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Above, the Ruili checkpoint in Yunnan Province, China, where trucks carrying Myanmar commodities cross into China from the 105-mile Muse border trade zone in Shan State. Last week, bank accounts of over 100 Myanmar companies were frozen. **FILE PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE**

China freezes bank accounts of Myanmar companies

Commerce minister in negotiations to reopen accounts

Three banks in Yunnan Province, China froze the bank accounts of over 100 Myanmar companies engaged in border trade last week over possible links to illegal internet gambling and smuggling, prompting swift action from the Union Minister for Commerce to try and reopen the accounts, according to officials in China and Myanmar.

The frozen accounts were

from three banks, the Agricultural Bank of China, China Construction Bank and the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, all located in Shweli, Yunnan Province, on the border of Shan State. A delegation led by the Union Minister for Commerce met with the Consul-General of China on Thursday to negotiate the reopening of the accounts. The Ministry also

contacted the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar to talk about possible solutions when more bank accounts were frozen on Friday.

The Ministry also contacted the secretary of the political party in Shweli and an official from Shweli's Foreign Affairs Department for an official explanation as to why the bank accounts were frozen and made negotiations to reopen the bank

accounts as soon as possible.

A meeting was held on Saturday at the Myanmar Pulse, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association at Muse 105-mile trade camp to discuss the frozen bank accounts. The meeting was attended by Hluttaw representatives, officials from NGOs, the chairman and 180 members of the association.

SEE PAGE-3



NATIONAL
State Counsellor's 72nd birthday celebrated

PAGE-3



NATIONAL
Senior General meets families of Myanmar Embassy staff, military attaché in Russia

PAGE-9



NATIONAL
Y-8 military plane victims' items found

PAGE-3



NATIONAL
Thais top list of foreigners who make pilgrimage to Shwedagon Pagoda

PAGE-9



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Pyithu Hluttaw

2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 5th regular session 17th day meeting

Kyaw Thu Htet (MNA)

WATER scarcity in Ngapudaw, a sluice gate in Dagon Myothit (South) and agriculture loans for farmers in reserved forest areas were among the issues discussed at yesterday's Pyithu Hluttaw meeting.

A total of four questions were answered, one report read, one bill confirmed and a motion debated at the 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 5th Regular Session 17th Day Meeting yesterday.

U Than Aung of Ngapudaw constituency asked whether there is any plan for constructing rain water storage ponds, water storage dams and tube wells to alleviate severe water scarcity in Ngapudaw township. U Hla Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, said a pre-feasibility study is underway to construct a water storage dam at the confluence of Mekaye Creek near Ngapyayma village, Ngapudaw Township and if found feasible a design will be submitted. He added further that the Irrigation and Water Utilisation Management Department currently have no plans to con-

struct a water storage dam in Ngapudaw Township.

In response to a question by U Aye Naing of Dagon Myothit (South) Township on any plan in existence to construct a new sluice gate near sluice gate 9 on Thanekyaung Creek near Thitsate camp in Dagon Myothit (South) Township that is not properly discharging water, Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw said the sluice gate is no longer sturdy and Yangon Region government had not included funds to construct a new sluice gate nearby in the 2017-2018 fiscal year. The region government said it would include it in the next fiscal year and will construct it if funds are allocated, said the Deputy Minister.

U Myint Thein of Wetlet constituency asked about a plan to provide agricultural loans to farmers farming in forest reserved areas and protected forest outside of forest reserved areas. Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw said the procedure to provide agriculture loans stipulates that loans can be provided only to those who are in possession of form-7 that shows the right to farm on a land, issued by the Settlement



U Hla Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation. **PHOTO: MNA**

and Land Record Department. Forest reserved areas and protected forest outside of forest reserved areas are not recognised as farmland by the Settlement and Land Record Department and therefore, agriculture loans could not be provided, answered the Deputy Minister.

