Rakhine rebirth requires global cooperation: Union Minister

THE Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) has invited cooperation from Myanmar and international communities to help it achieve success in its rebuilding and resettlement efforts. “The Government of Myanmar is trying its utmost to solve the complicated Rakhine issue, but we need cooperation from the international community,” said Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, in his capacity as the deputy chairman of UEHRD, yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw at a meeting that included diplomats and UN agencies.

See page-10

AMIRO notification in NV card disbursement process

The All Myanmar Islamic Religious Organisation (AMIRO) released a notification on 3 December to all Islamic organisations to cooperate in the tasks of national verification and giving out national verification cards.

They were informed by letter on 2nd September 2016 that, regarding the issuance of out NV Cards, AMIRO had made arrangements to negotiate with the respective Ministry, and just after emergence of the negotiation results, Islamic were required to start working only after the result of the negotiations were known. Concerning the matter, responsible officials from AMIRO had discussed with the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population on 10 December 2016 and with the Union Minister on 21 December 2016.

During the discussion, as for the members of the Islamic faith, they told of difficulties encountered in applying for NV Cards, and in transferring family lists and enlisting births in family registration lists. They requested of authorities that release of accurate procedures and directives be made public and known to them if NV Cards are to be given out.

See page-6
Ethnic youths from border areas visit Nay Pyi Taw

Ethnic youths from border areas visited the Memorial to the Fallen Heroes in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday for the second day of their survey programme.

The youths then toured the Defence Services Museum, where officials explained the history of the Tatmadaw. They viewed the internal peace implementation photos and Tatmadaw military operation photos displayed in the museum, Burma Tatmadaw weapons and display rooms of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, and Air). In the evening, they visited and paid homage to Maha That Kya Yan Thi Pagoda.

Yesterday morning, the survey team toured Nay Pyi Taw Buddha Gaya and donated cash on the third day of their programme.

They also viewed news recording, editing, presentation and broadcasting of Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) and National Races Channel (NRC)’s television broadcasting and radio broadcasting processes, which were explained by officials.

Then, the members of the survey team entertained with their traditional dances as a cultural exchange.

In the afternoon, they also visited the Zoological Garden, Planetarium and Safari Park in Nay Pyi Taw. —Myanmar News Agency ■

An army official explaining the history of the Tatmadaw in the museum. PHOTO: MNA

United Nations Peace Bell replica donation ceremony in Pyithu Hluttaw

A ceremony was held in Pyithu Hluttaw guest hall yesterday morning to transfer a United Nations Peace Bell replica donated by Japan’s Trust Fund for Restoration and Maintenance of the Peace Bell to Pyithu Hluttaw.

First, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko explained the Peace Bell.

The Union Minister said the United Nations Peace Bell was cast by Chiyomi Nakagawa, a Japanese national, with coins, medals and bronze medallions donated by more than 60 countries to remember peace. Inscribed on the side of the bell are eight Japanese Kanji characters that say “Long live absolute world peace”.

Next Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint gave a speech of appreciation, accepted the Peace Bell and took a commemorative group photo.

The event was attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker UT Khun Myat, Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Aung Ko, officials from Pyithu Hluttaw office and Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.

—Myanmar News Agency ■

Signing ceremony between Malongo Coffee Company and coffee growers

A ceremony to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Malongo Coffee Company and farmers who gave up growing opium to instead grow coffee was held at the Kempinski Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

“Burma is making concrete steps towards addressing the drug challenges and threats which can harm the society”, said Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung.

“In southern Shan State, poppy plantations are being replaced with coffee plants. Poppy cultivation causes substantial harm to our society and environment. While opium poppy cultivation is an important source of income for the poor in rural areas, it does not make the farmers rich. Opium poppy cultivation is profitable in remote areas in which it is difficult to go from one place to another”. In his speech, the Union Minister added that efforts are being made to combat the poppy plantation, and to try and promote the development of vocational training so that residents can enjoy better standard of living.

Then Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which is of important step in this region.

Also present at the meeting were Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Union Minister U Ohn Win, Naing Thet Lwin, Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Aung Soe, departmental heads and officials.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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—Myanmar News Agency ■

Meeting on preparation for GMS Malaria Elimination in 2030

Officials held a meeting to prepare for the declaration on Malaria Elimination in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) by 2030 and a coordination meeting on Call for Action for Malaria Elimination in GMS in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting kicked off with an opening address by Ministry of Health and Sports’ Permanent Secretary Dr. Thet Khang Win.

Dr. Thet Khang Win spoke of having the opportunity to work together for eliminating malaria in GMS by 2030 and GMS countries achieving some successes to eradicate malaria.

In Myanmar, compared to 2012, the occurrence of malaria was reduced by 77 per cent, while fatalities were reduced by 91 per cent. But antimalarial drug resistance still needs to be controlled, officials said. To eliminate malaria and to treat malaria in Myanmar, Artemisinin Combination Therapies (ACT) is being used.

But a regional effort is required for complete eradication, officials said.

“Only when neighbouring Southeast Asia countries eliminate malaria can GMS eliminate malaria. Due to cross-border migrant workers, there are many difficulties in controlling the spread of malaria. There should be cooperation in order to reach the aim of malaria elimination in GMS countries”, said the Permanent Secretary.

In yesterday’s meeting, the participants discussed controlling antimalarial drug resistance malaria, eliminating drug resistance malaria, setting up of policies and conducting of continuous prevention and elimination of malaria.—Myanmar News Agency ■

An army official explaining the history of the Tatmadaw in the museum. PHOTO: MNA

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President gives policy guidance to newly-appointed Myanmar Ambassadors accredited to France and Brazil

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw gave policy guidance to Myanmar Ambassadors accredited to France and Brazil before leaving to serve in their respective embassies. President U Htin Kyaw met with U Kyaw Zeya, Myanmar Ambassador to France and U Myo Tint, Myanmar Ambassador to Brazil at the Presidential Palace at 3:30 pm in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.—Myanmar News Agency

President to visit Japan for attending Universal Health Coverage Forum 2017

AT the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Shinzo ABE, Prime Minister of Japan, U Htin Kyaw, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will pay an official visit to Japan in the near future to strengthen bilateral relations and to attend the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Forum 2017 to be held in Tokyo.—Myanmar News Agency

6th Media Development Conference held

THE 6th Media Development Conference on Myanmar media development strategy and future works was held yesterday morning at the Chatrium Hotel.

