



NATIONAL
Meeting on IDP camps,
freedom of movement
matters held in Rakhine State
PAGE-3



NATIONAL
Cyber-savvy
students bring
honour to Myanmar
PAGE-6



LOCAL NEWS
YBS bidding
winner to be
announced 10 Jan
PAGE-4

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 261, 2nd Waning of Pyatho 1379 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Wednesday, 3 January 2018



Dr. Aung Tun Thet, left, and Dr. Win Myat Aye, centre, applaud as children in Maungtaw show their National Verification Cards. **PHOTO: MNA**

Repatriation, resettlement on track

UEHRD makes inspection tours of Rakhine State to make plans for repatriates

Dr. Win Myat Aye, the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, together with Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakh-

ine (UEHRD) Chief Coordinator Dr. Aung Tun Thet, and Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, conducted a field inspection yesterday to review the planned repatriation and resettlement sites in Myo Mi

Chaung, Kyun Pauk Pyu Su, Linbagonna and Pwintphyuchaung villages for those who fled to Bangladesh after the terrorist attacks of August 2017.

They coordinated on reset-

ting the repatriates to their original villages, or places nearby, to enable them to work in the same field as before, if they desired, or to take up better jobs.

SEE PAGE-3

Minimum wage set at Ks4,800 per day

THE National Committee on Minimum Wage announced yesterday that Ks4,800 per day, at the rate of Ks600 per hour, has been established as the minimum wage.

The official announcement signed by Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe came yesterday following a meeting of the committee on 29 December.

The new minimum wage will be applied across all regions and states to all businesses with 10 or more workers, officials said.

The decision was made after the committee took into consideration wage rates proposed by tripartite group meetings of employers, employees and the government.

The announcement stated that workers will receive not more than 50 per cent of the minimum wage during training periods and 75 per cent of the minimum wage during the three-month trial period.

Meanwhile, authorities urged management committees in special economic zones to submit the minimum wage for employees working in the special economic zones to the national minimum wage committee.—GNLM ■



BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

Awarded by FinanceAsia 2017

2nd National-level Political dialogue's CSO peace forum held in Nay Pyi Taw

THE 2nd National-level Political dialogue's union-level CSO (Civil society organization) peace forum began yesterday morning at MICC-II, Nay Pyi Taw.

At the forum, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr. Myo Aung, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin, members of the Nay Pyi Taw council, the MPs, members of the Peace Commission, CSOs and other representatives from the Region and State participated in the forum.

During the opening ceremony, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr. Myo Aung, said, "Through the regional-level and Nay Pyi Taw-level political dialogues, they can combine the reflection of people's voices as a policy."

According to procedures, the agreements reached at the forum are to be submitted to the Union Peace Dialogue Joint



Participants pose for a documentary photo at 2nd National-level Political dialogue's CSO peace forum.

PHOTO: MNA

Committee- UPDJC, which will discuss and bring them before the third meeting of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong.

In this way, they will seek a solution through a political dialogue to build a federal Un-

ion based upon democracy and federalism, he added. He called for participants of the dialogue to negotiate with each other based on loving-kindness, honesty and tolerance, so they can pass down the legacy for peace to the country's next generation.

He also expressed his belief that better results will come from the forum.

Afterwards, the head of the working group of the UPDJC, U Naing Ngan Lin, and Union Level Committee CSOs for Peace (UCCPF)-UCCPF member U

Naw Twe greeted members of the UCCPF committee.

During the forum, member of UCCPF, Saw Kyaw Swar, clarified the purpose of holding this forum, and then another member, U Aung Mine San, explained the procedures of the committee and the process of issuing policy papers.

Also, members of UCCPF, U Kyaw Zin and Swe Thahar, clarified information about the Administration and Financial sectors, and they concluded the first day of the forum. The 2nd National-level Political and CSO peace forum sought to collect two papers to submit to the committee, promoting the role of the CSOs in the peace-making process, and boosting the understanding, trust and mutual-respect among the UFFPF and commission members. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Opening ceremony of computer training school held by Daw Khin Kyi Foundation

THE OPENING ceremony for a computer training school, organised by the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation, was held yesterday morning at the school in Poppa Village, Kyaukpadaung Township, Mandalay Region. The school will provide free computer training.

Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, Mandalay Region Chief Minister; U Shwe Ko, Pyithu Hluttaw representative; and Dr. Thant Thaw Kaung, Daw Khin Kyi Foundation committee member, opened the school with the cutting of the ceremonial ribbon.

This was followed by the presentation of certificates of honours. Dr. Zaw Myint Maung gave a speech of honour, following which Dr. Thant Thaw Kaung explained about the computer training school and the other works undertaken by the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation for the public. Next, Dr. Zaw Myint Maung presented three computers to the school, while U Toe, Mt. Poppa Lovers Association chairman, presented a lacquer ware picture of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. A certificate of honour was also presented to the China (Taipei) computer technology training centre — the donors of computers and their related accessories — by Dr. Thant Thaw Kaung. Mandalay Region Hluttaw representative U Aye Khaing delivered the note

of thanks. The region chief minister and the ministers then inspected the computer training school. The computer training school was opened by the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation and has been teaching some 60 trainees, starting on December 7, 2017, in three groups of 20 trainees each. The trainees, both young and old, are from Kyaukpadaung Town, as well as Daungle, Thekone, Thanbo, Hsepauk, Poppa, Poppa Lun, Myauk Taw, Gyine and Kyauktaga villages in the Poppa region.

The region chief minister and the ministers then arrived at Basic Education High School No. (2), Kyaukpadaung Town, to inspect the status of the 272-feet long and 130-feet wide Bayintnaung School hall built in 1991,

which has been designated as a dangerous building.

The opening ceremony was attended by Col. Kyaw Kyaw Min, Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs; U Zarni Aung, Region Minister for Electricity, Energy and Construction; U Myo Thit, Region Minister for Natural Resources and Environment; U Shwe Ko, Kyaukpadaung Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative; U Kyaw Tote, Amyotha Hluttaw representative; U Aye Khaing, Kyaukpadaung Township constituency (1) Region Hluttaw representative; U Myo Swe Oo, constituency (2) Region Hluttaw representative; training course officials from Daw Khin Kyi Foundation; trainees and social organisations. — Nay Aung (IPRD) ■



Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung and officials inspect computer training school founded by Daw Khin Kyi Foundation. **PHOTO: NAY AUNG (IPRD)**



Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin inspects upgrading Malikha river crossing bridge in Kachin State. **PHOTO: MNA**

Malikha river crossing bridge to be opened soon

U Kyaw Lin, Deputy Minister for Construction, inspected the work to upgrade the road and bridge along Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putao road, Putao District, Kachin State, on 30 December.

Also, the deputy minister inspected the work to upgrade the asphalt road near milepost 212/0 on Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putao road, the Mular Shidee concrete bridge near milepost 210/0, the condition of Tanja bridge at milepost 192/0, the condition of the water ero-

sion bridge and the condition of the asphalt road at milepost 190/0.

On 31 December, the deputy minister went to Putao-Machangbaw-Nongmum road. He inspected the erosion along the Malikha coastline road near milepost 46/0 and 48/0. The deputy minister also went to the construction site of the Malikha river cross bridge at milepost 47/0 to inspect its condition. The bridge is almost complete and will be opened soon, according to officials. —MNA ■

National flag hoisting ceremony to be broadcast on 70th anniversary of Independence Day

The national flag hoisting ceremony, marking the 70th anniversary of Independence Day, will be held at 4:20 a.m. on 4 January. Also, the ceremony to salute the flag will be held in Nay Pyi Taw City Hall at 7 a.m. The ceremony will be broadcast live on Myanmar Radio and Television and Myanmar Radio programmes. The live broadcast will start at 6:40 a.m. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Meeting on IDP camps, freedom of movement matters held in Rakhine State

THE committee responsible for implementing the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State held a meeting on IDP camps and freedom of movement matters yesterday afternoon at the Rakhine State Government meeting hall in Sittway.

Chairman of the Implementation Committee and Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye and Implementation Committee Joint Chairman and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu attended and addressed the speech at the meeting.

Dr. Win Myat Aye said the Rakhine State IDP camps set up in 2012 were meant to be temporary camps, but have been in existence for more than five years now.

“There is a need to provide rights of movement for those staying in the IDP camps, as well as for them to conduct matters for their livelihoods. It is more beneficial for them if they have opportunities for work, education and health instead of relying on humanitarian assistance. To im-



Authorities responsible for IDPs in Rakhine hold a meeting yesterday urging camp inhabitants to cooperate with authorities to enable free movement and better livelihoods. **PHOTO: MNA**

plement this, those living in the IDP camps are urged to cooperate and work together according to the law”, the Union Minister said.

The Union Minister, State Chief Minister, state ministers, state-level departmental officials and people staying in the IDP

camp discussed, coordinated and agreed on closing the present camp, resettling in an appropriate place and to continue discussion on details of their resettlement. Explanations were provided on the benefit of holding an NV Card and to verify nationality according to the law for acquiring free-

dom of movement. A NV card is a proof that the holder lived in Myanmar and will have the right to apply for national verification in accordance with the Myanmar Citizenship Law and have rights relevant to the categorisation, officials said. Children of NV card holders will also have the right

to apply for national verification.

Holders of NV cards will have the right to travel to any places in Myanmar according to regional orders and instructions, visit Bangladesh and return legally through officially opened border gates with border crossing papers, fish in international waters with a valid fishing license, and move freely within the Rakhine township where they live, according to notifications issued by the Rakhine State government.

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, Rakhine state ministers and responsible persons then met with management committee members of the Thet-kepyin IDP camp and discussed the current status of the camp, requirements to resettle Thet-kepyin IDP camp inhabitants and matters relating to freedom of movement.

The coordination meeting was attended by the Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Rakhine state ministers, state-level responsible officials and responsible persons from IDP camps in Sittway. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Repatriation, resettlement on track

FROM PAGE-1

Yesterday afternoon, the Union Minister and his party arrived in Mrauk U District, Myebon Town, Taungpaw IDP camp, and met with displaced persons living in the camp. The Union Minister noted that long stays at the temporary camp would disrupt education, healthcare and other social matters, and urged the displaced persons to cooperate with officials. He added that acquiring a National Verification Card (NVC) to identify nationality would help them to establish more rights, as well as enable their travels. Furthermore, the Union Minister coordinated with several departments to fulfil their education and health requirements, close down the current camp and conduct systematic resettlements.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Arrangements are being made to allow repatriates to earn their living without any difficulty: Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye

An inspection tour by Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye and Union Enterprise of Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development (UEHRD) Chief Coordinator Dr. Aung Tun Thet was made yesterday to the Maungtau region.

They inspected the relocation and resettlement projects conducted in Kyain Chaung, Kyun Pauk Pyu Su, Lin Bar Gone Nar and Pwint Phyu Chaung villages.

The following are the interviews with Dr. Win Myat Aye and Dr. Aung Tun Thet.

Dr. Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

Being a Chairman of the Implementation Committee, my visit to Rakhine State is mainly to implement the recommendations of the report of the Advisory Commission led by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, and to make the resettlement of



Dr. Win Myat Aye. **PHOTO: NWT**

the UEHRD issue.