Replying to a question by U Maung Maung of Htigyaing constituency on returning 42.06 acre of farm land taken over by Great Wall Company to build a sugar plant to 28 farmers from Aungthaya village, Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw said the land was

not confiscated by any government department and Great Wall Company bought the land from farmers at a mutually agreed-upon market rate of Ks135,000 to Ks150,000 an acre, and then applied for LaNa 39 to construct the sugar plant.

At the request of locals, Great Wall Company donated 2 acre of the 42.06 acre in 2012 to construct a school. On the remaining 40.06 acres of land proposed to construct a sugar plant, the company constructed a 120 feet x 24 feet building for storage and staff quarters using only 0.066 acres, resulting in 39.99 acres that were not used yet, the Deputy Minister said.

Even though this is a case of farmland being permitted for use for other purposes prior to the enactment of the 2012 farmland law, as the land was not used as permitted, it will be determined in accordance to article 90, 91, 92 and 93 of the 2012 farmland law and the committee to assess cases of confiscated farmlands and other lands, the Deputy Minister said.

A motion by U Myo Zaw Oo of Lewe constituency urging the government to quickly implement

a crop insurance programme for losses through natural disasters and pests was then debated by U Min Naung of Pinlebu constituency, U Saw Thalay Saw of Shwegyin Constituency and U Thein Tun of Kyaunggon constituency.

Continuation of the debate on the motion by Hluttaw representatives, response by relevant union level department and decision by the Hluttaw will be made at the Hluttaw meeting of 21 June, it is learnt.

Also during yesterday's meeting, the hluttaw conducted the reading of an annual report by the Pyithu Hluttaw banking and financial development committee, submitted for decision a bill on amending conservation of water resources and maintaining river law that was sent back with amendments by the Amyotha Hluttaw. The Amyotha Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw disagree on eight points of the bill on amending conservation of water resources and maintaining river law, and it will be submitted to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for a decision.

The 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 5th Regular Session 18th day meeting is scheduled on 21 June.

Amyotha Hluttaw

2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 5th regular session 16th day meeting

Thuya Zaw (MNA)

TELECOMMUNICATIONS towers, water overflow sections of the Mutha-Magyikone-Taunggya-Lintalu-Chinegyi Road and the Myanmar Coastal and Inland Water Transport License Law were among the issues discussed at yesterday's meeting of the Amyotha Hluttaw.

Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung and Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin also answered questions from Hluttaw representatives on transport, communications and upgrading of roads at the 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 5th regular session 16th day meeting yesterday morning in the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall.

U Win Maung of Magway Region constituency 6 asked if there were any plan by Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications (MPT) to establish GSM



U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for Transport and Communications. **PHOTO: MNA**

(MPT) towers in Ngahlinetwin and Kinpunchone villages in Salin Township. U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for Transport and Communications, said MPT, Telenor Myanmar and Ooredoo Myanmar were installing mobile telecommunications bases and towers throughout the country,



U Kyaw Lin, Deputy Minister for Construction. **PHOTO: MNA**

but it is dependent on the return on investment, availability of electricity and the ground situation.

At the present moment there is no plan to install communications towers in the two villages, he said.

Responding to a question by U Kyaw Thaung of Sagaing

Region constituency 1 on plans to repair the four damaged 120-foot long water overflow sections between mile posts 6/1 and 6/7 of Mutha-Magyikone-Taunggya-Lintalu-Chinegyi Road, Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin said reconstructing the four water overflow sections, a 55-foot long water overflow section and six furlongs of damaged road were included in the region's special maintenance fund for FY 2017-2018, but were not included in the approved spending plan due to fund shortage.

However it will be included in the additional request fund for FY 2017-2018, the Deputy Minister said. Starting from FY 2018-2019, it will be included in the initial fund list and will be implemented depending upon availability of funding, added the Deputy Minister. The Ministry of Transport and Communications and Ministry of Construction responded to questions by U Tet Tun Aung

of Rakhine State constituency 2, Daw Htu May of Rakhine State constituency 11 and U Thein Lwin of Kachin State constituency 10.

