most violent fronts in the proxy war between Saudi Arabia and Iran, which have also backed opposing sides in Syria, Iraq and elsewhere across the Middle East.

Zimbabwe court again postpones former finance minister’s bail hearing

ZIMBABWE — A Zimbabwean court has postponed to Thursday the bail hearing of former finance minister Ignatius Chombo, who is facing charges of corruption dating back two decades.

Chombo, who did not appear at the court on Wednesday, was detained after the military seized power in “Operation Restore Legacy” mid-November, which it said was meant to remove “criminals” around former President Robert Mugabe.

The High Court had been due to sit on Wednesday to hear Chombo’s appeal against a lower court ruling last week denying him bail pending his trial on 8 December, but the state prosecutor said he needed time to prepare his case.

This is the second time the court has postponed the hearing after an initial sitting on Friday was delayed for the same reasons. His lawyer says Chombo will deny the allegations at his trial.

Chombo was among members of the G40 political faction allied to 55-year-old Mugabe and his wife, Grace, who were also expelled from the ruling ZANU-PF party.

Ousted ZANU-PF Youth League leader Kudzanai Chipanga’s bail hearing was also postponed to Thursday. Chipanga is facing charges of making statements undermining public confidence in the military which helped end Mugabe’s 37-year rule.

Some supporters of new President Emmerson Mnangagwa have called for unspecified action against G40 but the president has urged citizens not to undertake any form of “vengeful retribution”.

Mnangagwa, who was sworn in on 24 November, and is under pressure to root out rampant corruption stifling the economy.—Reuters

Israeli forces prepare for clashes ahead of Trump’s Jerusalem declaration

JERUSALEM — Israeli security forces were “preparing for clashes with Palestinians in East Jerusalem and the West Bank ahead of US President Donald Trump’s announcement recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

A military official told local media that Israel’s army was “preparing for possible escalation,” including violent rallies.

In the city of Bethlehem on Tuesday night, posters of Trump were burnt in a rally that started after a senior White House official confirmed Trump will recognize Jerusalem as Israel’s capital on Wednesday.

Trump is also expected to announce that the US embassy will be moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, but the move will not be carried out immediately, according to the official.

The announcement will mark a change in US policy, which has never recognized the annexed city as part of Israel.

Palestinian officials have warned that the move will “kill” any chance for a peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians, who consider East Jerusalem as the capital of their future state.

East Jerusalem is a predominantly Palestinian territory, which Israel seized from Jordan in the 1967 Middle East war and annexed it shortly later. The annexation was never recognized by the international community.

Trump’s announcement is expected to trigger an angry response by the Palestinians as well as by Jordan and other Muslim countries, which have already warned such a move would be unacceptable.

Jerusalem is a site holy to both Muslims and Jews. The Old City in eastern Jerusalem is home to the al-Aqsa mosque compound, a site known to Muslims as Haram al-Sharif (“the Noble Sanctuary”) and to Jews as the Temple Mount. Jordan is the custodian of the compound.—Xinhua
Russia’s Su-57 fifth-generation fighter makes first flight with new engine

MOSCOW — Russia’s Su-57 fifth-generation stealth air superiority fighter, also known as T-50, had performed its first test flight with a new-generation engine, a source in the Russian Industry and Trade Ministry told reporters on Tuesday.

“Russia’s newest fifth generation fighter, T-50, performed its maiden flight with the second stage engine on 5 December, 2017, at the Gromov Flight Research Institute,” the source said.

The 17-minute flight test was carried out by Sergei Bogdan, a chief test pilot of the Sukhoi aircraft maker.

“The flight took place in normal regime, in compliance with the flight assignment,” the ministry said. Commenting on the report, Russian Industry and Trade Minister Denis Manturov said the successful test of the new engine “will give an additional boost to the fifth-generation fighter jet programme.”

“This proves the high potential of the Russian aircraft industry, capable of designing smart and advanced systems — aerodynamic systems, innovative digital components, newest engines,” he said.

The Su-57 fifth generation fighter jet (previously known as PAK FA — the Russian acronym for ‘perspective front-line aviation complex’) performed its maiden flight in 2010. Currently, nine prototypes are undergoing state trials. Its serial production is expected to begin next year.