At the conference, Information and Public Relations Department Deputy Director-General Dr. Daw Thida Tin, a part of the Ministry of Information, delivered opening remarks. The theme of the 6th Media Development Conference is “Myanmar’s Media Development: Strategies & a Way Forward.”

Next, UNESCO Head of Office Ms. Min Jeong Kim, Myanmar Press Council Secretary U Thitha Saw and National Management Degree College Associate Professor delivered speeches.

U Ko Ko (Ko Ko-University of Technology) Patron of the Myanmar Journalists Association (MJA), moderated a roundtable discussion titled “Media plurality and sustainability” with Tanin-thayi Journal and Dawei Watch founder Daw Aye Aye Zin, The Voice chief editor U Kyaw Min Swe and Myanmar Internews Executive Director Michael Pan participating in the discussion.

Myanmar Journalism Institute (MJI) Training Director U Sein Win then moderated a discussion titled “Upholding professionalism through practicing journalistic ethics” with Myitmakha Media CEO Daw May Thingyan Hein, Mawgun Magazine Chief Editor U Zayar Hlaing and Mr. Bambang Harymurti of Indonesia Press Council joining in the discussion.

Panellists Pyi Gyi Khin Executive Director Daw Nwe Zin Win, Irrawaddy reporter Lawi Weng and Center for Law and Democracy Executive Director Mr. Toby Mendel discussed the title “Access to information and information outreach” moderated by Mizzima Media Group Director Daw Thin Thin Aung.

Discussion titled “Safety of Journalists and the issue of impunity on crimes against journalists” was discussed by panellists DVB TV News Broadcast Journalist U Aung Ko Ko @ Ko Aung, Myanmar Human Rights Commission Commissioner U Yu Lwin, International Media Support (IMS) Regional Advisor Asia Dr. Ranga Kalansooorya and moderated by Myanmar Press Council Member U Myint Kyaw.

In the afternoon session a panel discussion titled “Media legislation and freedom of expression online and offline” was moderated by Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB) Bureau Chief U Toe Zaw Latt and discussed by panellists Freedom Expression Myanmar Programme Manager Daw Yin Yadana Thein, Myanmar Media Lawyers’ Network (MLN) Secretary U Than Zaw Aung, DW Akademie Project Manager Mr. Thomas Baerthlein and Internews Media Advisor U Myo Tha Htet.

Myanmar Peace Council Coordinator U Kyaw Lynn Oo moderated a panel discussion “The role of Ethnic media in peace-building” which was discussed by panellists Manarch Journal Chief Editor U Mai Naing Naing Oo, Karen Information Centre Chief Editor Daw Nan Phaw Gay, Root Investigative Agency (RIA) Founder Ko Nay Min Aung and Thanlwin Times U Ko Ko Zaw.

The final panel of the day titled “Countering misinformation in the digital age” was moderated by Yangon Region Hluttaw representative U Nay Phone Latt and discussed by panellists MIDO Executive Director Daw Htike Htike Aung, Kamayut Media Editor U Han Thar Nyin, Article 19 Senior Legal Officer Mr. Pierre Francois Docequir and Bosnia-Herzegovina Press Council Executive Director Ms. Ljiljana Zurovac.

Conference attendees raised questions to the panellists after the discussions.

Media Development Conference was jointly organized by Ministry of Information, UNESCO and media development supporting groups since 2012. This is the sixth time it is held and will be continued until 8 December.—Myanmar News Agency
Factories to be inspected for EMP and Wastewater Treatment Plant activity

By May Thet Hnin

FACTORIES will be inspected for Environmental Management Plan and Wastewater Treatment Plant activities, said Daw Khin Thida Tin, the Director of Yangon Region Environmental Conservation Department.

“There are weak points in dumping wastewater from some factories. In addition, they are not well-prepared for the Environmental Management Plan. Supervision Committee chairmen for respective regions and states Environmental Conservation and Climate Change will lead inspections in cooperation with the departments concerned. The cabinet will soon release official documents regarding inspections of factories”, she continued.

Factories are encouraged to strictly adhere to environmental emission guidelines in setting up wastewater treatment plants within nine months, as mentioned in the official announcement. If they fail to establish the wastewater treatment plant and abide by the prescribed procedures, action will be taken against them under the existing laws.

“Some factories do not know about it, but others intentionally refuse to do this. This being so, we will initially set the awareness period or implementation period. We will report those businessmen who attempt to defy the order to respective regional and state government”, said Daw Khin Thida Tin.

Commencing from FY 2015-2016, Environmental Management Plan Report is a must for businesses to seek approval from Myanmar Investment Commission to run the factories. However, some factories have found weaknesses in following the rules and some EMP Report shows flaws. Therefore, further notice will be made.

The EMP implementation organizations were described in general and no organization structure and no terms of reference were mentioned. Also, there are weaknesses in giving commitments, parameters frequency and geographical location, said Daw Khin Thida Tin.

It is a good move for the government regarding with EMP activities for the factories. However, the businessmen are currently faced with challenging es and difficulties, said U Aye Thaung, the chairman of Shwe Lin Pan Industrial Zone Management Committee.

“We found blockade problem in drainage system inside and outside of the zone. In addition, we have to make self-help repair on the roads in the zone. EMP activities in the zone will not be effective until the blockade drainage system outside of the zone is resolved”, he continued.

In addition to performance of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, concerted efforts and inclusive participation are needed to be made by all the stakeholders engaged in environmental conservation to reap a fruitful result, said Daw Khin Thida Tin.

MYANMA Railways (MR) plans to purchase 66 new railway coaches from Japan to replace Yangon circular train coaches, according to a report in the Myawady Daily on 6 December.

“Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has provided US$206.3 million in ODA loans to purchase the 66 coaches from Japan. MR will conduct to purchase of the coaches and make the contract in 2019. In September 2020, the new coaches will arrive in the first consignment” said U Thurein Win, the managing director of Myanmar Railways.

