

NATIONAL
Take pride
in your own
profession
PAGE-3



LOCAL NEWS
Tourists flock to
historical buildings
in Mandalay
PAGE-4



NATIONAL
Chinese Film
Festival 2017
opens
PAGE-2

BUSINESS
Licences for over 170
gem mining blocks to
expire in October
PAGE-5

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Yangonites showing solidarity with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. **PHOTO-ZAW MIN LATT (MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)**

Standing together with State Counsellor

YESTERDAY afternoon many Yangon citizens engaged in a march to show their solidarity with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

U Zaw Min Htike, a participant from Maubin City, said the State Counsellor is taking a firm stand in handling the situation in Rakhine. "She (the State Coun-

sellor) does not take sides and is just in her actions," he said. "That's why we're showing our support by doing this rally. We want the other countries to know the reasons we're supporting her."

Supporters gathered at the Thakin Mya Park in Ahlone Township and listened to

the performance of Pan Ye Lan (Flower's Path), a music troupe. The crowd started their march at 3pm along Kannar Road and ended in front of Maha Bandula Park in front of City Hall. The supporters of the State Counsellor waved banners in her name and image and shouted their support for her.

Pan Ye Lan then performed at Maha Bandula Park and several of the participants spoke out on their reason for joining this show of support for the State Counsellor.

"We entertained those who participated in the rally," said U Thar Htwe, a member of Pan Ye Lan. "I want everyone to know

that no matter how many the State pressures us, if we the citizens are united then we can overcome all obstacles. If every community and township across the country holds these kind of supportive events then it will give strength to our leader who is under a lot of pressure," he said.

SEE PAGE-3



BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

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Rice sacks donate to IDP camps in Maungtaw

U Aye Tha Aung, the Deputy Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw, and other donors traveled to Maungtaw yesterday and donated sacks of rice to the IDP camps there.

The Deputy Speaker and entourage donated the rice sacks to the IDP camps in four monasteries in Buthidaung Township and to four monasteries and two schools in Maungtaw Township. The Deputy Speaker discussed about medical aid, food and clothing with the displaced ethnic people and Hindus who fled from the terrorist attacks by ARSA and gave them words of encouragement.

A displaced Hindu villager currently seeking shelter in an IDP camp at a school in Maungtaw said Hindu people are deeply affected by these events. "Every time there is a conflict the IDP camps always provide us with a place to stay, food and medical aid too," said the villager. "For this we thank the government and we promise to stand together with our ethnic brothers." There are currently 906 Hindu villagers taking shelter in the school.

Afterwards, U Kyaw Lwin, the Rakhine Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Minerals, said the government is



U Aye Tha Aung, Deputy Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw, donating rice for IDP camps in Maungtaw. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

working to restore peace to the Rakhine region and that they are receiving help from the union government, Hluttaw, the Tatmadaw and other administrative bodies.

U Ye Htut, the Deputy Commissioner of Maungtaw General Administration Department, said they are giving priority to security details so that the IDPs can return to their homes. He said they have completed plans to deal with

the immediate food requirements and also plan to build more houses in sparsely populated villages. He said that there will be better security if the villages were to reside close to each other and the government is working to provide tractors to harvest the crops. He said they are trying to provide each household with livestock and crop seeds for farming and they will also provide trucks for villages with poor transportation.

Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and donors said they are sympathetic to the displaced ethnic people, which is why they travelled to Maungtaw twice in the same month. They have donated 140 rice sacks to IDP camps in Buthidaung Township and 225 rice sacks to Maungtaw Township and they will continue their travel to the remaining villages on 2 October. —Naing Linn Kyi, Thant Zin Win ■

Sittway honours older persons

SITTWAY, the capital of Rakhine State, observed the International Day of the Older Persons at a home for the aged yesterday.

Rakhine State Minister U Aung Kyaw Zan said, "Social Welfare Department of the Rakhine State is caring 107 older persons at its three homes for the aged.

Financial aid is provided to nonagenarians and above under the government program which covers older persons in Sittway, Maungtaw, MraukU, Kyaukphyu, Thandwe and other townships.

Rakhine State High Court Chief Justice U Kyauk Minister U Aung Kyaw Zan, Rakhine State Advocate General U Kyaw Hla Tun and officials presented cash and kind to the older persons. —IPRD ■

Chinese Film Festival 2017 opens in Nay Pyi Taw

Chinese Film Festival 2017 opened at Aungthabyay cinema in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday where movies depicting the religion and culture of China were screened.

"We can enjoy the beautiful natural sceneries, lifestyles, traditions, progress and innovations together with the elegance of the artistes in their performances and the skillfulness of the technicians in their terrific creations," said Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint at the ceremony.

The minister also expressed belief that the film festival would help promote organization-to-organization relations apart from people-to-people relations based

on the long-lived fraternal friendship and mutual understanding and respect,

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint and Chinese Ambassador Mr Hong Liang and former Myanmar Miss Universe Moe Set Y formally opened the festival sponsored by the Chinese embassy in Myanmar.