Regarding the implementation committee, we have already arranged to carry out two parts: to discuss matters relating to the closing of the refugee camps which were opened in 2012; and to relocate and resettle the refugee camps. In this regard, we met the officials concerned of the camps and departmental heads of the Rakhine State.

We will carry out the plans according to the rules and regulations. They all agreed to abide by the laws, and we will carry on this project according to the procedures.

We have already made vil-



Dr. Aung Tun Thet. **PHOTO: NWT**

lage plans to build the houses as the original structures and designs. Arrangements are being made to (allow repatriates to) earn their living without any difficulty, and to build the construction projects in Taung Pyo Letwe camp, Nga Khu Ya camp and Hla Pho Khaung camp.

We will implement the practical matters with on-the-ground conditions as a priority and the programme needs to be beneficial for the local people. We will implement how to relocate and resettle the people who will return from other countries. Our objective is to effectively provide humanitarian aid, as there are

many difficulties and problems on ways of living, food and shelter concerning the affairs which took place in Rakhine State.

Dr. Aung Tun Thet, chief coordinator of UEHRD

The purpose of our coming here is to look into the construction sites and to supervise the resettlement projects. We also invite all private sector organisations and businessmen to take part in the projects where they have expertise. This project is led by the government and private sectors have contributed enormously to it, as a whole. That's why we can prove that the businessmen from private sectors can turn this region into a developed state. We will invite all businesspersons and people across the country for taking part in this noble work through all sorts of platforms such as the internet, mobile phones and social media.—Zeya & Myint Maung ■

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

ACTING CHIEF EDITORAye Min Soe,
ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**EXPATRIATE CONSULTANT EDITOR**Mark Angeles,
markrangeles@gmail.com**SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**

Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORSKhin Maung Oo,
editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Zaw Min, zawmin.gnlm@gmail.com**INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR**Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**LOCAL NEWS EDITORS**Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com**TRANSLATORS**Khaing Thanda Lwin,
Hay Mar Tin Win,
Ei Myat Mon
Zaw Htet Oo
Kyaw Zin Lin
Kyaw Zin Tun**REPORTERS**May Thet Hnin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
mayreporter.mmm@gmail.com**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAMTun Zaw (Chief of Computer Team),
Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin**EDITORIAL SECTION**(+95) (01)8604529,
Fax – (+95) (01) 8604305**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.comPrinted and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.gnlmdaily@gmail.com
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
www.facebook.com/
globalnewlightofmyanmar**Write for us**We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with your name and title.

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

YBS bidding winner to be announced 10 Jan

THE name of the company that will install a card system for the Yangon Bus Service (YBS) will be announced on 10 January, according to a recent report in Myawady Daily.

Anypay Payment Services Company, Asia Starman Transport Intelligent Co and Excel KC Myanmar Company were initially selected to provide services for Yangon Payment Services (YPS). Their required documents have to be submitted by 4pm, 5 January.

The tenders will be evaluated with the final bidders on 8 January, and the company that wins the bidding will be announced on 10 January.

The winner will be assigned three tasks — card issuing, card acquiring and card top-up agency.

The Yangon Region gov-



YBS buses seen in downtown Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

ernment is making arrangements to install a card payment system to make it more con-

venient for commuters, as YBS buses are currently installed with cash boxes to replace bus

conductors, which has resulted in a scarcity of small notes. —GNLM

Yangon government to sell over 1,200 low-cost, affordable apartments

THE Urban and Housing Development Department, which is under the Ministry of Construction, will sell more than 1,200 low-cost and affordable apartments in the Yangon Region, with the help of the Yangon Region government, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

There are more than 1,200 apartments for sale, including over 700 low-cost apartments and nearly 500 affordable apartments. The apartments for sale are in Yuzana Housing Phase-1,

Kanaung Housing in Dagon Seikkan Township and Shwe Lin Pan Housing Phases 2 and 3 in Hlaing Tharyar Township, according to an official from the Urban and Housing Development Department.

"The regional government has formed a team to sell the apartments. The team will include officials from our department, as well as other authorities.

We will announce soon when and how we are going to sell these apartments," he

added.

The apartments in Shwe Lin Pan Housing Phases 2 and 3 will be sold first. There are about 1,000 apartments in Shwe Lin Pan Housing. The prices of low-cost apartments start at Ks9.8 million, while prices of apartments at ground level are a bit higher, between Ks12 million and Ks12.5 million. The prices of apartments at second and third floor will vary between Ks400,000 and Ks500,000 from the ground level prices.—GNLM

66th anniversary of Kayah State Day to be celebrated in Loikaw

THE 66th anniversary of Kayah State Day is planned to be celebrated on a grand scale from 10 to 19 January at Kandayawady Grounds in Loikaw, Kayah State.

The event will include booths which display local products ranging from food to handicrafts, cultural troupes, and a beauty contest, cycling competitions, a marathon challenge and traditional sports. The merrymakers will be entertained with song and dance by famous traditional performing troupes and comedians.

Popular music bands such as the Emperor, the Three and Iron Cross will perform at the celebration.—Myanmar Digital News

Narcotic drugs worth Ks 330 million seized in Katha

MORE than 60,000 stimulant tablets, heroin and opium were confiscated from three suspected drug transporters in Katha Township, Sagaing Region on 1 January.

Following a tipoff, a local anti-drug squad led by Police Major Myint Naing searched two motorcycles at a level crossing near Lankhwa Village in Katha Township. The force seized 66,840 stimulant pills, 16 grams of heroin, 500 grams of opium and 120 grams of stimulant powder worth Ks 330 million from three suspected drug carriers.—Myanmar Digital News



Stimulant powder, pills, heroin and opium from two of three suspected drug carriers in Katha Township. **PHOTO: MYANMAR DIGITAL NEWS**

Slight earthquake hits near Sagaing Region's Kalewa

A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.0 Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar about 7 miles Southwest of Kalewa about 144 miles Northwest of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at 10:31 am on 2 January, 2018, said the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.—Myanmar Digital News

YSX stock trading value in 2017 falls to one-third of 2016

THE stock traded by four companies listed on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) in 2017 reached Ks22 billion, which was one third of the trading in 2016.

More than 2.5 million shares were traded in 2016, their value estimated at Ks70 billion. In 2017, despite an increase in the stock trading volume to 2.6 million shares, the trading value was only Ks22 billion, according to YSX statistics.

The stock trading value hit the highest point at Ks3.4 billion in March, whereas December's trading reached an all-time low of some Ks850 million.

Previously, YSX was seen trading shares of only three companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH) and Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB). Although one more public company, First Private Bank (FPB), entered the YSX market



People walk in front of the YSX in downtown Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

in 2017, stock prices are still on the decline.

The single share price of FMI fell from Ks14,000 on 2 January, 2017 to Ks12,000 on 29 December, 2017.

The share price of MTSH decreased from Ks4,500 on 2 January, 2017 to Ks3,000 on 29 December, 2017. MCB's price

is also down from Ks9,600 to Ks8,200. YSX failed to attract local stock traders despite several publicity discussions, expos and educational talks about the stock market. YSX was bitterly criticised for remaining a cool market and dropping the share prices of the listed companies. —GNLM ■

Private sector imports of intermediate goods up by \$1.48 billion

THE IMPORT value of intermediate goods by the private sector went up by US\$1.48 billion in the current financial year, according to the official figures released by the Ministry of Commerce this Friday.

Over the last 265 days, the country's import of intermediate goods was valued at \$5.35 billion, including \$112 million from the government sector and

\$5.23 billion from the private sector.

This time last year, the country bought similar products with a value of \$3.88 billion from overseas customers, including \$3.76 billion from the private sector.

The total import of commodities in the current FY hit over \$13.26 billion, which included \$4.70 billion worth of capital

goods and \$3.21 billion worth of consumer goods.

Myanmar carries out overseas trading with Asian countries, ASEAN member states, island nations, Middle East countries, some European and African states, and other western countries. Roughly 80 per cent of the country's external trade conducts through sea routes.—Khine Khant ■

Efforts being made to export locally produced coconut oil to Europe

EFFORTS have been made by domestic coconut exporters to penetrate the international markets, especially Europe and Asian countries, according to a report of the Myawady Daily.

Arrangements are being made to export domestically produced coconut oil and other value-added products to the target countries, including Ireland, the US, Japan, Thailand, China and India, said Daw San San Han, general secretary of a local group formed with co-

conut growers, producers and exporters.

The free samples of coconut oil have already been sent to Ireland, the US, Japan, Thailand and China through sales agents for laboratory testing, she continued.

Daw San San Han added that the new export strategy is being implemented to sell facial foam and other kinds of cosmetics, and personal goods to India from Tamu border trade station starting in January of next year.

A free sample of those products will be sent to the neighbouring country next month.

For the time being, Myanmar exports locally produced coconut oil to China and coconut fruits to Thailand. In order to boost the country's coconut production, the aforesaid group continues to provide technical training to the target community. As part of its effort, the group is putting forth concerted efforts to set up coconut plantation zones in the country.—GNLM ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း **"Sunday Special"** အချုပ်ပို (၈) မျက်နှာပါဝင်သော The Global New Light of Myanmar နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကိုအောက်ပါမြို့များတွင်ဖုန်းနံပါတ်ဖြင့်

"Sunday Special" အချုပ်ပို (၈) မျက်နှာပါဝင်သော

နေပြည်တော်၊ မြန်မာ့သမ္မတနိုင်ငံ၊ ရုံးအမှတ် (၇) နေပြည်တော်၊ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရုံးချုပ်)၊ စီမံရေးရာဌာန၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇ ၄၁၁၀၈

နေပြည်တော်၊ သတင်းစာတိုက် (တပ်ကုန်း)၊ ယေဘုယျသိရှိမြို့နယ်၊ ခရိုင်လမ်းဆုံ၊ နေပြည်တော်၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇ ၃၆၄၈၈၊ ၀၆၇ ၃၆၄၈၉

ရန်ကုန်၊ The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊ ငါးထပ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ဗဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၁၀ ၂၁၁၀၆၄၊ ၀၉၅ ၄၄၄၄၄၄

မန္တလေး၊ လမ်း (၂၁ x ၂၁) ကြား၊ (၈၂ x ၈၃) လမ်းကြား၊ ပုလဲမြို့၊ ရောင်ရမ်းမန္တလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၂၃ ၂၇၂၉၂၊ ၀၂၃ ၂၇၂၉၃

မတောင်ကြီး၊ ရုံးကြီးလမ်း၊ သစ်တောရပ်ကွက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၁ ၂၁၁၀၆၄၊ ၀၉၅ ၂၁၁၀၆၄

မကွေး၊ နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ တပ်မ (၈၈) တပ်နယ်ချေးအနီး၊ မကွေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၃ ၂၃၇၁၂

ကချင်ပြည်နယ်၊ မြိသင် (၃-၈)၊ အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းဆုံ၊ မြို့နယ်လမ်း၊ ကျင်းတုံမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၄ ၂၂၄၉၂

ကလေး၊ အောင်လေးရပ်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊ ကလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃ ၂၁၁၀၇

မြင်းကြီးနား၊ အမှတ် (၄၁)၊ ရောင်ရမ်းကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊ မြင်းကြီးနားမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄ ၂၂၄၆၂

စစ်တွေ၊ ရမ္မာတိုက်လမ်းနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊ မီးတက်ကြီးအနီး၊ မန်းကျောင်းရပ်ကွက်၊ စစ်တွေမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃ ၂၃၀၆၈

လားရှိုး၊ ဟူးမွန်ကျေးရွာအထိမ်း၊ ဟူးမွန်ဆည်ဘယ်ဘက်ခြမ်း၊ (၁၂) ရပ်ကွက်၊ မန်ဆောင်ရွာ၊ အောင်လေးလမ်း၊ လားရှိုးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၂ ၂၄၀၆၇

ခြောက်၊ မေတ္တာလမ်း၊ ရှမ်းချောင်းရပ်၊ ကလေးကျေးရွာအုပ်စု၊ ခြောက်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၉၅ ၄၂၁၀၃

မော်လမြိုင်၊ ကြာအင်းကျေးရွာ၊ မော်လမြိုင်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၇ ၂၇၂၅၅၊ ၀၅၇ ၂၇၂၆၆

ပုံရွာ၊ နန္ဒဝန်ရပ်ကွက်၊ ဆက်သွယ်ရေးတပ်မတော်အနီး၊ ပုံရွာမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၁ ၂၆၇၃၅၊ ၀၇၁ ၂၆၇၃၃

Hotline - 09974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Trade Mark Ads

Call
Thin Thin May,

09251022355,
09974424848

Cyber-savvy students bring honour to Myanmar

The following are interviews with the Myanmar students who won second place at the ASEAN Makerthon 2017 tech competition in Malaysia

By Nandar Win and
Win Win Maw

Myanmar students did their country proud by recently winning second prize at a technological competition in Malaysia.