U Soe Thein @ U Maung Soe of Taninthayi Region constituency 10 debated on a bill amending the Myanmar Coastal and Inland Water Transport License Law sent back from Pyithu Hluttaw with amendment and a decision was made for the Hluttaw bill committee to review it.

A report by Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee on Canal Bill sent back from Pyithu Hluttaw with amendment was read by committee member U Kyaw Kyaw of Rakhine State constituency 4 and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced interested Hluttaw representatives to register their names for discussion.

The 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 5th regular session 17th day meeting is scheduled to be held on the morning of 21 June.

State Counsellor's 72nd birthday celebrated

By Zaw Gyi (Panita)

People across the country observed the 72nd Birthday of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi with birthday cakes, offerings to monks and nuns and blood donations to the National Blood Bank.

A birthday celebration was also held at the National League for Democracy's (NLD) headquarters in Bahan Township yesterday.

U Nyan Win, an NLD spokesperson and a member of the Central Executive Committee, gave a short speech to commemorate the occasion, then wished the State Counsellor a happy birthday on behalf of everyone in attendance.

Daw Aye Aye Mya Kyi from Pazundaung Township said that she never had the chance to at-

tend the State Counsellor's birthday celebrations previously, but always wished the best for her from afar.

"I am overjoyed that I could attend this year," said Daw Aye Aye Mya Kyi. "May she have the best of health and continue to carry out her duty for the country".

Earlier in the day, offerings and donations were presented to monks and nuns at the NLD's headquarters in commemoration of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's birthday. The NLD's youth committee of Yangon commemorated the State Counsellor's birthday with their third annual blood donation at the National Blood Bank.

Attending the ceremony were NLD officials, ministers from the Yangon Region Government, Hluttaw representatives, members from other political parties and other invited guests. ■



U Nyan Win, member of the Central Executive Committee of NLD cuts the birthday cake at the celebration for 72nd Birthday of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the party's headquarters in Yangon. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI (PANITA)**

Y-8 military plane victims' items found

Navy boats and local fishing motor-boats are continuing to search for remaining parts of the crashed Y-8 military plane, through the help of skilled army and local divers and by dredging with fishing nets, based on images acquired from sonar system.

While searching for the remaining parts of the crashed plane, two local fishing motor boats found various kinds of clothes and documents includ-

ing one box made of iron, one steward suits, in the vicinity of the place where the tail part of the plane was found, yesterday evening.

It has been learnt that investigation are under way according to the investigation process, for finding facts on the crash of the plane from Flight Data Recorder-Black box & CVR-Cockpit Voice Recorder.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Personal belongings and clothing of passengers from the Y-8 plane that crashed shortly after takeoff from Myeik on 7 June were recovered yesterday, including photos, children's dolls and military uniforms. The retrieval of the items was made in the Andaman Sea in southern Myanmar. **PHOTO: MNA**

Lagunpyin Project to supply 40 million gallons of water to eastern district

Lagunpyin water supply project has a target to supply 40million gallons of water per day to townships of eastern part in Yangon and Thilawa Special Economic Zone, according to Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC).

The project was launched in 2013 by Yangon City Development Committee-YCDC, Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River System and the Japanese International Cooperation Agency-JICA and has completed by 98 per cent.

Ten million gallons of water will be distributed to Thilawa Special Economic Zone and 30 million gallons of water will be

distributed to Thaketa, Dawbon and Dagon Myothit townships.

"We are implementing to supply fresh water to the people and wasted water is also being reduced by collaboration together" said U Maung Maung Soe, Mayor of Yangon.

Yangon City Development Committee -YCDC is implementing many water projects to cover the increasing population of 2040.

"Water supply stations and water distribution pipe lines are being upgraded. 10 zones of water storage station are being implemented and the loans for the projects were also requested", said Yangon Mayor.

The Kokkova water project is also currently being implemented with the target date completed in 2025 to distribute to the townships of western part of Yangon.

The first and second phases of the project are targeted to produce 60 million gallons of water per day and the third phase also targeted 120 million gallons capacity of water production.