"Such film festivals also serve as the facilitator for the progress of the film industries, economic relations and friendship of the two neighbours sharing a long common border" the Union minister added.

Apart from these benefits, the festival also gives wonderful experience to the audience, he said, expressing belief that future festivals grander and



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint, Chinese Ambassador Mr Hong Liang and Moe Set Y formally open the Chinese Film Festival. **PHOTO: MNA**

more enjoyable than the present one will further strengthen Sino-Myanmar friendly relations.

Chinese Ambassador Mr

Hong Liang also delivered address at the ceremony opened with two Chinese movies – Xuan Zang and Kung Fu Yoga.

Dr Pe Myint and Mr Hong

Liang honoured Moe Set Y who serves as the Ambassador of the Festival which continues till 8 October. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Take pride in your own profession after constituting the legality, people's confidence, personal dignity and integrity of Police Force

"All of Myanmar Police Force, in carrying out the duties and enforcement of law should be transparent, accountable and responsible. Only then can the police constitute the integrity, dignity, people's confidence and legality and take pride in the profession, always striving for the good of the country and people," said Vice President U Myint Swe in the opening address of 53rd Myanmar Police Force Day Celebration at Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw at 9am yesterday morning.

Then he added that the police force shall promote the relation with media so as to be able to render information immediately to people and mitigate the people's fear from crime, thus gaining the confidence of people on Myanmar Police Force.

"Now the world is changing at an alarming rate with creations in high tech, and accordingly new generation of crimes, terrorism and instability are brought about together with the advancement of technology. So police need training to cope with those crimes and to keep abreast with the police of other countries", he continued.

To enhance the capacity,



Vice President U Myint Swe attends 53rd Myanmar Police Force Day Celebration in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar police force is now undergoing training in foreign countries in cooperation with EU, Interpol, Aseanpol, AFP, DEA, MPS. The workshops are also being held in relation with human rights, rule of law with the assistance of UNDP, UNICEF, UNDOC, ICRC, OHCHR and UN.

The Vice President also stressed that cooperation of

people, local and international NGOs are crucial in controlling the various crimes as the crimes are closely intermingled with social, environmental, economical and drug problems. Among the crimes, drug related crime is the most important to handle and it has become the issue of national level. Myanmar has been striving at her utmost effort to control and wipe out the drug abuse and

drug trafficking in cooperation with Greater Mekong countries, Asean countries and other countries such as US, Russia, India, Bangladesh and Korea.

"Myanmar has laid 5-year project to combat human trafficking in person. Now 2017-2021 plan is being implemented with policy of cooperation, prevention, legal charging and rehabilitation. It is heartening to hear that

according to the annual report issued annually by America, Myanmar was graded Tier 3 in 2016 and promoted to Tier 2 Watch list in 2017," he explained.

Then, Union Minister for Home Affairs, Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe awarded the Medal of Courage pertaining to the police performance to six police, Deputy Minister, Maj-Gen Aung Soe delivered Medals to 16 police and Police Maj-Gen Aung Win Oo gave the medals to 18 police.

Afterwards, Vice President U Myint Swe took the documentary photo together with the attendants to the ceremony and looked around the exhibition booths of Myanmar Police Force. The Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw, Man Win Khaing Than, Chairman of Constitutional Tribunal, U Myo Nyunt, Chairman of Union Election Commission, U Hla Thein, Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw, U Ti Khun Myat, Union Ministers, Union Attorney General, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar, Military officials, Deputy Ministers, diplomats, heads of departments and invited guests attended the ceremony.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Standing together with State Counsellor

FROM PAGE-1

Similarly, Daw Yu Theingi Win from Shwepyithar Township said there is a tremendous amount of pressure on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi from other countries and international organizations. "I want the world to know that Amay (Daw Aung San Suu Kyi) is with the people," she said. "That's why I have attended every event to support her."

Members of political parties and civil society also participated in yesterday's march. Responsible officials administered in clearing the roads for the safety of the marchers.

Ko Thura Soe, a member of the Humanitarian Group Myat Ku Thou, said they followed the event to provide medical attention for the marchers. "I think it's a good sign that we are hav-

ing events like these," he said. "I welcome the people gathering together to show their support for our leader." The public had held an event on 24 September in Yangon to show their unity and support on the State Counsellor's current actions and decisions. There have been similar events in other major cities and it is reported similar future events are planned. —Zaw Gyi ■



People march in support of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT

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Myanmar observes International Day of the Older Persons

INTERNATIONAL Day of the Older Persons was observed at Myanmar International Convention Centre 2 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

“With the aim of supporting the social lives of the senior citizens and providing regular income for them, the government is providing a social pension of K 10,000 from its coffers for all the nonagenarians and above in the entire country,” said Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe at the ceremony.

Currently, 39,440 elder persons are enjoying the pension, and the ministry has further plans to increase the population of senior citizens entitled to enjoy the financial assistance, he said.

Like many other ASEAN countries, Myanmar’s aged population is increasing rapidly. Of the country’s population of 53 million 4.9 million or 9.2 percent are 60 and above. Roughly, we can say that one in eleven is a senior citizen. This highlights the vitality of social and health care for the growing aged population.