The ASEAN Makerthon 2017 Competition was held in Cyberjaya, Selangor State, Malaysia, from September 8 to 10, in which Myanmar students competed against students from ASEAN countries, as well as China and South Korea.

Two Myanmar students won second prize in the competition held in Cyberjaya, a town which has a science park as the core that forms a key part of the Multimedia Super Corridor in Malaysia. The following is an interview with Maung Min Khant Lin and Maung Pyae Phyo Paing, fifth-year students from the University of Information Technology (UIT), who won the second prize in the competition.

Q. Tell us about the country and the competition.

A. Maung Min Khant Lin: We went to Malaysia to compete in the ASEAN Makerthon 2017. It is a competition where we have to make a product within 28 hours.

Q. What is the selection process to compete in the competition?

A. Maung Pyae Phyo Paing: A teacher in our school told us about this competition being organised by Malaysia for ASEAN countries, as well



Technological University fifth-year students Maung Min Khant Lin and Maung Pyae Phyo Paing pose for a photo after receiving second prize in the ASEAN Makerthon 2017 tech competition. **PHOTO: HLA MOE**

as China and South Korea. Malaysia contacted the Myanmar Computer Federation, which then informed the technology universities about the competition. Technology universities conducted competitions in the country. There were five three-member teams and three two-member teams. Each team was first asked to make a presentation on their idea and project. The two teams that came in first and second were selected. A three-member team from the University of Computer Studies, Yangon (UCSY), and a two-member team from the UIT were selected.

Q. Explain about the competition in Malaysia.

A. Maung Pyae Phyo

Paing: Even though the name of the competition was ASEAN Makerthon 2017, China and South Korea were also invited. Among the ASEAN countries, Lao was an observer, so 11 countries participated in the competition.

Q. Which countries won the prizes?

A. Maung Min Khant Lin: We were given the theme 'Internet of Things (IOT)' and our task was to make something that could be used with the internet. Of the three title options, 'Agriculture', 'Health Care' and 'Smart City', we chose Smart City. Smart City is widely used internationally, but is not used here much. In huge housing complexes or condominium, each car is provided an ID, which helps the system to record their entry and exit time without requiring anyone to write them down manually. This is the idea of a Smart City. Our project Smart Home does not require anyone to open or close the windows.

Using the Smart Home System Control, homeowners can be anywhere in the world with internet access and send messages via phone to open and close windows, lights, doors, sunshades and even control the air conditioning.

If the temperature exceeds the fire-safety level, the owner will get an alert message on the phone. Such functions were included in our project.

The first prize was won by China. While shopping online,

people cannot determine whether a vegetable is fresh or not. To overcome this, they put sensors on the cold storage box to determine the temperature of vegetables and calculate how long they would remain fresh. The order and delivery time are also calculated, and this information is then posted on the internet page. They (China) competed with this system. Myanmar came in second and host Malaysia was third.

They (Chinese team) use drones to take images of trees, buds and flowers. Thus, they know the number of buds on a tree and the colour changes that occur during the day. They use image processing to collect such information. If the number of buds is low, they provide water and fertilisers. No one needs to go around the field, and only one person is needed to sit and watch the whole farm using a drone.

Q. What sort of preparations were made before the competition?

A. Maung Pyae Phyo Paing: Before we entered this competition, we participated in our school competition. It was a UIT Open Campus competition. We entered that competition with a project, and thus, we had prior experience. We entered this competition based on that experience.

Q. What sort of material preparation was made for the competition?

A. Maung Min Khant Lin:

We were asked to bring along the materials we needed. Designs and ideas could be thought of in advance. We used the same project that we used in the Open Campus competition. We modified the circuits used in this competition. We were provided with some of the materials that we needed, but we also took along the things that we needed. We built a small model house.

Q. What were the difficulties?

A. Maung Pyae Phyo Paing: The requirement was to complete something within 28 hours. Although we could carry the materials we required, we could not set it up and take it along. Thus, we could not build our model house and take it along. The things we were provided with did not meet our requirements. So, we were unable to include some things in our project. That is why we needed to think ahead. Some things were damaged and so, we needed to have the means to replace them. Sometimes, the machines we used were not compatible with the things provided there. These were the difficulties we faced.

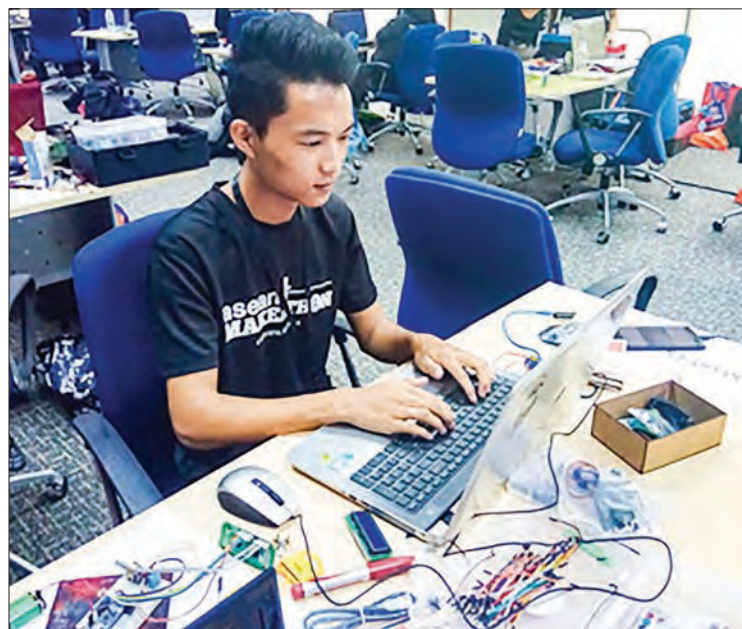
Q. What are the benefits for you, your school, your surrounding and your country from this competition?

A. Maung Min Khant Lin: The main benefit was in being able to learn about the sort of technology that the competing ASEAN level competitors had brought to the competition.

We were able to learn about their technological level and compare our level with them. We realised how developed they were. Students from China are at the professional level in technology. Some of the devices they used were never seen before in our country.

A. Maung Pyae Phyo Paing: Firstly, I personally benefited from the competition. We were able to go abroad. We were able to learn what others can do and how other countries do things. We were able to assess our technology level. We were also able to observe other countries' technology, and thus, we gained many valuable experiences.

SEE PAGE-7



University of Information Technology student Maung Pyae Phyo Paing competes at ASEAN Makerthon 2017. **PHOTO: HLA MOE**

Cyber-savvy students bring honour to Myanmar

FROM PAGE-6

Q. What are your future plans?

A. Maung Min Khant Lin: After competing and winning a prize in this competition, I have more confidence in myself. It gave me the strength to go on. There will be similar competitions every year.

As all schools are encouraging students to compete in such technological competitions, it will give us an opportunity to develop.

As the State is awarding additional awards for prize-winning students, it will give us strength to try more.

A. Maung Pyae Phyo Paing: We participated in this competition, which is our first, so we faced some difficulties. However, we participated to gain experience. Having participated in similar competitions in our country helped us a lot.

Q. What is the most important issue for Myanmar people to know about international technology competitions?

A. Maung Min Khant Lin: In the past, people didn't know anything about computers and technology. Through this sort of competition and exhibition, the youths can learn about technology. Earlier, we used what was invented in other countries. Only when we have the technology to invent our own things can our nation develop. Youths need to be able to invent their own things and use them instead of using what others have invented.

A. Maung Pyae Phyo Paing: We need to fill our knowledge first in order to compete internationally. That is, to compete in competitions held in our country and gain experience. Next, English and presentation skills are also required. These need to be studied. If not, we won't be able to explain our inventions and people won't understand or know about it.

A. Maung Min Khant Lin: In these competitions, only three minutes of presentation time is given. The presentation needs to be completed in three minutes. The three-member team from China which won the first prize had a girl who seemed to come prepared for the sole purpose of making a presentation. Her English was very good. Two boys in the team drew the design and



Technological University student designs his project at the Markerthon 2017 competition. PHOTO: HLA MOE

set up the circuits. They worked together very effectively. One on design, another on circuits and a third on presentation. Their setup was complete.

Q. What are your suggestions to youngsters who'll compete in next year competition?

A. Maung Min Khant Lin: Two of us are skilled in circuits. Instead of this setup, we would like to urge to form a team consisting of a skilled circuit person, a skilled designer and a skilled presenter. Then it will be perfect.

A. Maung Pyae Phyo Paing: Making a team from skilled person in their respective field would be more convenient. Materials required for the project also need to be thought out and prepared in advance. As we are going to a foreign country, we wouldn't know where to get something that we need. For example, one of our sensors was damaged. But the sensors they have didn't meet our requirements. Luckily, we brought along a spare. If not, we will not know the temperature. The main thing is to bring an extra of all the things you need.

Q. What more would you like to say to the next generation of youth?

A. Maung Min Khant Lin: Put in more effort. Only then will the country develop. In choosing universities nowadays, people tend to choose with an eye toward job opportunity. Our major is in circuits and our country isn't developed much in this sector. Most students think that it may

not be convenient to choose this major as they are afraid that they may not get a job. I would like to say that if you are good, the job will come to you.

A. Maung Pyae Phyo Paing: No one is born smart or learned. Many will think we were outstanding, but I don't think of myself such way. I still have a lot to study and do. Technology doesn't stand still. It is always moving and we need to catch up to it. The main thing is to put in more effort. Do the best you can in what you have interest. Nowadays, it is quite easy to study. Anything can be found via the internet. At the age when you can find whatever you want, I just want to say to put in more effort.