Currently, Myanmar Railways has 12 RBE trains plying daily for 215 routes. The MR plans to buy the new coaches with an aim to run the circular trains at a higher speed. The circular trains will run one circuit in only 1 hour and 5 minutes instead of three hours.

The MR will raise the average speed of the trains from 20 kmph to 40 kmph to save the passengers’ time. Moreover, the MR has been upgrading the railway stations and platforms, spending US$94.76 million from government budgets.

The MR has already upgraded Lammawdaw, Shan road, Ahton, Pan Hlaing and Hanthawaddy stations. The Pyay railway station and platform is being upgraded. Other stations will be upgraded in 2018.—GNLM

Personal information of passengers at highway terminals to be collected soon

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CITY police will collect personal information of passengers leaving Yangon through express bus terminals across Yangon in their efforts to stop human trafficking, said Police Major Myo Thein of Anti Trafficking in Persons Division in Yangon.

According to the Myawady Daily’s report on Monday, the data collection process will be launched at the beginning of next year. Arrangements are being made to provide trainings to the selected police members within this month.

The move mainly aims to gather evidence in response to human trafficking cases as it is hard to get evidence in the investigation process. This is why anti-trafficking police arrange to collect seating plans and personal information from the travellers before they leave from the city. The new plan is expected to largely support in fighting against human trafficking.

Human trafficking, a form of modern-day slavery, is a growing global problem. Victims worldwide are trafficked for the purposes of forced labour, forced adoption, forced prostitution, child begging and the removal of organs.

According to a study based on the annual human trafficking reports, Myanmar women have been the target of human trafficking cases destined to China for forced marriages. Myanmar police force is putting forth continuous efforts to combat human trafficking as a military type operation nationwide.

Under Section 24 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law enacted in 2005, offenders of trafficking in persons especially women, children and youths shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend from a minimum of 10 years to a maximum of imprisonment for life.—GNLM
Bumpy ride for global gold price since April causes unstable domestic market

THE gold price has been fluctuating in the global market since April, with a large gap of about US$40 to $80 between the highest price and the lowest price within a month, resulting in an unstable domestic gold market.

In early December, the global gold price decreased to US$1,256 per ounce. The pure gold price also declined to around Ks923,000 per tical (0.578 ounce) in the domestic market on 6th December.

The pure gold price yesterday was Ks904,000 per tical, with the global gold price fetching $1,257 per ounce, according to Aung Thamadi Gold and Jewellery Shop.

The price reached a peak in early September with high price in the global market. On 15 September, it reached an all-time high price of over Ks957,000 per tical. But shortly thereafter, the domestic gold price slipped gradually when global gold prices started fluctuating.

On 29 September, the domestic pure gold price was Ks936,000 per tical, while global gold fetched US$1,286 per ounce, according to Aung Thamadi Gold and Jewellery Shop.

The gold price is unstable this year but it is still on the rise. Transactions in gold and jewellery shops are currently in decline as buyers and sellers are observing the market due to price fluctuations.

Since April, the gold price has been on an upward trend. The price reached above Ks900,000 per tical in July and remained on the rise. Apart from mid-May and early July, the gold price this FY was hovering around a high price in the domestic market — Mon Mon

Pulses exports down by $343 million from last year

INDIA’s restriction on pulses importation has dropped pulses export income down to US$343 million as of November in this fiscal year compared to the same period last year.

More than 970,000 tons of various pulses with an estimated value of $671 million were exported to foreign trade partners so far this year.

India is the main buyer of Myanmar’s pigeon peas, mung beans and green grams. Around 1.3 million tons of pulses are exported to India each year.

In early August, India announced a 200,000-ton import quota on pigeon peas and 300,000-ton quota on mung bean and green grams.

Myanmar’s pulses export is heavily reliant upon the Indian market, which accounts for 70 per cent of export volume. The sole reliance on a single market led the Myanmar pulses industry to plunge into chaos.

Therefore, the government, Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and the Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association are exerting concerted efforts to control the market.

There are about four months left to lift the import restriction by India. At present, the news that India’s merchants placed purchase orders in advance is spreading through the pulses industry. Therefore, the prices of mung bean and pigeon peas have increased in recent days.—Htet Myat

American businesses observe investment opportunities in Myanmar

By May Thet Hnin

IN order to observe investment opportunities in Myanmar, American investors met with the US-ASEAN Business Council held on 6th December at the office of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI).

A delegation led by Mr. Alexandar Feldman, President & CEO of the US-ASEAN Business Council, with 35 representatives from 15 American companies have come to explore business opportunities. These businesspersons are engaged in manufacturing, financial services, insurance, law, electricity enterprises, pharmaceutical enterprises, IT businesses, cosmetics, the automobile industry and petroleum enterprises.

“They come to see investment opportunities in Myanmar. They showed positive impression on the country’s difficulties. They help to tackle the problems. We hope more investments to enter Myanmar in the future”, said U Zaw Min Win, the president of UMFCCI.

Vice president U Wai Phyo of UMFCCI also explained the merits and demerits of Myanmar’s businesses and investment opportunities.

Mr. Andrew Lee, Chief Country Representative of GE Global Growth Organisation, said that it is the sixth time that UMFCCI and US businesses have exchanged ideas. Delegates from US-ASEAN Business Council on a mission come to Myanmar to deal with business problems once a year.

Mr. Alexandar Feldman, President & CEO of the US-ASEAN Business Council, said American investment will benefit all participants - companies, customers, and suppliers.

“We see American businesses doing business in financial services, IT, manufacturing as well as many services and a wide range of members will hopefully help Myanmar become successful. We do understand the difficulties in Myanmar regarding the violence situations in Rakhine State and about human rights”, Mr. Feldman said.

“Some American investors are already doing businesses in Myanmar, but there is no remarkable rise in investments. Therefore, we need to prepare for suitable economic infrastructures to attract more foreign direct investments”, said U Zeya Thura Mon, CEO of Zeya & Associates Co., Ltd.

“Multinational corporations based in the US have just come to observe the economic climate and performance of Myanmar against other countries in order to study business opportunities and profits. We need to prepare for the needs and give a greater incentive to the investors to survive in a highly competitive region”, he continued.