Sukhoi-57 has a number of unique features of both a strike aircraft and a fighter. Composite materials and cutting-edge technologies as well as its aerodynamic design hinder its radar and infrared identification. Until recently, including during its public display flight at the international air show MAKS-2017, Su-57 was equipped with the first stage engine 117S. Its successor has no name yet and is referred to as “second stage engine.”—Tass

EU executive to propose deeper euro zone integration to unite EU on Wednesday

BRUSSELS — The European Commission will propose on Wednesday deeper euro zone integration that would help unite the broader European Union rather than just the single currency area.

The Commission, the EU’s executive arm, will present a package of ideas aimed at making the 19 countries sharing the euro more resilient to potential future crises and united around the euro currency as Britain leaves the bloc in 2019.

But such plans have sparked concern in eight non-euro countries that deeper integration will make them second-class members of the EU, with less say and less in funds in the future.

To alleviate such fears, the Commission proposals will follow the principles of building EU unity and increasing the democratic accountability of euro zone institutions. But some of the ideas clash with what some euro zone leaders want.

French President Emmanuel Macron has called for creating a large euro zone budget of several hundred billion euros, a euro zone finance minister and a euro zone parliament.

The EU executive, however, is likely to propose creating only a dedicated line for the euro zone within the wider EU budget that, in total, is worth around 100 billion euros.

Instead of a euro zone finance minister, there should be a pan-European Minister of Economy and Finance, the Commission is likely to say. The European Parliament should be left undivided.

Other euro zone integration ideas, floated by Germany, include transforming the euro zone bailout fund into a European Monetary Fund and setting up a sovereign insolvency mechanism to raise market pressure on government fiscal policy.

But the Commission will call for the bailout fund, which is now owned and run by euro zone governments, to become an EU institution that would be subject to European Parliament’s control. This will not fly with governments, officials said.

The Commission is also likely to say that the European finance minister, a post that would only be set up in 2025, should be in charge of overseeing structural reform efforts and coordinating economic and fiscal policy in the euro area.

Presiding over any kind of euro zone bailout fund, the EU finance minister should also be a senior member of the Commission and responsible before the European Parliament, the Commission is likely to propose.

Under the current arrangement, the chair of the euro zone finance ministers, the closest thing the bloc now has to a single finance minister, often testifies before the parliament’s economic committee, but it has no power over him or her.

There is no appetite among euro zone finance ministers now to allow the Commission, which is only an observer at their monthly meetings, to chair the talks.

The Commission is also likely to call for a swift completion of the EU’s banking union by setting up a Europe-wide bank deposit insurance scheme, something that Germany insists can only happen after the bad loans on banks’ books fall sharply.

The ideas will be discussed by all of the European Union’s leaders except Britain at a special euro summit on 15 December.

—Reuters

Britain has not formally assessed impact of Brexit on economy — Brexit minister

LONDON — Britain has not conducted a formal sector-by-sector analysis of the impact that leaving the European Union will have on the economy, Brexit minister David Davis said on Wednesday, arguing they were not necessary at the current time.

The comments are likely to inflame critics of the government’s handling of the complex divorce process at a time when talks with Brussels have stalled because of a row over how to manage the Irish border after Brexit.

Davis has become embroiled in a long-running argument with lawmakers from across parliament over what preparatory work the government has undertaken, and how much of it should be made public. “There’s no systematic impact assessment I’m aware of,” Davis told a parliamentary committee, saying it would be more appropriate to conduct such analysis later in the negotiating process. That drew immediate criticism from lawmakers on the committee, who said Davis was contradicting his previous statement that the government had analyses of the sectoral impact that went into “excruciating detail”.

—Reuters

Russia’s Su-57 fifth-generation stealth air superiority fighter. PHOTO: TASS
Indian state media tells readers how to survive a nuclear attack

BEIJING — A state-run newspaper in northeastern China’s Jilin city, near the border with North Korea, on Wednesday published a page of “common sense” advice on how readers can protect themselves from a nuclear weapons attack or explosion. China has voiced grave concern over North Korea’s nuclear and missiles programme, as well as calling on the United States and South Korea to stop provoking Pyongyang. US bombers will fly over the Korean peninsula on Wednesday as part of a large-scale joint military drills with South Korea. The North has warned the drills could push the Korean Peninsula to the “brink of war”.