Q. How did you feel when you heard the announcement on winning a prize? Is there anything memorable that you experienced in the competition?

A. Maung Min Khant Lin: Before the main prizes were announced, smaller prizes were announced in order to make everyone happy. Myanmar was not included. My heart was beating wildly by then. For the main prizes, third prize being won by Malaysia was announced first. I became more excited. Before announcing the second prize, they hinted on the prize being awarded to a project with a model house. It was then that I realised we may have won the second prize, and my expectations were raised. I could not describe my joy when it was ac-

tually announced. Because our country is lagging behind and not developed in technology, we were not expecting much, even though we put in our best effort. We were afraid that we may not be able to match other countries. But we did our best and won the second prize, so I was so happy.

Q. Is there anything that you want to say about the competition? Anyone that you would like to thank?

A. Maung Min Khant Lin: This is the first time our country has participated in this sort of competition, and we won a prize. I'm proud to show that we are at a certain level among the ASEAN countries and are able to compete with them. Compete again in the future so that we can be proud again. I would like the State (country) and schools to provide support to compete.

A. Maung Pyae Phyo Paing: It is costly to complete a project like this. If a team has six members, each needs to put up Ks10,000 in order to buy the necessary materials. But for a major competition like this, we need to use good materials and this increases the cost. If the State (country) and schools support in such thing, it would be convenient. The funds to buy materials for this competition was supported by the Myanmar Computer Federation.

If the support is provided by the State, we could do more. In our student days, we heard frequently about some schools not allowing students into the lab. The equipment is expensive, so permission was not granted to use it. It should not be like this. We won't learn without using it. K Lab provided the lab in our school and we were permitted to use the lab. They didn't say anything if something is damaged. Through experiment and use, we gained experience and skills. This experience and skill was useful for us when we went abroad to compete.

A. Maung Min Khant Lin: We should compete more in Open Campus type of competitions. I thank my teacher Daw Khin Htar Nwe for pressing us to do projects. Because of this, we were able to compete and gain experience. I would also like to thank our Professor Daw Saw Sandar Aye for bringing in foreign experts to conduct seminars and arrange competitions. Thanks to our friends who help us. K Lab provided all the things we need for the project from start to finish, so many thanks to K Lab too. ■



Maung Min Khant Lin works on his project during the ASEAN Makerthon 2017 tech competition in Malaysia. PHOTO: HLA MOE

An extra-ordinary characteristic of national sovereignty

IN making efforts for the long-lasting survival of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar it is necessary to safeguard our National Sovereignty. Sovereignty is of great value for our nation. As long as sovereignty is in the hands of its original owners, the nation deserves to be called an independent nation.

When the sovereignty of a nation is harmed or lost, the country can be said to have lost its Independence, hence the need for citizens of the independent nation to safeguard the sovereignty they already possess at the risk of their lives, so as not to lose it again.

Looking back into world history, nearly all of the countries of the world have lost their national sovereignty. They had sacrificed lots of lives for re-establishment of sovereignty or survival as independent nations. In the same way, Myanmar had to sacrifice many lives and strive with indomitable courage to regain her independence and sovereignty.

We should take lessons from the past for the survival of Myanmar as a nation. At the present we have to work hard to ensure a safe and bright future for our country. So, taking into consideration our past, present and future, we should assess and perform the tasks to be done depending upon the present situation of Myanmar.

Our nation will endure as a prosperous and strong nation only if the whole population regardless of race, religion or status, can make concerted efforts to fortify our national strength and maintain our unity.

ly and ascertain whether there has been disunity among us.

Our nation will endure as a prosperous and strong nation only if the whole population regardless of race, religion or status, can make concerted efforts to fortify our national strength and maintain our unity. As known by all, our Independence was achieved due to the sacrifice and dauntless courage of our ancestors. Now that some foreign nations and international organizations have dared to trample upon our national sovereignty, it is necessary for the sons and daughters of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to be ever vigilant against all external threats so as to safeguard our national sovereignty and Independence.

National unity plays an important role in restoring the strength of the nation. The strength of our nation lies within our own borders. So, the best strategy to defend our country and protect our sovereignty would be to unify the collective forces of all our ethnic national races. Therefore achieving internal peace is of utmost importance for the successful building of a Democratic Federal Republic based on freedom, justice and equality.

Peace is the extra-ordinary characteristic of national sovereignty. Accordingly, the whole population must strive to achieve internal peace through the unity of all the ethnic national races of Myanmar.

By Pantaung Than Kywe

SINCE time immemorial, Myanmar people used to happily and independently live under their own kings on the thrones, establishing grand and glorious nations in the midst of the global countries.

King Anawrahta successfully managed to set up the First Myanmar Empire based on the Bagan Region. Likewise, King Bayintnaung built up the Second Myanmar Empire based on Taungoo, Bago and Hanthawady whereas Mokesoeophoe alias Shwebo-orientated Third Myanmar Empire was founded by King Alaung Paya organized separate regions to keep them under their kingdoms. In the periods when our national brethren lived in unity Myanmar did stand tall as a strengthened and peaceful nation in the midst of other nations.

Contrariwise, in the periods when the country became weaker and disunited the nation was subjected to the aggression of the imperialists from outside world. The British Imperialists waiting for the right time occupied the whole country by waging First Anglo-Myanmar War in 1824, the Second Anglo-Myanmar War in 1852 and the Third Anglo-Myanmar War in 1885.

Though Myanmar national patriots who were not desirous of living under the colonial rule launched revolts against the British forces with firearms they had, it became abortive due to the lack of modernized weapons, well-trained soldiers and difference in military volume between both sides.

Myanmar lived very strictly for nearly 122 years under the British colonial rule, being deprived of Myanmar's natural resources. On account of exercising systems of ruling the country by means of divide-and-rule and segregation of social status the colonial rule lasted for over a century.

Well-known poets such as Sayar Zaw Gyi and others

including "Seebanni, the Reverend Monk" composed many poems describing sorrowful feelings of living under Myanmar Kings on the thrones and patriotism.

Myanmar under the British Colonial Rule for over 100 years regained its Independence at 4:20 am on Sunday, 4th January 1948, 9th Waning of Pyatho, 1309 ME through the concerted efforts of Myanmar national leaders led by Bogoyoke Aung San, our national leader and architect of Myanmar Independence and cooperation and sacrifices of the entire national populace. Designated 4th January as the Myanmar Independence, it has been being celebrated annually, reaching 70th anniversary of the Independence Day on 4th January 2018.

With the political splits between the parties conceived in them since prior to the Pre-Independence, civil wars, disunity and conflicts, fall of the parliament democracy and scourges of the centralism, periods of nearly half a century

after gaining Independence must be said to have been stormy days for Myanmar and its entire national populace. Unity cannot be established as well as national development cannot be implemented at the best of its caliber. Countries lagging behind Myanmar, once in the past had already gone far ahead of Myanmar.

At the mass meeting held at the Yangon City Hall on 13th July 1947, Bogoyoke Aung San addressed a noteworthy speech, "Even though we tried hard through a variety of plans since just now, it will be appropriate for us only if we can continue exerting concerted efforts up to the stage of opening our blankety-blank things open for nearly 20 years after gaining Independence."

As for a country to be established from zero level, Bogoyoke warned us with unforgettable wording that we need to move forward four, five or ten steps, if other countries walk one step, that is, we must work harder than others 4, 5 or 10 times, to

be united and to make zealous efforts for the national development. Youths of today should remember Bogoyoke Aung San's speeches. That is because these speeches warn us to safeguard the Independence and highlight the national responsibility to bring about the national development.

At present, a country loses its Independence, not out of aggression of a country into another's territory. The weaker nations are feeling as if losing its independence by pushing pressure, restrictions and influences over small nations from the super powers and powerful global organizations as well. Disunity and various conflicts based on many issues caused people to suffer from many hardships. In fact, these are similar to the loss of human rights of the entire populace.

In implementing the political process, Myanmar has two major issues—national reconciliation and peace issue, and economic development issue. As if adding fuel to the

burning fire, the armed attacks in Maungdaw region, Rakhine State which took places on 25th August, 2017 sparked beyond the border area, spreading to UN and ASEAN nations. Our country had to confront a great problem, which took much efforts to be solved.

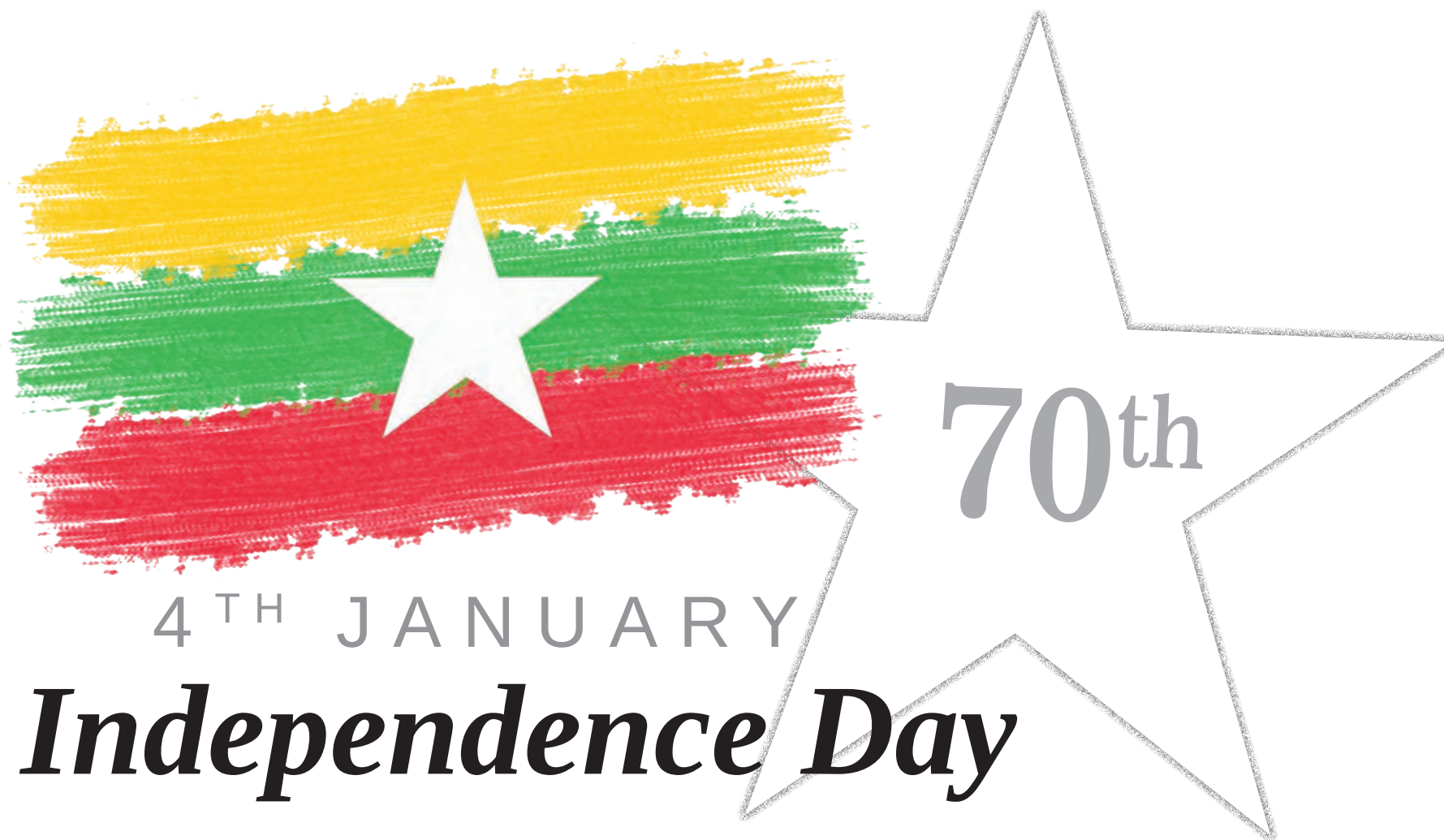
The Government of the State has been solving the problem with arduous efforts with the collective supports of the people, Tatmadaw, organizations from home and abroad, well-wishers from private sectors and foreign ally nations. Now the process for the national peace and reconciliation has reached to some extent. Likewise, events of armed attacks in Mungdaw have being solved through negotiations in every way, likely to successfully implement rehabilitation, security and socio-economic development in the region. Without peace, development cannot be achieved. Therefore acquisition of the national reconciliation and peace is of great vitality. In the same way, the acquisition

of peace, stability and security in Rakhine State will be effective for long-lasting survival of national sovereignty and Independence. All the entire national populace must promptly implement the two major challenges in collective ways.