Myanmar received investments of only US$128 million from the US as of the end of October in the current fiscal year, according to statistics of the Myanmar Investment Commission. This delegation will meet with government authorities in Nay Pyi Taw on 8th and 9th December.”
SG Min Aung Hlaing comforts injured military personnel in Pyin Oo Lwin

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, together with wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, accompanied by military officers, comforted Tatmadaw personnel who were receiving treatments for injuries sustained while serving the security duties at battlefields at the military hospital in Pyin Oo Lwin station yesterday morning.

The commander-in-chief asked after individual wounded army members and fulfilled their requirements for medical treatment.—Myanmar News Agency

Vaccination of half a million children planned in Rakhine State

A vaccination programme to protect against the Japanese Encephalitis (JE) virus in Rakhine State will be conducted from 11 to 21 December to vaccinate 48,766 children between 9 months to 5 years old from 636 wards/villages.

Mrauk’u District people-based programme is vaccinating 102,603 children between 9 months to 5 years old from 999 wards/villages. Maungtaw District people-based vaccination programme against JE had vaccinated 105,140 children from 499 wards/villages. Kyaukphyu District people-based vaccination programme against JE had vaccinated 45,378 children of 9 months to 5 years old from 847 wards/villages. In Thandwe District people-based vaccination programme against JE 51,854 children between 9 months to 5 years old from 622 wards/villages will be vaccinated said Dr. Thiha.

The Rakhine State people-based vaccination programme is vaccinating 251,983 children between 9 months to 5 years old from 713 villages in remote areas.

CBM and US-ASEAN Business Council representatives meet

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AMIRO notification in NV card ...

FROM PAGE 1

With regards to this, the Ministry clarified the matters to five Islamic groups, in detail.

The process of giving out NV Cards and the process of National Verification requires the cooperation of all organisations, hence the need to spread the information to other religious organisations.

Under section 65 of the 1982 Myanmar Citizen Law, those who apply are subject to the decision of the Central Committee as to whether they are citizens or not. NV Cards need not be given out to those holding National Registration Card.

Applicants who need to undergo scrutiny are:

—Those who surrender temporary NV Cards that have expired and those whose temporary NV Cards are missing or destroyed and reported to the authority concerned need to undergo national scrutiny.

—Those whose cards were cancelled or taken back for invalidity though holding National Registration Cards

—Those who have avoided family registration lists or any kind of identity card, even though they lived in Myanmar for several generations. Children born of parents holding a National Scrutiny Card, and children born of parents who can be regarded to be eligible for citizenship through holding national registration cards can directly apply for the process of national scrutiny without needing to hold NV Cards.

Accordingly, the above-mentioned facts concerning applying for Citizenship Scrutiny Cards are needed for Islamists to be well convinced and cooperate in the process of national scrutiny by sharing through the Islamist Religious Organisations.—Myanmar News Agency

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

ISSUED AT 9:00 ON THURSDAY 7TH DECEMBER, 2017

BAY INFECTION:

According to the observations at (18:30) hrs M.S.T today, the depression over Southeast Bay of Bengal has moved North-North-westwards. It is centered at about (445) miles East-South-east of Machilipatnam, (440) miles South-Southeast of Gopalpur (India) and forecast to move North-Northwest wards and likely to further intensify during next 24 hours. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.
Creation of jobs plays an important role in reducing poverty rate, says Kayin State Minister

Creation of job opportunities plays an important role in reducing the poverty rate in rural areas, said Dr. Tin Win Kyaw, Kayin State Minister for Social Affairs.

The minister made the remarks at the opening of the 2nd Job Fair jointly organized by the Department of Labour and Hpa-An Technical High School with the sponsorship from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and IOMAD-RA Myanmar, in Hpa-An, Kayin State yesterday morning.

The event is aimed at creating more job opportunities for the young people across the country, he added. Deputy Speaker of Kayin State Hlutaw Daw Nang Thuzar Win, Kayin State Minister for Social Affairs Dr. Tin Win Kyaw and Kayin State Minister for Bamar Ethnicities U Teza Htut Hlaing formally opened the job fair.

A total of 36 booths from 30 companies from Yangon, Mandalay, Mon and Kayin states are being exhibited in the two day event. —Myanmar Digital News ■

Public Peace Movement Week events in Palaw and Thayetchaung townships

As part of the Public Peace Movement Week event in Taninthayi Region, a public peace talk, musical entertainment, a peace cartoon and painting events in Palaw Township Myoma volleyball field was held on Wednesday evening.

The public was entertained with peace songs, after which there was a discussion about peace followed by a peace cartoon and painting event. U Jimmy and U Min Ko Naing of 88 Generation Peace and Open Society then discussed the public working together to achieve peace as people in attendance lighted candles and prayed for peace in Myanmar and for the success of 21st Century Panglong.

Similarly a public peace talk was held yesterday morning at Phayakoehsu Taungpaw Monastery, Kanetthiri Village, Thayetchaung Township where U Jimmy and U Min Ko Naing held talks. The public peace talk in Thayetchaung Township was attended by about 150 local people.—Palaw IPRD ■

Book Club established in Sittway

A book club was founded in conjunction with the Information and Public Relations Department and booklovers at the community center of IPRD in Sittway on 6 December.

A State officer from IPRD gave an opening speech.

The attendees from the Rakhine Library Foundation Group, academics, writers and participants who take part in library related activities, booklovers and local people mutually discussed plans for maintaining the library.

Afterwards, writer Khaing Nan San clarified the aims of establishing a book club and an official from Sittway IPRD welcomed literature enthusiasts who have joined the club. —Myanmar Digital News ■

Fire breaks out in Pauktaw Tsp

A fire broke out at Kyeeinnpyin relief camp in Pauktaw Township, Rakhine State at 9:45 am yesterday. The fire engulfed 14 houses and eventually burned out at 10:20 am. No causalities were reported in the incident.—Myanmar Digital News ■

Suspected bombs found under Taungphyu bridge in Mrauk-U

The local police force found two suspected bombs under a bridge between milepost 112/6 and milepost 112/7 on the Yangon-Sittway Road near Mrauk-U at 11:30 am yesterday while they were on patrol. According to the initial news, the local police force removed the suspected bombs and the motor road was temporarily closed. —Myanmar Digital News ■

Local policeman deactivates suspect bomb found on Yangon-Sittway Road near Mrauk-U. PHOTO: MRAUK-U (IPRD)
Let us help protect our loss of hard earned investment!