The full page article in the Jilin Daily, which does not mention possible attacks by North Korea or any other country, explains how nuclear weapons differ from traditional arms and instructs people how to protect themselves in the event of an attack. Nuclear weapons have five means of causing destruction: light radiation, blast waves, early-stage nuclear radiation, nuclear electro-magnetic pulses and radioactive pollution, the article explained. It said the first four kill instantly. People who find themselves outside during a nuclear attack should try to lie in a ditch, cover exposed skin in light coloured clothing or dive into a river or lake to try and minimise the possibility of instantaneous death, it said. Cartoon illustrations of ways to dispel radioactive contamination were also provided, such as taking water to wash off shoes and using cotton buds to clean ears, as well as a picture of a vomiting child to show how medical help can be sought to speed the expulsion of radiation through stomach pumping and induced urination. — Reuters

Singapore drone frees your fingers to take photos

SINGAPORE — As more people shoot pictures and videos from consumer drones, researchers in Singapore have found a way round the frustrating task of framing and taking photos while manually piloting the craft.

More than 2.8 million consumer drones are expected to be sold this year, up from 2 million last year, says research firm Gartner.

“Drones will be even smaller (than they are now) so we can carry them around as a smartphone camera, throw it in the air and take photos for us,” Lan said, as he outlined his vision of the future. But the problem is a thorny one, he said, adding that he and fellow researchers Mohit Shridhar, David Hsu and Shenglong Zhao went through dozens of methods and environments to evolve a working prototype. Several companies are working to simplify how users take airborne pictures and videos. A US-based startup, Skydio, which aims for “flying cameras without the complexity,” is working on a drone that follows its operator using onboard cameras to capture a 360-degree view of its environs. Another firm, Squadron System, offers an “autonomous flying camera” called HeliPos for $1,000. A user can program it via a smartphone app with simple instructions, such as “follow” or “hover close”.

For $700, the Mota Group offers the Lily Next-Gen camera drone that flies itself and hovers above the user, taking photos and videos. — Reuters

Chinese state media tells readers how to survive a nuclear attack

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“We want to enable more intuitive and natural interaction with the flying drone to take photos autonomously — even for the novice user who has not used drones before,” said Ziquan Lan, one of four researchers behind the project. Their innovation, called XPose, works in several stages. The user tells the drone to take photos from different angles of the subject, such as a statue. Next, the shot is composed by moving objects on photos from a sample gallery. Then the drone finds the best position to take the commissioned photo. No manual piloting of the drone is needed.

The researchers from the National University of Singapore say their prototype, based on a Parrot Bebop quadcopter, relies mainly on a single monocular camera and works reliably even when there is no GPS signal.

Some remotely controlled drones take their cue from global positioning system satellites, or GPS, which requires the drone pilot to know where the image is in respect to the drone, adding another layer of complexity to the process. But XPose does away with that. The researchers said it had a higher success rate in photo-taking tasks than the usual touchscreen joystick interface. “Drones will be even smaller (than they are now) so we can carry them around as a smartphone camera, throw it in the air and take photos for us,” Lan said, as he outlined his vision of the future. But the problem is a thorny one, he said, adding that he and fellow researchers Mohit Shridhar, David Hsu and Shenglong Zhao went through dozens of methods and environments to evolve a working prototype. Several companies are working to simplify how users take airborne pictures and videos. A US-based startup, Skydio, which aims for “flying cameras without the complexity,” is working on a drone that follows its operator using onboard cameras to capture a 360-degree view of its environs. Another firm, Squadron System, offers an “autonomous flying camera” called HeliPos for $1,000. A user can program it via a smartphone app with simple instructions, such as “follow” or “hover close”.

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CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
MV SINAR BANDA VOY. NO (073)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BANDA VOY. NO (073) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.12.2017and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie in 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 MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA RESTU VOY. NO ( )
Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RESTU VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.12.2017and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/HPT 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 MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA BATAM VOY. NO (030)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA BATAM VOY. NO (030) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.12.2017and 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 MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS INTERASIAS LINES Phone No: 2301185

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Dated: 7th December 2017.
China becomes focus of Istanbul film festival

ISTANBUL — China drew the attention as the focus country on Monday evening as the Rendezvous Istanbul International Film Festival marked its 20th anniversary in the most populous Turkish city.