Total 205 million of daily water supply are being distributed sixty per cent of population in Yangon from the water storage stations of Hlawgar, Phu-egy, Gyobyu and Ngamoeyeyik.—Myanmar News Agency ■

China freezes bank accounts. ...

FROM PAGE-1

On Sunday, the Director of the Muse 105-mile trade camp and the Deputy Commissioner of Muse met with a delegation led by Shweli's Deputy Mayor in Muse. The Deputy Mayor of Shweli said 349 bank accounts were frozen to investigate possible links to internet gambling and smuggled goods from users in Lwaw MonKoo, Anwei Township and Inner Mongolia

in China. He said 132 bank accounts owned by Myanmar citizens were among the accounts frozen.

The Deputy Mayor said it will take some time to finish the overall inspection of all the frozen bank accounts, but said they will do their best to reopen bank accounts not connected with alleged criminal activity.

In a phone call made by the Ministry of Commerce to the

Chinese Embassy on Sunday, it was learnt that a special committee headed by the Deputy Mayor of Shweli was formed to investigate the criminal allegations. It was learnt that the actions were made without the knowledge of the Yunnan Government.

The Ministry of Commerce said it will continue negotiations to reopen the accounts.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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Photo exhibition to mark 25th anniversary of Médecins Sans Frontières

YANGON Gallery will host a photo exhibition to mark the 25 years of medical humanitarian action of Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF), according to an event organiser.

Celebrating their 25th anniversary, the MSF Myanmar on behalf of Médecins Sans Frontières plans to hold the photo exhibitions between 21 and 25 June, planning to showcase photographs from past and current activities in the country which presents unique portraits of the MSF staff and patients, providing a glimpse into their everyday realities.

The exhibition will be inaugurated by the MSF-Holland and MSF-Switzerland Heads of Mission, Karen, Karen Godley and Kevin Coppock.

The Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF), has helped people worldwide where the need is greatest,



Pharmacists prepare medicine for two HIV-positive patients at Médecins Sans Frontières-Holland (AZG)'s clinic in Yangon. **FILE PHOTO: REUTERS**

delivering emergency medical assistance to people affected by conflict, epidemics and disasters as well as to people marginalized from healthcare.

The body performs sur-

gery, fight epidemics, offer basic healthcare services, rehabilitate and run hospitals, carry out vaccinations, operate nutrition centres, provide mental healthcare and offer training to local

medical staff.

The Yangon Gallery is located near Planetarium Museum in People's Park, Ahlone Road, Dagon Township, Yangon.—Shwe Khine ■

Traditional bungalows to be built in Paletwa town

TWENTY traditional bungalows will be built to attract the tourists to Paletwa town in Chin State, according to a report in the Myawady Daily.

The traditional bungalows will be constructed on a 15-acre plot of land in the east of Kalaton river bridge

in Paletwa town. Construction of the bungalows is expected to complete in 2018. Initially, the twenty bungalows will be constructed in the first phase. And, more bungalows will be built depending on the number of tourists visiting.

Currently, the project can-

not be started because of the rainy season. Therefore, we will start our project in the open season.

When the number of tourists increases, the bungalows market will be extended. The Chin State is the most suitable place to implement the

ecotourism. Moreover, if the authorities can upgrade the transportation, the number of tourists will increase every year. Currently, the traditional bungalows will be constructed to fulfill needs of the hotels and guest houses in Chin State.—GNLM ■

MCPA invites companies to participate in career fair

MYANMAR Computer Professionals Association (MCPA) Day and Career fair will be held at the University of Computer Studies Yangon (UCSY) on 2 August, according to a report in the Myanmar Alinn Daily.

The ceremony will be held jointly by MCPA and the

UCSY. The association will hold the ceremony with an aim to connect the companies in the Information Communication Technology (ICT) industry and human resources skilled in ICT.

At the fair, there will be educational talks concerning the

ICT job fair, and the companies which are using the ICT will explain the activities of their companies. Those ICT companies participating in the fair will invite the ICT skilled workers to join their companies.