By Haung Thain

One of the main reasons to provide a button for immediate online purchases is to save time. But the most attractive aspect of that is a sense of security, the assurance that you can pay only after the goods have been sent to you. If this item is not sent within a reasonable time, you can ask to have your money refunded. However, some sellers are not willing to refund the money. In such cases, you can use the services of the sellers. They will provide you with a receipt and a guarantee. In this way, you can be sure that you will get the goods you ordered.

It is important to remember that the goods you buy online are not always genuine. There are many online sellers who sell fake goods. These goods are often sold at a lower price than the genuine goods. However, when you buy these goods, you will not be able to get a refund. In such cases, you can use the services of the sellers. They will provide you with a guarantee. In this way, you can be sure that you will get the goods you ordered.

The Global New Light of Myanmar

In today’s Myanmar, the State Government founded Yangon Stock Exchange for the development of Capital Market, opening with the 4 registered companies. Frankly, selling shares to the public needs to be protected. Investors need to enter the companies that are listed on the Exchange. The SECM gives permits of trading shares after detailed scrutiny of the companies into which the investors are aimed at protecting the losses of the investors. Most of fraudulent cases appear because of lack of gathering the information of the companies. SECM was established with the edge of the technology became preys. In SECM, the registered companies and investors can be protected from being cheated in selling and using the shares in the public.

The Executive Secretary underscored that as the year comes to a close, Uptick in Asia-Pacific economic growth, but policy focus continued to see a rise in inequality and little progress in eliminating poverty. Uptick in Asia-Pacific economic growth, but policy focus continued to see a rise in inequality and little progress in eliminating poverty.

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CCTVs installed at Maungtaw Myoma Market

By News Team

According to the Maungtaw Township Development Committee, the soon-to-be-reopened Maungtaw Myoma Market is being installed with CCTVs. Due to the ARSA extremist terrorists' attack which took place on 25 August, Maungtaw Myoma Market was temporarily closed. With a view for people to comfortably sell and purchase goods, the Maungtaw Township Development Committee arranged to install CCTVs for an extra measure of security, officials said. Twenty-four CCTVs in all will be installed in the interior and exterior of the market. It has been learnt that eight additional CCTVs will be installed in the fishmongers section.

“Due to the terrorist attacks on August 25, markets in Maungtaw region were temporarily closed. Some had been opened. It has been arranged for making hindrances from the dangers of the destructive elements to install CCTVs. During the next few days to come, installation will be finished. Fish and meat stalls which had been opened will also be installed with CCTVs. Just after the installation, Myoma market will be opened.

Its aim of installing CCTVs is to make hindrances for those who will attempt bomb plants and criminal cases including pick-pocketing.

Not any other markets in Rakhine State, apart from Maungtaw Myoma Market, have been installed with CCTVs, said U Hla Myint, Chairman of Maungtaw Township Development Committee.

The cost of purchase and installation of CCTVs being installed will be covered by emergency funds, not from the Township Development Committee’s allotment. The present 32 CCTVs will be operated with solar power and cost Ks5 million. The market, built in 1996, includes over 450 stalls. Most of the shops sell clothing, blankets, cosmetics, electric equipment, kitchenware and household utensils. There are also restaurants.

Over Ks15 million in taxes is collected annually from the market. Due to the 25 August attack, tax revenue has decreased. Shopkeepers’ income may also be harmed, said the chairman of township development committee. In addition to the CCTVs, the market will be upgraded and roads will also be renovated.
Wildfire burns homes, winery in LA’s posh Bel-Air neighbourhood

LOS ANGELES — A wind-whipped wildfire raged on Wednesday into a wealthy Southern California neighbourhood, destroying at least six homes, threatening hundreds more and scorching a building at a winery owned by billionaire media mogul Rupert Murdoch.

The so-called Skirball Fire, which erupted early on Wednesday as the latest in a rash of major blazes fueled by hot, dry Santa Ana winds, had burned about 150 acres near large estates in the Bel-Air neighbourhood of Los Angeles by nightfall and was only 5 per cent contained.

Firefighters battled to save multimillion-dollar homes in the path of the flames, which also forced the closure of the San Diego (405) Freeway in both directions. “We are expecting some extreme wind behavior this evening,” Los Angeles County Fire Chief Daryl Osby told reporters at an afternoon news conference.

Murdoch’s winery, Moraga Vineyards, was evacuated on Wednesday morning as the fire descended on the grounds, a spokesperson said. Later a structure on the property was seen on fire as crews worked to extinguish the flames. “We believe the winery and house are still intact,” Murdoch said in a written statement.

“The country will achieve political stability, retarded growth and slowed recovery from a 2015 earthquake that killed 9,000 people.” — Reuters

Putin declares candidacy in 2018 presidential race, widely expected to win

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin announced Wednesday that he would seek a new term in the presidential election next year, which analysts say that he is almost certain to win easily.

“It will be a referendum on public trust in Vladimir Putin. This is due to the actual arrangement of political forces,” said Mikhail Remizov, Chairman of the National Strategy Institute. He added that it would be a major issue to encourage public interest in the next year’s election, as “the outcome is perfectly clear to both Putin’s supporters and his opponents,” which leads to growing apathy and indifference among the voters.” — Xinhua

Nepal votes in final round of polls at the end of long democratic transition

KATHMANDU — Nepalis began voting in the final round of parliamentary elections on Thursday, a key step to complete a nearly decade-long democratic transition after the abolition of the centuries-old monarchy and the end of a civil war against Maoist guerrillas.

The first phase of the election was held on 26 November, with final results not expected for about another 10 days because of the cumbersome vote-counting procedure, officials said.