A selection of 11 newly released Chinese films are being screened during the Chinese films’ week, as part of the efforts to boost exchanges and cooperation between China and Turkey on film and television production.

Qian Bo, the Chinese consul general, spoke of growing cooperation and exchanges with Turkey in the field of film and television making in the context of enhancing strategic cooperative relationship between the two countries.

The Chinese films being shown in Istanbul theatres offer a new perspective and open a window into great changes taking place in China over the past decade and the Chinese people’s lives, emotions and dreams, said Qian.

Selcuk Yavuzkanat, deputy general director of cinema with Turkey’s Ministry of Culture and Tourism, was hopeful about bilateral cooperation on more key projects in related to filmmaking, as Turkey and China are both advancing fast in this field.

More than 200 guests were present at the event, including directors, producers and screenwriters from Turkey and China as well as representatives from the press.

China Radio International, cohost of the film festival with the Turkish Foundation of Cinema and Audiovisual Culture, was presented on the occasion an Outstanding Contribution Award for its efforts to promote cultural cooperation and exchanges. During the film festival that runs from 1 December until 7 December, a series of panels were held on Chinese and Turkish films and the current situation facing the film industry.

Being screened during the festival are some 50 films from other parts of the world.

Magic Moment, the first film being jointly produced by Turkey and China, was introduced during the festival. — Xinhua

Discovery raises stake in Oprah Winfrey Network

LOA ANGELES — Discovery Communications Inc (DISCA) said on Monday it had raised its stake in its joint venture with TV mogul Oprah Winfrey to more than 70 per cent.

Discovery paid $70 million (£32 million) to acquire an additional 24.5 per cent stake in the Oprah Winfrey Network from Harpo Inc, founded by Winfrey. Winfrey, who will retain a minority interest and continue in her role as chief executive of OWN, has extended her commitment to the network through 2025, Discovery said. OWN, launched in 2011 as a joint venture between Discovery and Harpo, focuses on African-American viewers, mostly women, and includes hit series such as “Queen Sugar” and “Greenleaf”. Discovery was advised by Allen & Co LLC and Grubman Shire Meiselas & Sacks, while Harpo was advised by Moelis & Co LLC and Loeb & Loeb LLP. — Reuters

Stood no chance with men like Shashi Kapoor around: Bachchan

MUMBAI — As brothers-in-arms or partners-in-crime, megastar Amitabh Bachchan has shared fond memories of spending his life — both onscreen and offscreen — with veteran actor Shashi Kapoor, the “incredibly handsome” star, who passed away yesterday.

The actor breathed his last at the Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital here at 5.20pm last evening.

Having worked in around 14 films, including hits such as “Deewaar”, “Kaala Patthar”, “Trishul”, “Suhaag”, “Shaan”, among others, the duo also collaborated in “Ajooba” (1991) with Shashi directing Bachchan for the first and only time.

The megastar, in his personal blog, remembered feeling a little uncertain as an aspiring actor about his future in the film industry with the likes of charming actor like Shashi around.

“I said to myself, as very uncertain thoughts raced through my mind of wanting to become a film actor, that, with men like him around, I stood no chance at all...”

Bachchan recalled coming face-to-face with Shashi in a glitzy magazine, which announced his début in films.

“Standing elegantly without a care in the world, I saw him standing by a Mercedes Sports car, a convertible, a smart trimmed beard and moustache, adorning involuntarily, the face of this incredibly handsome man...” he wrote.

The actor, who was fondly called babbu by Shashi, said he knew the veteran actor had been ailing for a long time but he avoided visiting him.

“I had visited him on occasion in Hospital during some of the times he had been hospitalised earlier... But I never went to see him again... I would never have... I never ever wanted to see this beautiful friend and santhi in the state I saw him in hospital...”

“... and I did not today, when they informed me that he had gone,” he wrote.

Bachchan also recounted couple of incidents with Shashi at the centre — where he always ended up receiving something from the generous actor.