Every individual should take part in implementing for the economic development. Economic development of a nation can surely be implemented by encouraging the private sector, making influx of investments from home and abroad flow into the country, ensuring rule of law in the country, making the country free from bribery and corruption, upgrading sectors on education and health and cultivating people to become well-disciplined ones. Abundance of natural resources and being situated in geographically favorable climates are also adding excellent opportunities to the country on this auspicious occasion of the Independence Day.

Translated by
Khin Maung Oo

Myanmar Independence Day for us to admire and value



“There is no power that can compare with the power of the support, trust and unity of the people. I believe that whatever difficulties we may have to face can be overcome by the power of the unity of our people.”

(Excerpt from the speech delivered to the people by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor on 12 October, 2017)

PhaungtaoOo Pagoda (Inle)



Photo: Aung Kyi Myint (U Kyi Win)

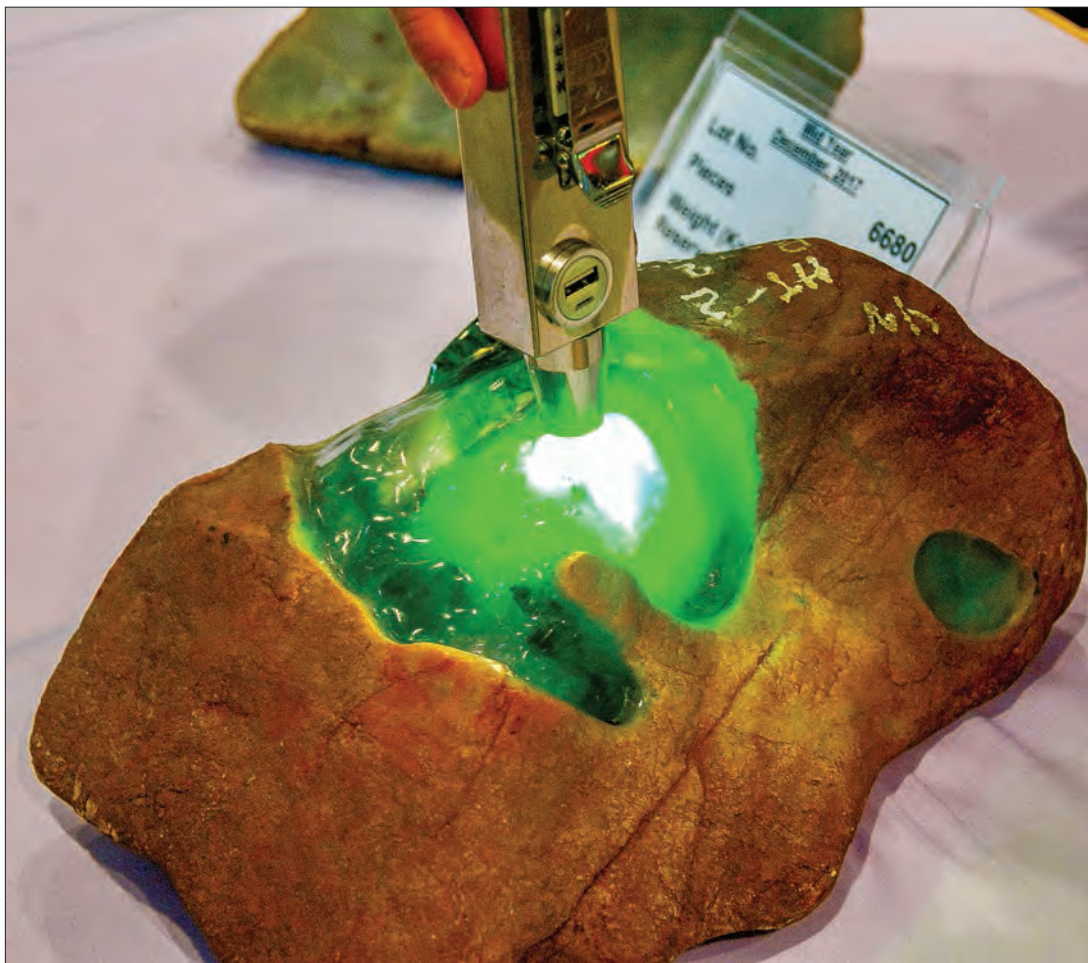
POEM

I never like a yes-man

I never like a yes-man
who, like a bulgy eyed chameleon,
always nods to any order dropped.

Yet I hate the No-men more,
who say yes, and do No-thing,
turn a deaf ear to Peace's clarion call,
No-men who say no to an offer
to build a new nation for all.

Yes, I never like a yes-man,
but I hate the No-men more.



A jade stone being appraised at the 2017 Mid-year Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium at the Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Licences for over 300 jewellery mining blocks to expire this month

LICENCES for some 300 jewellery mining blocks in Mogoke in Mandalay Region; Lonekhin, Hpakan, Mohnyin and Nantayaseik in Kachin State; and Mongshu in Shan State, will expire this month, according to an announcement made by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

The ministry had earlier announced that no licences would be extended or renewed for mining operations. New licences to mine gemstones will be granted until the by-laws of the Myanmar Gemstones Law are approved.

Former mining blocks will be designated as vacant land. These mining blocks are located in Khamti in Sagaing Region; Mongshu in Shan State; Mogoke in Mandalay Region and Lonekhin, Mohnyin, Nantayaseik and Hpakan in Kachin State.

The ministry has also announced an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for used mining blocks, which will cover all mining sites, approximately 15,000, across the country. The Union and state governments are to develop a power-sharing arrangement for land acquisition.

Currently, an EMP for

mining sites in Lonekhin and Hpakan has been developed.

Licences of 160 mining blocks for precious minerals and metals expired in December, while 140 expired in November and 170 in October.

Licences for more than 300 mining blocks that extract precious minerals and metals expired in September. More than 2,500 jewellery mining blocks also shut down their operations due to the expiry of their licences in August.

Also, mining licences for approximately 2,210 precious minerals and metals expired between 1 April and 31 July.

—Ko Htet ■

Online trading on YSX to start this month

THE shares listed on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) will be available online for trading this month, according to City News' report yesterday.

This is an attempt to make YSX's stock market vibrant and attract more investors to the stock market. As shares are made available on the internet-based trading platform, more traders will grow interested, and the stock trading value will rise, said U Htay

Chun from the Securities Exchange Commission of Myanmar (SECM) at an online trading launch event held on 28 December.

The SECM grants approvals for online trading to the following securities companies: Myanmar Securities Exchange Centre Co., Ltd. (MSEC), KBZ Stirling Coleman Securities Co., Ltd. (KBZSC), CB Securities Ltd. (CBSC) and AYA Trust Securities Co., Ltd. (AYA Trust).

These companies have passed the online trading test and their systems are ready, stated a news release from the YSX on 26 December.

Currently, four companies—First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB) and First Private Bank (FPB)—are trading shares on the YSX. —GNLM ■

Myanmar's 9-month border trade reaches \$5.6 billion, an increase of \$170million

THE value of border trade from 1 April to 22 December this fiscal year was up by US\$170 million, compared with the same period in the last fiscal year.

The value of border trade from 1 April to 22 December this fiscal year reached \$5.6 billion, consisting of \$3.576 billion in exports and \$2.027 billion in imports, according to official statistics from the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar conducts border trades with neighbouring countries, such as China, India, Bangladesh and Thailand.

Sino-Myanmar border trade is carried out through the Muse, Lweijel, Kanpikete, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung gates, while Myanmar carries out border trade with India via Tamu and Reed. The country's border trade gates with Bangladesh are Sittway and Maungtau, while for Thailand they are Tachilek,

Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, HteeKhee, Mawtaung and Maese.

The border trade value, as of 22 December of this FY, was \$2.57 billion in Muse, \$115 million in Lweijel, \$382 million in Chinshwehaw, \$39 million in Kanpikete, \$1.51 million in Kengtung, \$11.1 million in Tachilek, \$41.3 million in Myawady, \$37.9 million in Kawthoung, \$112 million in Myeik, \$3.84 million in Htee Khee, \$4.9 million in Mawtaung, \$0.53 million in Maese, \$8.25 million in Sittway, \$7.88 million in Maungtau, \$25.4 million in Tamu and \$27.5 million in Reed.

Myanmar mainly exported agricultural products, animal products, forest products, minerals, fishery products, manufactured goods and others, while capital goods, raw industrial materials and consumer products are imported into the country.

— GNLM ■

Bilateral trade with China hit US\$6.3 billion in first seven months of current FY

THE value of Myanmar's trade with its main trade partner China, as of October this fiscal year, reached US\$6.3 billion, consisting of \$2.83 billion in exports and \$3.5 billion in imports, according to figures released by the Commerce Ministry.

Meanwhile, Myanmar's regional trade with ASEAN countries was the highest, closely followed by bilateral trade with its most populous neighbour, China. Border trade with China performed better than trade delivered by sea.

The value of bilateral trade with China was some \$10.8 billion in 2016-2017 FY, \$10.9 billion in

2015-16 FY, \$9.7 billion in 2014-2015 FY, \$7 billion in 2013-2014 FY, \$4.95 billion in 2012-2013 FY and \$5 billion in 2011-2012 FY.