Officials said more than 200,000 soldiers and police had been deployed to maintain security at polling centres after one person was killed and dozens wounded in a series of small blasts in the run-up to the polls. “Hundreds of activists, including from a splinter group of Maoists opposed to the election, have been detained for creating trouble,” army spokesman Nain Raj Dahal said.

More than 15 million people were eligible to vote for the 275-member parliament — 165 through first-past-the-post and 110 on a proportional basis in both rounds.

A woman casts her vote during the parliamentary and provincial elections in Bhaktapur, Nepal on 7 December 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS
B-1B bomber joins US-South Korea drills as tensions escalate

SEOUL — A US B-1B bomber on Wednesday joined large-scale US-South Korean military exercises that North Korea has denounced as pushing the peninsula to the brink of nuclear war, as tension mounts between the North and the United States.

The bomber flew from the Pacific US-administered territory of Guam and joined US F-22 and F-35 stealth fighters in the annual exercises, which run until Friday.

The drills come a week after North Korea said it had tested its most advanced intercontinental ballistic missile capable of reaching the United States, as part of a weapons program that it has conducted in defiance of international sanctions and condemnation.

Asked about the bomber’s flight, China’s Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told a regular news briefing in Beijing: “We hope relevant parties can maintain restraint and not do anything to add tensions on the Korean peninsula.”

North Korea regularly threatens to destroy South Korea, the United States and Japan. Its official KCNA state news agency said at the weekend that US President Donald Trump’s administration was “begging for nuclear war” by staging the drills.

It also labelled Trump, who has threatened to destroy North Korea if the United States is threatened, “insane”. KCNA said on Tuesday that the exercises in which the bomber took part are “simulating an all-out war”, including drills to “strike the state leadership and nuclear and ballistic rocket bases, air fields, naval bases and other major objects...” US Republican Senator Lindsey Graham on Sunday urged the Pentagon to start moving US military dependants, such as spouses and children, out of South Korea, saying conflict with North Korea was getting close.

The US-South Korea drills coincide with a rare visit to the isolated North by UN political affairs chief Jeffrey Feltman.

North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Pak Myong Guk met Feltman on Wednesday in the North Korean capital, Pyongyang, and discussed bilateral cooperation and other issues of mutual interest, KCNA said. — Reuters

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**CLAiM’S DAY NOTICE**

**MV ORIEnT SKY VOY. NO (-)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ORIENT SKY VOY. NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.12.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-2 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S WILHELMSEN SHIPS SERVICE(S) PTE LTD.**

Phone No: 2301928

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**CLAiM’S DAY NOTICE**

**MV SInAR BALI VOY. NO (043)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BALI VOY. NO (043) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.12.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE) PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

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**CLAiM’S DAY NOTICE**

**MV PATHEIN STAR VOY. NO (-)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PATHEIN STAR VOY. NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.12.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185
OKINAWA — A small cylindrical object fell on the roof of a nursery school in Okinawa when a US aircraft flew over on Thursday morning, local and central government officials said.

There were no reports of injury from the incident, which occurred about 300 meters from US Marine Corps Air Station Futenma that sits in the middle of a densely populated residential area in Ginowan. Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera said in Tokyo that the local defence bureau is asking the US Marine Corps in Okinawa to confirm the object and other facts, adding, “We think this kind of incident stirs concerns among the people in Okinawa.”

A government source said the US military CH-53 transport helicopter was flying in the area when the incident took place at about 10:20 am. Okinawa Gov. Takeshi Onaga said it would be “outrageous” if the cylindrical object, about 15 centimeters long, did indeed drop from a US aircraft. According to the nursery school, about 50 children were playing in its grounds while eight toddlers and two caregivers were inside the building when they heard a loud sound indicating something had fallen. “I’m appalled to think what would have happened if it had instead fallen just a little bit from where it did,” said Takeshi Onaga, the 78-year-old chief caregiver at the facility. The Japanese and US governments have been pushing a plan for the relocation of the Futenma base from Ginowan to the less populated Henoko coastal district of Nago, also in Okinawa Prefecture. The relocation is intended to remove the dangers posed by the Futenma base. But Onaga and many other people in Okinawa, which hosts the bulk of US military facilities in Japan, want the Futenma base to be removed from the prefecture altogether.

— Kyodo News

The arrow in this file photo taken on 24 July 2017, indicates the location of a nursery school in Ginowan in Japan’s southernmost island prefecture of Okinawa. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Nissan, Honda to recall nearly 4,000 vehicles in Viet Nam

HANOI — Japanese automakers Nissan and Honda will recall nearly 4,000 pick-up trucks and cars in Viet Nam to fix technical faults.

Nissan will recall 3,073 pick-up trucks imported from Thailand, which were manufactured between 20 September 2010 and 1 December 2014 due to airbag faults, announced the Viet Nam Register on Thursday.

According to the maker, air blowers of front passenger airbags in Nissan Navara LE and Navara XE can be exposed to moisture, which prevents their normal operation.

Nissan Viet Nam will check and replace the air pump for LE and XE versions of Navara pickup trucks from this month to next December.

A total of 625 Honda cars, including Accord CR3 produced in 2012, Accord CR2 manufactured from 2013 to 2016 and Odyssey made in the 2015-2017 period will be recalled.

— Xinhua

MANILA — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Thursday urged Pacific members to step up their efforts to adapt to more extreme weather conditions and mitigate disaster risks to improve the region’s economic growth and development projects.

The ADB’s Pacific Economic Monitor, a bi-annual review of economic developments and policy issues in ADB’s 14 developing members in the Pacific, warns that climate change could derail economic progress in the Pacific.

“The Pacific is among those parts of the world most vulnerable to weather-related disasters. “Many Pacific countries have taken steps to improve resilience, such as integrating climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction into their national policies, climate-proofing infrastructure, and building financial resilience,” said Carmela Locsin, director general of ADB’s Pacific Department.

— Xinhua

Object possibly from US military aircraft falls on Okinawa nursery

ABD calls for more efforts from Pacific members to adapt to extreme weather
Sean Combs leads four black artists as world’s highest paid musicians

LOS ANGELES — Rapper Sean “Diddy” Combs was ranked the world’s highest-paid musician on Wednesday in an annual list that saw black artists take the top four spots.