The companies which are interested to participate

in the career fair have to register by depositing Ks 1 lakh to the University of Computer Studies Yangon not later than 14 July. For further information, please dial 01-652276, the phone number of the University of Computer Studies Yangon.—MMAL ■

Fire in old police building kills two in Lonekin village, Phakant Tsp

A FIRE in an abandoned police post building in Lonekin village ward-1, Lonekin village tract, Phakant Township, Kachin State Sunday morning killed two.

The fire broke out early morning and was extinguished

within half an hour by the fire brigade, Lonekin village administrator and local villagers.

The building was used to be Lonekin police post.

After the fire was extinguished, we found two dead

bodies inside it, said head of Phakant Township General Administration Department U Kyaw Zwa Aung. Although the cause of fire is not yet identified, the Fire brigade suspects that the fire is believed to be caused

from lightning.

The building is a 24 ft x 16 ft, zinc roof, wood plank two-storey building and the two dead were living inside without authorization. The case is under investigation. —Tin Maung Lwin ■

Traders wish for negotiations with Chinese for blocked bank accounts

By May Thet Hnin

TRADERS want the State to enter into negotiations with the Chinese government over 1,000 bank accounts of Myanmar merchants which are frozen by Chinese banks, merchants said. The Chinese government blocked the bank accounts which are used in transactions in the course of taking actions against illegal importers from Myanmar and Viet Nam.

The bank accounts are reported to have deposits of around Ks400billion, prompting cries for action to the State. The Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) will also request the State to reach a government-to-government (G-to-G) agreement for rice exports with an aim for the long term and to reopen the banned accounts of the merchants, except those that are linked with drug cases and whose accounts have an il-

legal flow of money, said Dr Soe Tun, the vice chairman of MRF.

Myanmar is exporting rice, maize, watermelon and other agro products to China mostly through Muse border trade gate. China levies a tax of about 180 per cent for rice imports, which prompts illegal trade in the border areas, he continued.

"China as a member of the World Trade Organisation should provide trade preference to developing countries. During the previous government period, China allowed Myanmar to export 100,000 tons of rice under a G-to-G agreement with trade preference. We expect they will grant it again", he added.

Similar termination of bank accounts occurred in the past, but the most recent case has involved a large amount of money. The merchants engaged in the Muse border trade gate were unit-

ed in signing a petition which has would be submitted to the State Counsellor's office, it was learnt.

"Now, all the border trading has come to a stop at Muse. Therefore, we wish bank accounts that involve transactions of rice, beans, corns and sesames shall be opened. At present, we are now in the meeting room discussing the current issue. We are going to submit the petition to State level. We earnestly request the Myanmar government to look into this problem and make necessary coordination with the authorities concerned from China," explained U Yin Sein, secretary of Muse Rice Merchants Association.

Sixty per cent of Myanmar rice production is exported to China, as is 99 per cent of corn production and 90 per cent of watermelon exports, it is learnt.

Currently, trading of

Muse border has been suspended. Most of the importers to China are SME entrepreneurs.

If China continues to block the bank accounts, those account owners will be faced with difficulties to resume their trade. If rice imports to China are suspended, the rice price will drop in the domestic market.

As a result, farmers will struggle to meet even the cultivation cost, which will affect the country's economy, experts predicted. Some merchants practice a payment system in which they pay back money to the farmers only after they receive money, said Dr Soe Tun.

China is the main buyer of Myanmar's rice, which is also shipped to ASEAN countries, Africa and Europe. Over 400,000 tons of rice have been exported so far this fiscal year, which is targeted to export up to 2 million tons a year. ■

Gold to be allowed for export/import

A discussion is ongoing to delist gold from the list of restricted items for export and import, according to Sunday's report of the Myawady Daily newspaper.

The discussion includes categorisation of pure gold and jewellery products, and seeking a licence and approval, said U Kyaw Win, the general secretary of Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association, told Myawady Daily.

The discussion had already been held six times, resulting in a third draft resolution. Currently, the aforementioned association has been preparing for the requirements.