Between 1 April and 22 December in this FY, the value of border trade through China-Myanmar checkpoints — Muse, Lweijel, Chinshwehaw, Kanpikete and Kengtung — reached \$4.5 billion. Rice, peas, sesame seeds, corn, vegetables and fruits, dried tea leaves, fishery products, rubber, minerals and animal products are exported to China, whereas machinery, plastic raw materials, consumer products and electronic tools flow into Myanmar. — Ko Htet ■



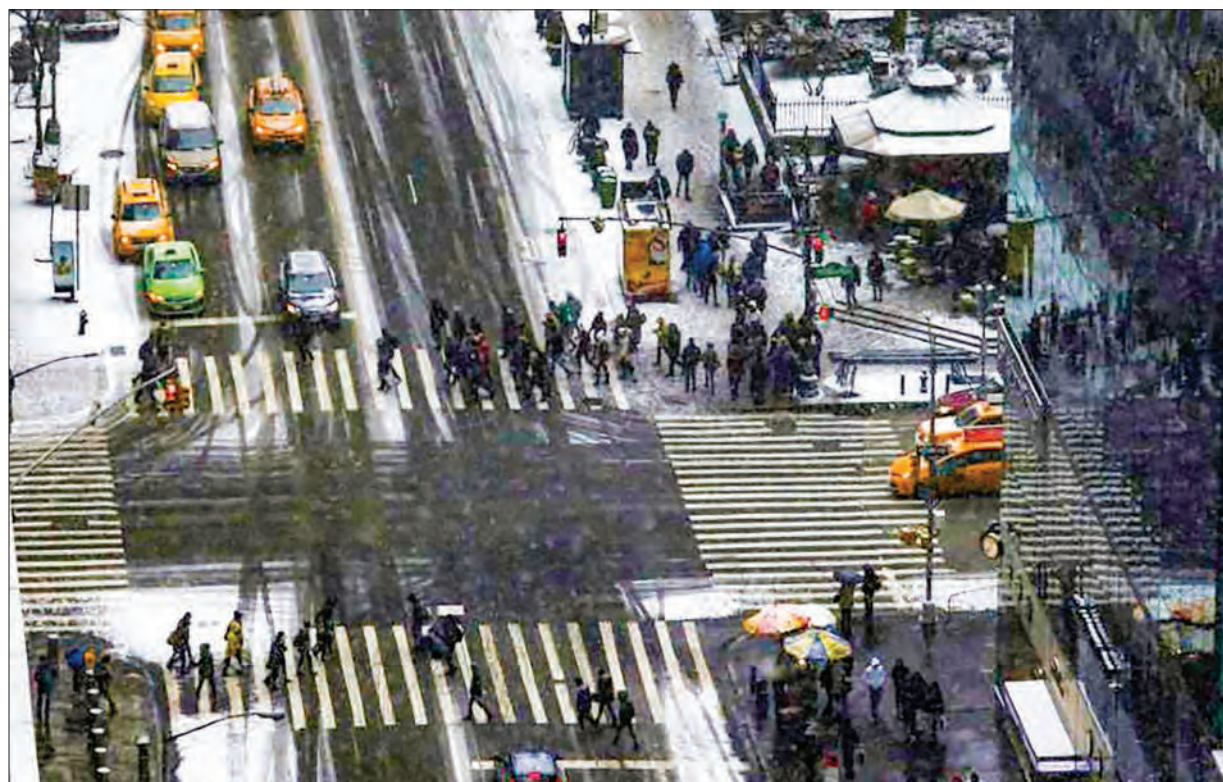
ကျေးဇူးတင်ဝမ်းမြောက်ကြောင်းသတိပြုလွှာ



ပြည်ထောင်စုသမ္မတမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရ ကြီးမှူးကျင်းပသည့်ရွှေတိဂုံစေတီတော်မြတ်ကြီး ဗုဒ္ဓါဘိသေကအနေကဇာတင် မဟာမင်္ဂလာနှင့် သံဃာတော်အပါး(၁၈၀၀၀)တို့အား ဆွမ်းဆန်စိမ်းလောင်းလှူပွဲ အခမ်းအနားကြီးကို ၁၃၇၉-ခုနှစ်၊ ပြာသိုလပြည့်နေ့၊ ၂၀၁၈-ခုနှစ် ဇန်နဝါရီလ (၁) ရက်နေ့တွင် အောင်မြင်စွာကျင်းပပြီးမြောက်ခဲ့ပြီဖြစ်ပါသည်။

တစ်သက်မှာတစ်ခါ ကုသိုလ်ယူကျင်းပပြုလုပ်ခွင့်ရသည့် ဤမဟာမင်္ဂလာအခမ်းအနားကြီးသို့ ကြွရောက်ချီးမြှင့်ခဲ့ပါသော နိုင်ငံ့ဦးဆောင်ထေရ်ကြီးဝါကြီး ထင်ပေါ်ကျော်ကြားသော ဆရာတော်ကြီးများနှင့် ဂိုဏ်းပေါင်းစုံ တိုင်း/မြို့နယ် သံဃာယက အဖွဲ့အစည်းအဆင့်ဆင့်မှ သံဃာတော်အရှင်မြတ်များ၊ အထူးအားဖြင့် အစ အလယ် အဆုံး ကိုယ်စိတ်နှစ်ပါး ပင်ပန်းမှုကို ပဓာနမထားဘဲ အသေးစိတ် စီမံညှိနှိုင်းဦးဆောင် လမ်းညွှန်ပေးပါသော ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းဒေသကြီး သံဃာယကအဖွဲ့ ဥက္ကဋ္ဌဆရာတော် အဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိကဓဇ၊ ဇေယျာလူမှုထူးချွန်ဆု၊ နိုင်ငံစွမ်းဆောင်ရည်ဆု၊ ကမ္ဘာ့ငြိမ်းချမ်းရေးစေတမန်ဆုများရှင် ဒေါက်တာဘဒ္ဒန္တကုဗ္ဗိဗလ အရှင်သူမြတ်နှင့် ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းဒေသကြီး သံဃာ့အဖွဲ့အစည်း အဆင့်ဆင့်မှ သံဃာတော်များ၊ စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေး သံဃာတော်များ၊ ပြည်ထောင်စုသမ္မတမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော် သမ္မတကြီးနှင့်ဇနီး အမှူးပြုသည့် နိုင်ငံတော် အစိုးရအဖွဲ့ဝင် ဝန်ကြီးများ၊ စစ်ဘက်နယ်ဘက်မှအကြီးအကဲများနှင့် ဌာနဆိုင်ရာများ၊ သာသနာရေးနှင့်ယဉ်ကျေးမှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန ပြည်ထောင်စုဝန်ကြီးနှင့် အရာထမ်းအမှုထမ်းများ၊ လိုလေသေးမရှိ ဖြည့်ဆည်းပေးခဲ့ကြသော ပင်မအလှူရှင်များ၊ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတစ်ဝှမ်းမှ အလှူရှင်များနှင့် နိုင်ငံတကာမှ ပေးပို့လှူဒါန်းကြသည့် အလှူရှင်များ၊ ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းဒေသကြီး အစိုးရအဖွဲ့ဝန်ကြီးချုပ် ဦးဖိုးမင်းသိန်း နှင့် အစိုးရအဖွဲ့ဝန်ကြီးများ၊ အခမ်းအနားကျင်းပရေးကော်မတီအသီးသီးမှ ကော်မတီဝင်များ၊ လုံခြုံရေးဆောင်ရွက်ပေးခဲ့ကြသော တပ်မတော်သားများ၊ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံရဲတပ်ဖွဲ့ဝင်များနှင့် ယာဉ်ထိန်းရဲတပ်ဖွဲ့ဝင်များ၊ ရွှေတိဂုံစေတီတော်ဂေါပကအဖွဲ့ဝင်များနှင့် ဝေယျာဝစ္စကုသိုလ်ယူခဲ့ကြသည့်ဝန်ထမ်းများ၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်စည်ပင်သာယာရေးကော်မတီနှင့် လုပ်အားဒါနပြုခဲ့ကြသည့် ဝန်ထမ်းများ၊ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံနယ်စပ်နှင့်တောင်တန်းဒေသထေရဝါဒဗုဒ္ဓဘာသာ သာသနာနဂ္ဂဟ အသင်းဝင်များနှင့် ဘာသာရေး အသင်းအဖွဲ့ အသီးသီးမှ လုပ်အားဒါနပြုလုပ်ခဲ့ကြသည့် ကုသိုလ်ရှင်များ၊ သံဃာတော်အပါး (၁၈၀၀၀)တို့အား ဆွမ်းဆက်ကပ်ကြသည့် အလှူရှင်များနှင့် ဆွမ်းစားဗိမာန်များ ဆောက်လုပ်၍ ဆွမ်းဆက်ကပ်လှူဒါန်းကြသည့် ကုမ္ပဏီများ၊ သံဃာတော်များအားကြိုဆိုပင့်ဆောင်ရေးနှင့် ဝေယျာဝစ္စပြုလုပ်ရန် မော်တော်ယာဉ်များဖြင့် သယ်ယူပို့ဆောင် ကုသိုလ်ယူခဲ့ကြသည့် ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းဒေသကြီး သယ်ယူပို့ဆောင်ရေးကြီးကြပ်ကွပ်ကဲမှုအာဏာပိုင်အဖွဲ့နှင့် YBS ယာဉ်လိုင်း၊ ပုဂ္ဂလိကယာဉ်လိုင်းများမှ တာဝန်ရှိသူများနှင့် ယာဉ်လုပ်သားများ၊ သီးခြားမော်တော်ယာဉ်အလှူရှင်များ၊ စီမံခန့်ခွဲမှု ကုသိုလ်ယူခဲ့ကြသည့် ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း ဒေသကြီး အထွေထွေအုပ်ချုပ်ရေးဦးစီးဌာနနှင့် ခရိုင်/မြို့နယ်အထွေထွေအုပ်ချုပ်ရေးဦးစီးဌာနမှ အရာထမ်းအမှုထမ်းများ၊ ရပ်ကွက်အုပ်ချုပ်ရေးမှူးများ၊ မိမိတို့ကျရာကဏ္ဍအသီးသီးမှ ဝေယျာဝစ္စကုသိုလ်ယူခဲ့ကြသည့် ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ထမ်းများ၊ လူမှုကူညီရေးအသင်းအဖွဲ့များ၊ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံကြက်ခြေနီအသင်းနှင့် မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ မီးသတ်တပ်ဖွဲ့များ၊ ရပ်မြင်သံကြားမှ တစ်ဆင့် ဖူးမျှော်ကြည့်ညိုသဒ္ဓါပွားများကြသော အနယ်နယ်အရပ်ရပ်မှ ရဟန်း/သာမဏေများ၊ သီလရှင်များ၊ ပြည်သူပြည်သားများနှင့် ကုသိုလ်ယူထုတ်လွှင့်ပေးသော သတင်းမီဒီယာ အသီးသီးရှိ တာဝန်ရှိပုဂ္ဂိုလ်များနှင့် ဝန်ထမ်းများ၊ ရပ်မြင်သံကြားထုတ်လွှင့်ရန် အဓိကတာဝန်ယူကြသော ရွှေသံလွင်ကုမ္ပဏီ SKY NET ရုပ်သံလိုင်းမှဝန်ထမ်းများ၊ သံဃာတော်အပါး (၁၈၀၀၀) တို့အား တတ်စွမ်းသမျှ ဆွမ်းဆန်စိမ်းလောင်းလှူပူဇော်ကြသော စေတနာရှင်အလှူရှင်များနှင့် လုပ်အားဒါနပြုခဲ့ကြသူများ၊ ရွှေတိဂုံစေတီတော်နှင့် ဆက်စပ်သမျှ မြင်အပ်/မမြင်အပ်ပုဂ္ဂိုလ်အရပ်ရပ်နှင့် အဖက်ဖက်မှပံ့ပိုး ကူညီပိုင်းဝန်းဆောင်ရွက်ခဲ့ကြသော ပုဂ္ဂိုလ်အားလုံးတို့အား အထူးပင်ကျေးဇူးတင်ဝမ်းမြောက်ရပါကြောင်း မှတ်တမ်းတင်ဂုဏ်ပြုအပ်ပါသည်။

ဗုဒ္ဓါဘိသေကအနေကဇာတင်မဟာမင်္ဂလာနှင့်
ဆွမ်းဆန်စိမ်းလောင်းလှူပွဲအခမ်းအနားကျင်းပရေးဦးစီးကော်မတီ



People cross 6th Avenue and 42nd Street as a cold weather front hits the region, in Manhattan, New York, US on 30 December, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Deep freeze keeps grip on eastern United States, expected to ease

NEW YORK — A record-shattering arctic cold wave kept its grip on much of the United States east of the Rocky Mountains on Tuesday but temperatures everywhere except the northeast were expected to warm thereafter.