Combs, who is also a hip hop producer and entrepreneur, earned an estimated $130 million (97.23 million pounds) for the year, according to Forbes, mostly from his Bad Boy Family Reunion tour and the sale of his Sean Jean clothing line.

Fellow American Beyoncé ranked second, with earnings estimated at $115 million from her Formation world tour and hit album “Lemonade,” while Canadian artists Drake ($94 million) and The Weeknd ($92 million) rounded out the top four.

British band Coldplay pulled in an estimated $88 million to take the No. 5 spot.

Forbes compiled the list after estimating pre-tax income for the 12 months from June 2016 to 2017 based on interviews with managers, agents, lawyers, interviews and data from Pollstar, the Recording Industry Association of America and tracking firm Nielsen. Last year’s top two artists - Taylor Swift, and British boy band One Direction - both slipped out of the top 10 this year. Swift did not tour this year and released her latest album in November, while One Direction are on hiatus as its members pursue solo careers. — Reuters

Chinese actor says Chinese cinema fusing “own traditions with the outside world”

SYDNEY — An event in Sydney brought some of the world’s biggest stars to the red carpet Wednesday night for the 7th annual Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts awards.

In town to judge the category of best Asian film alongside Russell Crowe and South Korean filmmaker Kim Ki-Duk, Chinese actor Liu Ye talked about the growing excitement around Chinese cinema in Western countries.

“Chinese filmmakers and Chinese people in general have become more and more open minded and willing to accept different things,” he told Xinhua.

“And in this way, China is fusing its own traditions with the outside world,” he added.

“Therefore, I think it’s a good time for a Western movie to come in China or for a Chinese movie to go abroad.”

One of the Chinese films that was nominated for best Asian picture was the record breaking, box office smash hit Wolf Warrior 2.

Writer of the action blockbuster Liu Yi explained that one of the biggest factors in the recent success of Chinese cinema has been China itself.

“The rise of China’s economy and the strength of China overall has made China an increasingly important player in the world,” Liu Yi said on the red carpet.

“So maybe other foreign friends will start to pay more and more attention to China and this will also give Asian films a larger audience around the world,” he said.

“At the same time, it will raise the industrial standard for the whole Chinese film industry, which is already close to or meeting the world’s top industry standards.”

Indian sports drama Dangal took home top prize in the Asian category on Wednesday.

The Best Actor award went to nine-year-old Sunny Pawar for his role in the biographical film Lion and the Best Actress was claimed by Emma Booth for her work portraying a serial killer in Hounds of Love.

The Oscar nominated Lion also won the Best Picture award.

In early 2018, audiences can expect to see Liu Ye’s new TV series Old Boy, in which Liu plays a pilot. “It’s a beautiful love story with some scenes filmed in Australia,” he said. “The wonderful environment here supports the story well and hopefully everyone can see it soon.” — Xinhua

France mourns death of “French Elvis” Johnny Hallyday

PARIS — Johnny Hallyday, whose death at 74 was announced by his wife and the French president on Wednesday, was a rock and roll giant in his native France, surviving drug use, family strife and near-death episodes to strut the stage for more than 50 years.

Known for his cowboy swagger, gravelly voice, abundant tattoos and leather biker jackets, the “French Elvis” had tens of millions of fans, above all in his native France, where he sold more records than any other singer.

Hallyday died after a battle with lung cancer. His wife Laeticia phoned French President Emmanuel Macron at about 2 am (0100 GMT) with news that triggered an outpouring of grief from fans, politicians and celebrities.

“For more than 50 years, he was a vibrant icon,” read a statement by Macron, who this summer attended a concert Hallyday gave days after a dose of chemotherapy. Later, during a visit to Algeria, Macron said: “Homage will be paid.” Hallyday sold more than 100 million albums over the decades, mostly in the French-speaking world. He never quite conquered the United States, where he lived in Los Angeles in later years.

“I write these words without believing them. But yet, it’s true. My man is no longer with us,” his wife said in a statement.

Police were posted outside his house west of Paris.

Broadcasters provided wall-to-wall coverage of the rocker’s life, with reams of black-and-white film and song tapes tracing the history of a man regarded by many, non-fans included, as part of French national heritage. Lawmakers in France’s lower house of parliament paid their respects with a standing ovation. French-Canadian singer Celine Dion took to Twitter to mourn the loss of “a true icon”. American singer Lenny Kravitz posted a tweet saying: “Repose en Paix (Rest in peace). Your soul is pure Rock and Roll.”

In Germany, his father’s birthplace, the underground railway authority said it would pipe his music into trains, while Brussels City Hall said his biggest hits would be aired over loudspeakers at the famous Grand Place square in an evening tribute. — Reuters

French fan Andre Duval poses with a poster of late French singer and actor Johnny Hallyday in Marnes-la-Coquette near Paris, France, on 6 December 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS
Shinhan Bank, Seoul University provide free surgery to children

A team comprised of 25 medical professionals from Seoul University and six philanthropists from Shinhan Bank conducted a health care programme at Yangon Children’s Hospital and Yankin Children’s Hospital recently.

During the four-day programme that began on 20 November, the team donated medical care, including surgery for congenital cleft lips and palates and open heart surgery for 36 children.

Sponsored by the South Korean bank, which launched its operation in Myanmar in September, 2016, this is the third time of the medical team has travelled to Myanmar and provided medical care.

In the previous programmes in 2016, 49 children received free medical care and surgery.

—GNLM

Peace Music Festival Grand Final on 10 December

THE Ministry of Information and Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) had held Peace Music Festival Level-I events in 11 cities throughout Myanmar and Level-II and Level-III events in Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon while the events were broadcasted live.

Now the Peace Music Festival Grand Final will be held in People’s Park, Yangon on 10 December and the competition of the 11 finalists and entertainment by famous singers will be broadcasted live.

—Myanmar News Agency

Tourists visit Myeik archipelago via yachts, cruise ships

AN increasing number of tourists are visiting Myeik archipelago to observe the underwater landscape in Kawthoung District.