The “Pink” star said he learnt the “self-introduction habit” from Shashi, which he uses till date.

He said the “Waqt” actor would extend a “warm soft hand out” in his first acquaintance with someone, disarming people with the “twinkle in his eyes” and “mischievous, gentle, yodel in his voice”.

And it was Shashi who inspired Bachchan to cover his ears with hair in the era that thrilled with leading men in thick sideburns.

“Hey! maybe you should think of covering your ears as well... and off I went to Hakim the hairdresser at Taj Hotel with my plan... and executed, it remained till date...” Shashi passed away due to kidney ailment. His funeral will be held today in the afternoon. — PTI
Dream come true’: Brigitte Macron names French baby Panda

BEAUVAL, (France) — French First Lady Brigitte Macron revealed on Monday that the first panda born in France, to whom she is “Godmother”, will go by the name of Yuan Meng.

The names means “Dream come true” and was chosen by China, the country of origin of the cub’s parents.

The small male cub, survivor of two babies born on Aug. 4 at Beauval zoo about 250 km south of Paris, until now went by the name of Mini Yuan Zi after his father Yuan Zi, whose names translates as Podgy.

Brigitte Macron, wife of President Emmanuel Macron, announced the creature’s official name at an event attended by China’s vice foreign minister, Zhang Yesui.

The cub lost his twin sibling barely two hours after their August births, which were firsts in France. The arrival of the panda parents in France back in 2012 was billed in official circles as a sign of warming bilateral ties.

Mother Huan Huan and her partner Yuan Zi are due to return to China in 2022 while the young panda is expected to stay in France until the age of two or three.

The cub, weighing in at 142.4 grams at birth, opened his eyes for the first time in mid-September and weighed 7.903 kilos as of Dec. 4, the Beauval zoo said on its website. While an adult female panda can weigh up to 125 kilograms (275 pounds), a baby panda often weighs little as 120 grams (4 ounces) at birth — or 143 grams in this case.

In the wild, pandas typically give birth to a single infant, born tiny, blind, pink and almost hairless.

The organizers have now scrapped a rule introduced in 1991 that required nominated artists to be under the age of 50.

The annual award for contemporary art was presented to Himid by electronic music star Goldie, in a televised ceremony held in Hull Minster church in the northeastern English city of Hull.

The Turner Prize award money is 40,000 pounds ($54,000), with 25,000 pounds going to the winner and 5,000 pounds each for the other short-listed artists.

Founded in 1984 and named after English 19th-century landscape painter JMW Turner, the prize is the UK’s most high-profile visual arts award. During the 1990s, it helped to launch the careers of some of the stars of the Young British Artists movement such as Damien Hirst and Tracey Emin.— Reuters

LONDON — Lubaina Himid, a 63-year-old artist whose creations include dinner plates painted with vomiting aristocrats, became the oldest person ever and the first black woman to win Britain’s most prestigious art award — the Turner Prize — on Thursday.

Tanzanian-born Himid beat other short-listed artists including British painter Hurvin Anderson, German painter Andrea Büttner and British filmmaker Rosalind Nashashibi.

The judges praised Himid for “uncompromising tackling of issues including colonial history and how racism persists today,” Alex Farquharson, director of the Turner Prize, said in a statement. In her acceptance speech, Himid thanked the critics and curators who had supported her during what she described as “the wilderness years.”

In the past, the prize has been viewed as a vehicle for younger artists, but it has moved in a new direction this year, with two nominees over 40 and the other two short-listed artists in their 50s and 60s.

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GAC Motor Myanmar — Flagship 8-series launch

GAC Flagship 8-series was launched recently in GAC Myanmar’s Showroom.

The GAC Flagship 8-series comprises of three models: the GS8, GA8 and the soon to be released, much anticipated GMB MPV.

The Flagship 8-series epitomizes the highest range of GAC models built with luxury, quality and performance in mind. With this launch, GAC Motor hopes to gain more market share in Myanmar’s highly competitive luxury automobile market.

The GS8 4WD SUV is a new addition to GAC Motor’s highly successful GS7 2WD. Both vehicles are equipped with the highest level of options and are targeted at buyers of high end luxurious 7-seat SUVs.