Schools remained shut as a result of the cold snap, which claimed four lives over the long New Year weekend.

The National Weather Service issued wind chill warnings for Tuesday as dangerously low temperatures were possible from eastern Montana across the Midwest, into the Atlantic Coast

and the Northeast and down through the deep south.

School districts in Iowa, Massachusetts, Indianapolis and Northeast Ohio cancelled or delayed the start of classes on Tuesday as bitterly cold temperatures 20 to 30 degrees Fahrenheit (11 to 17 degrees Celsius) below normal were expected across the eastern half of the United States.

“Just the bitter cold which is just too dangerous to put kids out on the street waiting for a bus that may not come,” said Herb Levine, superintendent of the Peabody School District, north of

Boston, to a local CBS affiliate television station.

The bitter cold was blamed on the deaths of two men in separate incidents in Milwaukee, according to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. Another man was found frozen to death outside a church in Detroit while a homeless man was found dead on a porch in Charleston, West Virginia, local news reported.

Many places across the United States saw record low temperatures over the last few days. Omaha, Nebraska, posted a low of minus 20 F (minus 29 C), breaking a 130-year-old record, and Aberdeen,

South Dakota, shattered a record set in 1919 with a temperature of minus 32 F (minus 36 C).

The cold should ease across most of the United States after Tuesday, but the northeastern quarter of the country will see a repeat of the frigid temperatures from Thursday to Friday as another arctic blast hits the area.

The private AccuWeather forecaster said the cold snap could combine with a storm brewing off the Bahamas to bring snow and high winds to much of the Eastern Seaboard as it heads north on Wednesday and Thursday. —Reuters ■

Norway Labour Party's deputy leader suspended over harassment allegations

OSLO—The deputy head of Norway's top opposition Labour Party has temporarily stepped down from his leadership post following accusations of sexual harassment, the party said on Monday.

Trond Giske, 51, who held several Cabinet posts in Labour governments, recently apologised for what he said was unsuitable behaviour but has rejected the most severe

allegations as false and unfounded.

“In light of the demanding situation for the party, and the nature of the case, Trond Giske and I have agreed that he will be relieved of his duty as deputy leader for an indefinite period,” Labour leader Jonas Gahr Støre said in a statement.

On 21 December, Gahr Støre said several women had accused

his deputy of “unwanted encounters of a sexual nature.” The board of the Labour Party is scheduled to meet on Tuesday to discuss the situation. Giske, who is currently on sick leave, confirmed on Monday he had agreed to step aside temporarily from his leadership post, writing on his Facebook page that he hoped it would allow him to respond further to the accusations. Giske, a

former industry minister, culture minister and education minister, remains a member of Norway's parliament where he is also Labour's chief spokesman on economic policy. A number of political, corporate and other leaders in several countries have quit or been fired in recent weeks as women have come forward with accusations of abuse and harassment.—Reuters ■

Britain wants financial services included in EU trade deal — Davis

LONDON — Britain wants to include financial services in a trade deal with the European Union which covers a full sweep of economic areas, Brexit minister David Davis said on Tuesday.

Davis said that any deal that left finance out would be “cherry picking”, after the EU's Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier cast doubt on the inclusion

of financial services in a free-trade deal. “We are looking at the full sweep of economic cooperation that currently exists and determining how that can be maintained with the minimum additional barriers or friction,” Davis wrote in the Daily Telegraph, adding that the principles of a trade deal in goods could be applied to services too.—Reuters ■

TRADEMARK CAUTION

NOTICE is hereby given that **JIAJIA FOODS GROUP, CO., LTD.**, a company incorporated in China and having its principal office at Station Road, Economic Development Zone, Ningxiang County, Hunan Province, 410600, China is the owner and sole proprietor of the following trademark:-



(Reg: No. IV/10610/2017)

in respect of: “Soya sauce; vinegar; seasonings; condiments; paprika; relish [condiment]; oyster sauce; chicken bouillon powder [seasoning]; monosodium glutamate; seasoning sauce” in class 30.

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said trademark or other infringements whatsoever will be dealt with according to law.

For **JIAJIA FOODS GROUP, CO., LTD.**

BY ITS ATTORNEY

ACTIP IP LIMITED

P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.

Phone: 372416

Dated: 3rd January, 2018

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ARCA VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ARCA VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3-1-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT

(S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

Clad in light grey, North Korea's Kim goes for softer image in New Year address

SEOUL — The light-grey suit and matching tie that North Korea's Kim Jong Un donned for his New Year's address was likely carefully calculated to project a softer, more relaxed image to go with his surprise offer for talks with Seoul.

Departing from his usual black or navy suits, Kim gave his televised speech wearing black-rimmed glasses and slicked back hair, speaking fluently and rarely looking down to read as he raised the possibility of sending a delegation to the upcoming Winter Olympics in South Korea.

"In this New Year's ad-

dress, North Korea seems to have taken great pains with the image portrayed by Kim Jong Un," said an analysis by the state-run Korea Institute for National Unification after Kim's speech.

"The change from the previous dark Maoist suits to a softer toned grey Western-style suit likely aimed to underpin peace, which Kim stressed in his address," the institute said.

It added that Kim's style "reflected a relaxed state of mind" that likely resulted from his previous announcement that North Korea had achieved its nuclear ambitions.

After a year dominat-

ed by fiery rhetoric and escalating tensions over Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programme, Kim declared Monday that his country was "a peace-loving and responsible nuclear power" and called for lowering military tensions and improving ties with the South.

Kim also said he was open to dialogue with Seoul, prompting South Korea on Tuesday to propose high-level talks between the two countries on Jan. 9 at the border truce village of Panmunjeom.

Analysts said the North Korean leader's speech on Monday showed more confidence com-

pared to previous years, his old habit of swaying from side to side while making speeches nearly undetectable. In his first New Year's address as North Korea's leader in 2013, Kim frequently sounded short of breath, his voice wavering from time to time.

Kim made his maiden public address in 15 April, 2012 at a parade marking the centenary of his grandfather's birth. This year, there was none of the uneasiness that marked that speech and his subsequent public addresses.

His voice, his hair shaved on the side, as well as his light-colored West-



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. PHOTO: REUTERS

ern-style suit and glasses, were also reminiscent of his grandfather, Kim Il Sung, according to defectors and analysts. Kim Il Sung had a more gregarious and popular image than Kim Jong Un's reclusive father, Kim Jong Il. Kim Jong Un has embraced New Year addresses as a chance to outline his policies and rally the North Korean people. Last

year, he used his speech to declare that North Korea was in the "final stages" of perfecting an intercontinental ballistic missile.

Kim Gun-hee, a consultant on image making and leadership, said the grey suit may have been designed to deflect some of the negative global attention Kim's nuclear and missile tests have prompted.—Reuters ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V BEL OCEAN VOY. NO. (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BEL OCEAN VOY. NO. (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 02-1-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-5 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 CA SHIPPING PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V OCEAN LADY VOY. NO. (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OCEAN LADY VOY. NO. (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 02-1-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIPL 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 HELIO INT'L SERVICES PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ANNITA VOY. NO. (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ANNITA VOY. NO. (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 03-1-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-4 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 BRIGHT SAIL SHIPPING LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SIMA PERFECT VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SIMA PERFECT VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3-1-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of 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

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V BOX ENDARANCE VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BOX ENDARANCE VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3-1-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/MIP 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

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V PACITA VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PACITA VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-1-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AIPT 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA

Phone No: 2301185

Tamil film star Rajinikanth to enter politics in India's 'Detroit'

NEW DELHI — A big star of India's Tamil-language movies, Rajinikanth, said on Sunday he is launching a political party, adding drama to a heated political scene in a state with a history of film stars becoming chief ministers.

Tamil Nadu, which accounts for the bulk of India's automobile exports, has been in political limbo since the death of Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa in December 2016. Jayalalithaa was a popular actress before joining politics.

Rajinikanth, called the "superstar" by his fans, enters the political scene at a time Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party is looking to make inroads into the southern state that's been ruled by two south Indian parties for decades.

Over the past five decades, Tamil Nadu has chosen between the two Dravidian parties, both of which claim anti-caste social justice and secularism as their core ideology.

Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) did not win a seat in Tamil Nadu's 2016 elections. The next state election is due in 2021.

"I'll push for spiritual politics without caste or religious leanings," Rajinikanth said. "If I come to power and am not able to deliver in three years, I'll resign. Democracy is in a state of distress in the state."

In Tamil cinema, Rajinikanth often plays larger-than-life characters that project him as a saviour of the masses. The actor, who has been in a few Hindi movies,



Actor Rajinikanth greets his supporters after announcing the launch of his political party in Chennai, India on 31 December, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

has created a frenzy among fans ahead of every release.

But opponents say politics would be different.

Subramanian Swamy, a BJP

leader, dismissed Rajinikanth's plunge into politics as "media hype".

Tamil Nadu, a state of more than 70 million people, is some-

times called the "Detroit of Asia". It is home to factories of companies including BMW, Daimler, Hyundai, Ford, Nissan and Renault. — Reuters ■

Box Office: 'Star Wars: The Last Jedi' Holds Off 'Jumanji' on New Year's Weekend

LOS ANGELES — In a battle of box office heavyweights, Luke Skywalker just managed to hold off Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson as the world rang in another year.

Disney and LucasFilm's "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" retained first place for the four-day New Year's holiday weekend despite steep competition from Sony's "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle." "Last Jedi" picked up an estimated \$68.4 million, bringing its domestic haul to \$533.1 million.

Don't weep for "Jumanji," however. The fantasy reboot, which finds Johnson, Jack Black, and Kevin Hart transported into a video game world, has outperformed expectations, picking up a lordly \$66.5 million over the holiday weekend. It now has a hefty \$185.7 million domestic gross and should continue to draw crowds in 2018. The "Jumanji" sequel has also done well internationally, racking up \$350 million worldwide, and has provided a much-needed hit for a studio that has struggled to keep pace with the Disney's and Warner Bros.'s of the world. Sony claims the film has a \$90 million budget. Those alleged production costs have raised eyebrows around town as to their veracity given the film's Hawaii location and starry cast, but regardless of creative accounting and aggressive spin-

ning, the result is impressive. A sequel seems preordained.