The system of caring the older persons through voluntary homes for the aged began over 100 years ago in 1915. At present, 82 recognized homes for the aged



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko presents medicines and cash donations to an aged person. **PHOTO: MNA**

are protecting over 2700 older persons. The government is also providing financial support for the homes.

Then the message of the UN secretary general was read out by the UNFPA resident representative. The Union minister presented K 2 million for the oldest man and woman of the country. Senior Citizen U Aye Thein on behalf of the two accepted the cash assistance.

Daw Naw Maw Htoo, who also is a senior citizen, of the aged care group, explained the community-based old aged protection program.

Union ministers Thura U Aung Ko, U Thein Swe, Dr Myo Thein Gyi and Naing Thet Lwin, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung and officials presented medicines and cash donations for the aged persons at the ceremony. Myanmar News Agency

All-inclusive healthcare prioritized in Rakhine since 2012

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe discussed the World Bank-aided healthcare programs, nutrition programs and healthcare undertakings in Rakhine State with officials of the global financial body at his office in Yangon yesterday.

At his meeting with Vice President of WB for East Asia and Pacific Ms Victoria Kwakwa and party, the Union minister said that since 2012, the all-inclusive healthcare undertakings in Rakhine State have become a priority task.

When the persons arriving in the other country enter Myanmar under bilateral agreement, the government will undertake healthcare, nutrition, child vac-

cination, environmental sanitation, programs for them. The government will also provide rural healthcare centers, and 16-bed emergency hospitals as and when necessary. All these undertakings will be carried out as priority cases in cooperation with the World Bank.

The Union minister invited WB involvement in collecting food consumption data as a base for national nutrition program, heightening public awareness on health and raising occupational competency.

Ms Victoria Kwakwa said WB has agreed the Union minister’s discussions in principle and promised further aid. Myanmar News Agency



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe holds talks with Vice President of WB for East Asia and Pacific Ms Victoria Kwakwa and party. **PHOTO: MNA**

Factors affecting inward foreign direct investment

FROM PAGE 8

Political stability/property rights: Foreign direct investment has an element of risk. Countries with an uncertain political situation will be a major disincentive. Also economic crisis can discourage investment. And FDI related to political stability is the level of corruption and trust in institutions especially judiciary and the extent of law and order.

Commodities: capital inflows and volatile commodity price movements pose significant policy challenges for developing countries. One reason for foreign investment is the existence of commodities. Large capital inflows and rising commodity prices have strongly affected macroeconomic quantities as well as prices. Commodity prices freight costs and other indicators are often pointed to as potential gauges of underlying economic activity.

Clustering effects: Foreign firms often are attracted to invest in similar areas to existing FDI. The reason is that they can benefit from external economics of scale-growth of service industries and transport links. Also, there will be greater confidence to invest in areas with a good track record. The government may apply its policy support to attract FDI for high tech clustering and the FDI dominated cluster may start the three interrelated elements: (1) a pragmatic goal of government support: (2) complementarities with the international leading firms in the market, technology and equipment linkages: (3) Sustainable capacity of technological learning to drive local developments.

Access to free trade areas: One of empirical results indicates that there is a positive relationship between participation in multilateral agreements and FDI inflow into the Asia-Pacific re-

gion. AFTA (ASEAN Free Trade Area) is unique in that large increases in FDI and trade in the region have led to the agreement instead of the other way around. AFTA is projected to significantly boost GDP growth in the region. To the extent the AFTA increases GDP growth, FDI flows into the region will be enhanced as well.

Exchange rate: One of the most factors affecting FDI is the exchange rate. Exchange rate movements and exchange rate uncertainty appear to be important factors investors take into consideration in their decision to invest abroad. Much of the literature on exchange rate movements and FDI concentrates on two issues: level of the exchange rate and the volatility of the exchange rate. The level of exchange rate may influence FDI because depreciation of the host country currency against the home currency increases the relative wealth of foreigners

thereby increasing the attractiveness of the host country for FDI as firms are able to acquire assets in the host country relatively cheaply. Thus a depreciation of the host currency should increase FDI into the host country and conversely an appreciation of the host currency should decrease FDI.

The theoretical arguments linking volatility to FDI have and risk aversion argument. According to production flexibility arguments, exchange rate volatility increases foreign investment because firm can adjust the use of one of their variable factors following the realization of nominal or real shock for developed countries. According to the risk aversion theory, FDI decreases as exchange rate volatility increases in developing countries. This is because higher volatility in the exchange rate lower the certainty equivalent expected exchange rate. Certainty equiv-

alent levels are used in the expected profit functions of firms that make investment decision today in order to realize profits in future periods. A foreign direct investment in a country with a high degree of exchange rate volatility will have a riskier stream of profit. Therefore, most of literature suggest that a weak exchange rate in the host country can attract more FDI because it will be cheaper for the multinational to purchase assets. However exchange rate volatility could discourage investment because investors are concerned with future expected profits.

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