Travelling by yacht and ship and enjoying the relaxation of restrictions, the region has had more and more tourists month by month. The tourists usually pay for overnight trips as well as day trips.

A tour group comprised of 1,592 tourists and 1,961 crew members visited Katyinkwa Island in Myeik Archipelago by Genting Dream Star Cruise on 27 November. They visited the island with the arrangement of Tint Tint Myanmar Group of Companies and under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

The tourists who were on board on the cruise are from 25 countries. They visited Katyinkwa Island through the Phuket jetty in Thailand. The Genting Dream Star Cruise then proceeded to Singapore on 6 December, it is learnt.

—Ministry of Hotels and Tourism

Hainan receives over 1 mln overseas tourists

HAIKOU — The number of overseas tourists to China’s southern island province of Hainan this year has surpassed one million, Hainan Tourism Development Committee said Wednesday.

A total of 56 direct international air routes now link Hainan to destinations including Russia, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Germany. The province plans to operate 100 international routes by 2020, according to Sun Ying, head of the committee.

—Xinhua
Myanmar U-23 selects team for Thailand’s M-150 Cup

Kyaw Zin Lin

TWENTY-ONE players were selected for the Myanmar U-23 national football team, which will be competing in the M-150 Cup 2017 in Thailand from 9 to 15 December, according to the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF).

There were two goalkeepers chosen, San Sat Naing and Pyae Sone Chit.

The eight defenders are Htie Htie Aung, Hein Nay San, Hlaing Myo Aung, Soe Moe Kyaw, Nann Wai Minn, Kyaw Thein Oo, Sithu Moe Khant, and Aung Wunna Soe.

The seven midfielders are Si Thu Aung, Hlaing Bo Bo, Yan Naing Oo, Lwin Moe Aung, Maung Maung Lwin, Kyaw Min Oo, Yan Paing Soe. The four strikers are Than Paing, Pyae Sone Naing, Aung Kaung Mhan and Win Naing Htun.

Head Coach Gerd Zeise will lead the team along with assistant coach U Myint Ko, and goal coach U Aung Kyaw Kyaw.

Myanmar, Vietnam and Uzbekistan will comprise Group B, while host Thailand, Japan and the Democratic Republic of Korea are in Group A.

All six U-23 teams will play in a round robin format.

Myanmar U-23 will face Vietnam on 11 December.

Stakes are high in Manchester derby

MANCHESTER, (England) — There have been few Manchester derbies with as much on the line as Sunday’s meeting at Old Trafford of the top two teams in the Premier League — the most anticipated clash of the campaign so far.

Pep Guardiola’s City have built an eight-point lead following an unbeaten start to the season that has included 13 straight victories - equalling the record for the longest winning run in a Premier League campaign.

Not to be completely undone, however, Jose Mourinho’s Manchester United have equalled a historic club record by remaining unbeaten at Old Trafford for 40 matches in all competitions.

And with former Barcelona boss Guardiola and ex-Real Madrid manager Mourinho having developed a fierce rivalry during their time together in Spain, Sunday’s meeting promises to be one to savour.

The last team to beat United at home were City in September, 2016 and a repeat performance would leave the club, once described as “noisy neighbours” by former United boss Alex Ferguson, 11 points clear at the summit.

City have been playing some exhilarating football this campaign with coach Guardiola’s style of play, which served him so well at his previous clubs, brining the expected rewards after a disappointing lack of consistency last season.

Yet while United have suffered two defeats on the road - to Huddersfield Town and Chelsea - they too have looked like champions at home.

The 49 games unbeaten have included 29 wins and 11 draws with 85 goals scored and just 17 conceded.

This season’s Premier League record at Old Trafford is played seven, won seven - 20 goals for and just one against.

Mourinho, however, will be without his key French midfielder Paul Pogba, who starts a three-match ban following his red card in Saturday’s crucial 3-1 win at Arsenal. United have produced their best football when they have had Pogba and Serbian anchorman Nemanja Matic on the field together and the former Juventus midfielder will be sorely missed.

Given the gap between the two clubs in the table, it will be intriguing to see if Mourinho maintains his habit of playing defensively against title rivals, a tactic which has been much criticised following the goalless draw at Liverpool in October.

Pogba, however, says United will approach the game in a positive fashion.

“We want to win. We need to win as well. They need to win because they know that we are behind and we are closing and closing,” he said. “If I didn’t believe that (we can win it), I’d stop playing football now,” he added. United’s Swedish striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic should be fit to feature at some stage in the game but defender Eric Bailly remains sidelined.

AFF 13th Council Meeting in Japan sets upcoming football tournaments

THE Asian Football Federation (AFF) 13th Council Meeting was held in Tokyo, Japan yesterday, with officials from Myanmar Football Federation including MFF President U Zaw Zaw in attendance, according to the MFF website.

Football officials from respective ASEAN and Asian countries also attended and focused on the premier event of the AFF Suzuki Cup, with the FA of Indonesia (PSS) set to host all tournaments in 2018.

During the meeting the officials confirmed Indonesia as hosts for all seven football and Futsal Championships next year.

The AFF Council also decided that, from 2018 onwards, the council meetings will be held in different countries on a rotational basis.

Australia will host the 14th AFF Council Meeting in 2018 in March in Sydney.

The 15th edition will be held in Brunei, according to a statement from the AFF.

—Kyaw Zin Lin

Tiger Woods still a major threat, say Calcavecchia and Janzen

NEW YORK — The show that Tiger Woods put on last week in his latest comeback from injury was enough to convince a pair of major winners that he may still be able to triumph in golf’s blue riband events.

Woods swung freely and with no sign of back pain at the Hero World Challenge, finishing tied for ninth in the 18-man exhibition which featured eight of the world’s top 10 golfers.

Mark Calcavecchia saw enough to know it would be foolish to write off the former world number one.

“He’s name is Tiger Woods after all. You don’t just forget that he has won 14 majors and 79 (PGA Tour) tournaments,” the former British Open winner told a conference call to promote the Diamond Resorts Invitational. “I watched most of last week and I was very impressed with a lot of things. He’s going at it full speed, he’s certainly not holding back trying to protect what we all thought was still going to be a tender back.” —Reuters