"Star Wars: The Last Jedi" closed 2017 as the year's highest-grossing release and the seventh highest-grossing domestic movie of all time with \$517.1 million. It will bypass its fellow franchisee "Rogue One" at some point on New Year's Day to take the seventh spot on the stateside charts and has already blown past the \$1 billion mark

globally. The film carries a \$200 million price tag, and has generated controversy for a series of creative decisions by director and writer Rian Johnson that have, depending on your perspective, either infused new energy into decades-old series or deviated dangerously from the Jedi canon.

It's been a dismal year for the domestic box office, which ends 2017 with \$11.12 billion in sales, down 2.3% from last year's

\$11.38 billion and off slightly from 2015's \$11.14 billion, according to comScore. After a bruising summer, when revenues plummeted more than 6% in the wake of costly flops such as "The Mummy" and "Transformer: The Last Knight," the gap did narrow. Fall and winter hits such as "It," "Thor: Ragnarok," "Coco," and "Murder on the Orient Express," helped make up the difference. — Reuters ■



Producer Ram Bergman, director Rian Johnson and actors Daisy Ridley and Mark Hamill pose for pictures as they arrive for the China premiere of 'Star Wars: The Last Jedi' at the Shanghai Disney Resort in Shanghai, China on 20 December, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

China box office posts turnaround in 2017 with 13 percent growth

BEIJING — China's movie box office revenue rose 13.45 per cent last year to 55.91 billion yuan (\$8.59 billion), more than tripling the 2016 growth rate as foreign films won a larger share of ticket sales compared to the previous year, said the Xinhua News Agency.

Domestic films recorded ticket sales of 30.1 billion yuan in 2017, accounting for 54 per cent of total box office, Xinhua reported on Sunday, citing data from the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film, and Television.

Domestic films in 2016 accounted for 58 per cent of total box office. China is the second-largest movie market globally after the United States, though it already has more total movie screens after years of rapid expansion in theater networks.

China added 9,597 screens last year to reach 50,776 in total, the media regulator said. That compares to just over 40,000 screens in the United States, according to data from US-based National Association of Theatre Owners. — Reuters ■

Emperor Akihito greets record crowds for his New Year address

TOKYO — Emperor Akihito expressed his wishes for peace at home and abroad on Tuesday in New Year's greetings to 126,720 well-wishers, the largest number of visitors to the Imperial Palace for his New Year address since he ascended to the throne in 1989.

"At the beginning of the new year, I pray for happiness for the people of our country and the world," the emperor said in his first New Year greetings after the government set on 30 April, 2019, as the date of his abdication.

Accompanied by his wife Empress Michiko and other members of the imperial family, the emperor said he hopes "people will lead calm and spiritually rich lives this year," as he waved to the crowd from behind the windows of the palace.

The 84-year-old emperor will

step down in the first abdication by a Japanese monarch in about two centuries after signaling his wish to retire in a rare message in 2016, citing his age as a concern to stop him from fulfilling his duties.

The emperor's elder son Crown Prince Naruhito is set to ascend the throne on 1 May, 2019, starting a new "imperial era," replacing the current "Heisei" period which began on 8 January, 1989.

Princess Mako, who is set to marry in November, stood on the balcony alongside the emperor; her grandfather, on what is her final appearance at the New Year event as a member of the imperial family. Under the Imperial House Law, a female member renounces her imperial status if she marries a commoner. —Kyodo News ■



Japanese Emperor Akihito (L) and Empress Michiko greet well-wishers at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo on 2 January, 2018. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Israeli archaeologists find 2,700-year-old "governor of Jerusalem" seal impression

JERUSALEM — Israeli archaeologists unveiled on Monday a 2,700-year-old clay seal impression which they said belonged to a biblical governor of Jerusalem.

The artefact, inscribed in an ancient Hebrew script as "belonging to the governor of the city", was likely attached to a shipment or sent as a souvenir on behalf of the governor; the most prominent local position held in Jerusalem at the time, the Israel Antiquities Authority said. The impression, the size of a small coin, depicts two standing men, facing each other in a mirror-like manner and wearing striped garments reaching down to their knees. It was unearthed near the plaza of Judaism's Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem. "It supports

the Biblical rendering of the existence of a governor of the city in Jerusalem 2,700 years ago," an Antiquities Authority statement quoted excavator Shlomit Weksler-Bdolah as saying.

Governors of Jerusalem, appointed by the king, are mentioned twice in the Bible, in 2 Kings, which refers to Joshua holding the position, and in 2 Chronicles, which mentions Masseiah in the post during the reign of Josiah. The Antiquities Authority's announcement came several weeks after US President Donald Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital, a decision that overturned a decades-old policy on the status of the city and stirred Palestinian protests and international concern. —Reuters ■

"Supermoon" seen across China



in
Picture

A "supermoon" is seen over the Ganjingzi District in Dalian, northeast China's Liaoning Province on 2 January, 2018. PHOTO: XINHUA

Granary ruins dating back to 800 years ago found in northeast China

CHANGCHUN — Archaeologists in northeast China's Jilin Province have unearthed the ruins of a granary, which has been dated back to the Eastern Xia Kingdom about 800 years ago.

Located in Mopan Village in the Korean Autonomous Prefecture of Yanbian, the ruins are

21.25 meters long and 7.5 metres wide, according to the Jilin Institute of Archaeology.

"They are surrounded by a drainage ditch. Ceramic tiles are scattered everywhere in the ruins. Such an architectural form is unique to the Eastern Xia Kingdom," said Li Qiang, who leads

the archaeological team.

They also found a variety of scorched crops in the ruins, including a large amount of millet and small red bean, and a small quantity of wheat and buckwheat.

Researchers presume that Mongolian troops occupied the capital of the Eastern Xia King-

dom and burned its state granary. The collapsed buildings buried the unburnt crops and kept them intact underground for eight centuries.

The Eastern Xia was a short-lived kingdom established in today's northeast China by a Jurchen warlord in 1215. It was

conquered by the Mongols in 1233.

"The new discovery will be valuable to the study of the dietary patterns, agriculture and economic development of the Eastern Xia Kingdom in the future," said Feng Enxue, an archaeologist with Jilin University. —Xinhua ■

Hulk determined to deliver SIPG's first title in 2018

HONG KONG — Brazilian striker Hulk will start his third season with Shanghai SIPG next month determined to deliver a trophy to the big-spending Chinese Super League club in the new campaign.

The burly forward signed for a then-record 55 million euros (\$66.13 million) from Zenit St Petersburg in the summer of 2016 but has yet to claim any silverware during his time in China.

But the 31-year-old is focused on delivering the club's first trophy in the 2018 season with new coach Vitor Pereira at the helm.

"I've been with SIPG a year and a half now and I'm

desperate to win a championship," he told Chinese media. "I hope we can do it in the new season. I'll try 100 per cent to help my team and my team mates."

SIPG finished second behind perennial Chinese Super League champions Guangzhou Evergrande last season while they were also runners-up in the Chinese FA Cup and semi-finalists in the Asian Champions League.

Coach Andre Villas-Boas left after just one season and has been replaced by his Portuguese compatriot Pereira, a man Hulk knows from his time work-

ing under the 49-year-old at Porto.

"I know Pereira well," Hulk said. "He's a very good coach who is ambitious. He has been keeping us on the right track on a daily basis and I hope his leadership can improve our results."

"Now there's a great atmosphere in the team. It's nice to have this kind of atmosphere at the start of the season and it will put us in a good frame of mind going into the New Year."

"Hopefully God will bless us with a great year and better achievements."

Hulk's position as

the most expensive player in Asia was taken by his compatriot Oscar, who signed for Shanghai from Chelsea last January, providing SIPG with one of the most potent attacking forces on the continent.

The pair are joined by fellow Brazilian Elkeson as well as veteran defender Ricardo Carvalho and Uzbekistan's Odil Ahmedov as the club's foreign players.

New rules in the Chinese Super League, however, will allow teams to field no more than three foreigners in each game while forcing coaches to select the same number of Chinese players under the age of 23 as the non-Chinese

players in their starting lineup.

The amendment to the regulations is certain to have a major impact on the upcoming campaign, but Hulk believes the added competition for places among the overseas players will be beneficial to the team.

"As far as the international competition between the foreign players in the team is concerned, it will be a difficult choice for the coach but it will be a good thing for the team because we have a good pool of players to choose from," he said.

"What we need to do is perform well in training." — Reuters ■

Manchester City forward Jesus has knee ligament damage

MANCHESTER, England — Manchester City's Brazil forward Gabriel Jesus suffered knee ligament damage in Sunday's 0-0 Premier League draw at Crystal Palace, the Premier League leaders said on Monday.

City said on their website that Jesus had "suffered a medial collateral ligament injury" and will have further examinations this week to establish the extent of his lay-off.

City manager Pep Guardiola said immediately after the match that Jesus would "be out for a little bit more than one month."

The 20-year-old forward left the Selhurst Park pitch in tears after landing awkwardly during the first half and had to be consoled by his club's medical staff.

"Today I went through an image exam on my left

knee that diagnosed a small medial collateral ligament injury," Jesus wrote on Instagram on Monday.

"Thank God it is not very bad and I won't have to go through any surgery procedure. Promise to be back as soon as possible."

City are 12 points clear at the top of the table before facing mid-table Watford at home on Tuesday.

—Reuters ■



Manchester City's Brazil forward Gabriel Jesus. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Tough choice to decide African Footballer of the Year

CAPE TOWN — Africa will crown its best soccer player on Thursday but the electors have a tough choice in deciding between the three candidates for the 2017 African Footballer of the Year award.

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang of Borussia Dortmund and Gabon goes up against Liverpool's Senegalese Sadio Mane and Egyptian Mohamed Salah with none of the final three candidates having a defining achievement over the last 12 months to set them apart.

The winner will be announced at the annual Confederation of African Football awards being hosted in Accra, Ghana.

Aubameyang, who was the African Footballer of the Year in 2015 and runner-up in the last poll to Riyad Mahrez, finished as top scorer in the Bundesliga last season, netting 31 goals, and continued his form in front of goal into the new campaign.

He also scored the winner in the German Cup final in May but that is hardly likely to resonate with the voters, who are the national team coaches and captains from each African country plus a selected panel of journalists.

At national team level, the

28-year-old Aubameyang made little impression at the African Nations Cup finals in his home country at the start of 2017 and then missed most of Gabon's unsuccessful World Cup qualifying campaign, citing transfer negotiations among the reasons for his absences.

Mane and Salah helped Senegal and Egypt qualify for the World Cup after lengthy absences and have emerged as leading players this season in the English Premier League.

Salah, 25, has the edge over his club mate since he was a major catalyst in Egypt reaching the Nations Cup final in Libreville in February, where they lost narrowly to Cameroon, and has scored regularly for Liverpool after his record transfer for an African footballer in the close season.

Mane, also 25, is looking to become only the second Senegalese to win the award after El Hadji Diouf, who was African Footballer of the Year in 2001 and 2002. The only Egyptian winner was Mahmoud Al Khatib in 1983, while French-born Aubameyang is the only player from Gabon to win the award, which was first introduced in 1970. —Reuters ■