As the flagship sedan of GAC Motor, the GA8 targets customers looking for a high-end luxurious sedan with tremendous value for money. The outstanding exterior design of the GA8 together with its excellent interior ergonomics offers the driver and passengers a luxury motoring experience.

—GNLM
Myanmar U-21 ties MNL All-Stars 1-1 in football friendly

In preparation for the International U-21 Thanh Nien Newspaper Cup that will be held in Vietnam, the Myanmar U-21 national football team played a draw against the Myanmar National League (MNL) All-Star team at Thuwunna Stadium yesterday evening.

The match ended with a score of 1-1.

Both teams played equally well from the start, but the opening goal was made by the MNL All-star team. The goal was scored by its star player Emmauel at the 32-minute mark.

The early goal seemed to have an effect on the Myanmar U-21 team, which began to attack more willingly than before.

The efforts of the Myanmar U-21 team were rewarded with the equalising goal seven minutes later.

The equaliser was scored by Myanmar’s stellar player Zin Min Tun.

Both teams played in a more controlled style in the second half. Yesterday’s match could be described as a hard fought, but clean match.

Perhaps the Myanmar U-21 team benefited the most, because they had much to learn from playing an experienced senior team like the MNL All-Stars. The Myanmar U-21 team now goes on to compete in the International U-21 Thanh Nien Newspaper Cup in Vietnam.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Perotti heads Roma into Champions League last-16

ROME — AS Roma reached the Champions League last 16 with a 1-0 home win over Azerbaijani side Qarabag as Diego Perotti’s second-half header settled a tight encounter to put the Italians top of Group C on Tuesday.

Perotti, who reached the knockouts for the second time in three years, looked the more likely to break the deadlock in a first half that lacked genuine chances but had to wait until the 53rd minute to take the lead. The move was started and finished by Perotti, who drove forward and exchanged a couple of neat passes before the ball found its way to Edin Dzeko, whose shot was parried by the keeper into the path of the Argentine, who headed in from close range. Roma, who had needed to win to guarantee their progress, leapfrogged already-qualified Chelsea to finish top of the group after the Premier League club were held to a 1-1 draw by Atletico Madrid.—Reuters ■

Tanaka returns WBO light flyweight belt to move up to flyweight

NAGOYA — Japan’s Kosei Tanaka announced on Wednesday he has returned his World Boxing Organization light flyweight champion’s belt and will move up to the flyweight division.

“I want to do my best on a new note in the flyweight class,” Tanaka told a press conference in Nagoya. “There is no way I could keep weight off anymore for light flyweight.”

Tanaka will take aim at a third WBO title by moving to the flyweight class after capturing the minimumweight title in 2015 and the flyweight belt last December. His is schedule to fight in his first bout in his new weight class next spring. Tanaka tied the record among Japanese boxers for the fewest fights needed to hold titles in two weight classes when he won his flyweight belt in his eighth career match.

However, he fractured both of his eye sockets during his second flyweight title defense in September, dashing his hopes of taking on compatriot and World Boxing Association light flyweight champ Ryoichi Taguchi in a unification bout.

Tanaka has won all 10 of his career bouts, six of them by knockout.—Kyodo News ■

Shan United in Group F of 2018 AFC Cup

The 2018 AFC Cup draw was completed at the headquarters of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia yesterday, resulting in Myanmar National League Champions Shan United FC being part of Group (F) with a Singapore’s Home United FC, a club from the Philippines, and a play-off winner from the ASEAN Zone.

Football clubs from the Philippines were not included in the draw that determines group assignments because league competition is still ongoing in the Philippines.

The winners will be included in the draw chart after concluding their competition.

The play-off matches will be held from 22 to 29 January and play-off winners will directly enter the ACL or group stage qualifier, according to AFC.

In the interim, Yangon United FC, the second runner up of the Myanmar National League 2017, is in Group G together with an Indonesian club (Bali United or Madura United), a 2nd Rank Club from the Philippines and FLC Than Hao or Hanoi FC from Vietnam.

Shan United FC has to play the ACL qualifiers stage first and Yadanaarbon FC, a third runner up of Myanmar National League 2017 is also on standby with Shan United in the same group. —Kyaw Zin Lin ■