The resolution will be made soon after a combined meeting of the Central Bank of Myanmar, the Ministry of Natural Resource and Environmental Conservation, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Commerce Ministry and the associations engaged in the gold industry.—200

Rice export volume decreases in the first week of June

A total of 30,423 tons of rice and glutinous rice with an estimated worth of US\$9.467million were exported to neighbouring countries between the 3rd and 9th June via the Muse, Chinshwehaw and Maungtau border trade camps.

The export volume this week was 5,848 tons lesser than the previous week, according to news released by the Commerce Ministry.

In the similar period, 6,136 tons of broken rice were exported via Muse and Lweje border gates, earning over US\$1million. The export volume of broken rice slightly increased against that of last week.

From the 4th to the 10th of June, nearly 4,500 tons of white



Collection of rice from a threshing machine in Kangyidauk, Ayeyawady Region. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAH**

rice and parboiled rice worth more than US\$1million were exported to Viet Nam, Bangladesh, Benin, Sri Lanka, European Union countries, Singapore, South Africa, Russia and Hong Kong through sea routes. However, the volume slumped by over 34,000 tons compared to last week.

Meanwhile, a total of 7,803 tons of broken rice worth more than US\$1million were shipped to South Africa, European Union countries, Singapore, Madagascar and Indonesia. Broken rice exports also saw decrease of over 1,222 tons against last week.—Mon Mon ■



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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">Market Place by City Mart (6.5 Mile)Market Place by City Mart (Damasidi Road)City Mart (Aung San Stadium)City Mart (47th street)City Mart (Yankin)City Mart (China Town)City Mart (Myay Ni Gone)City Mart (FMI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">City Mart (Junction Square)City Mart (Junction Maw Tin)City Mart (Sule Square)City Mart (Star City - Thanlyin)City Mart (Waizayandar)City Mart (Hledan)City Mart (Myanmar Plaza)Ocean North Point (9 mile)Ocean Shwegonedine
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Ocean City Mart **City Mart Supermarket**

Singapore PM apologises for harm caused by family feud over house

SINGAPORE — Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong apologised on Monday that a dispute with his siblings over their late father Lee Kuan Yew's will has had an impact on citizens' confidence in the government.

The feud between the children of Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore's first prime minister, over the future of the family home erupted publicly last week in a flurry of accusations and denials through press releases and Facebook postings, which also touched on Lee Hsien Loong's leadership.

The prime minister's brother, Lee Hsien Yang, and sister, Lee Wei Ling, said they had lost confidence in their older brother as a leader and feared that state power would be used against them in their dispute with him.

Prime Minister Lee denied the allegations made by his siblings, and said he would make a statement on the charges and answer questions when parliament sits on 3 July.



Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. PHOTO: REUTERS

"I deeply regret that this dispute has affected Singapore's reputation and Singaporeans' confidence in the government," the prime minister said in a statement and a video message posted on his Facebook page.

"These allegations go beyond private and personal matters, and extend to the conduct of my office and the integrity of

the government," he said.

"They must be and will be dealt with openly and refuted."

The prime minister assured citizens that the dispute "will not distract me and my cabinet colleagues from our responsibility to govern Singapore, and to deal with more important national issues, including the pressing economic and security challenges we face".

Lee Hsien Yang, who said he and his wife would be leaving Singapore because they felt closely monitored and threatened, has no immediate comment.

Lee Wei Ling could not be immediately reached for comment.

In his last will, part of which was released by Lee Hsien Yang on Thursday, Lee Kuan Yew, who ruled Singapore for three decades, said he wanted his house, a humbly furnished home near the bustling Orchard shopping district, to be demolished.—Reuters ■

Lockheed signs pact with Tata to make F-16 planes in India

PARIS — Lockheed Martin signed an agreement with India's Tata Advanced Systems on Monday to produce F-16 fighter planes in India, pressing ahead with a plan to shift its Fort Worth, Texas plant to win billions of dollars worth of order from the Indian military. India's air force needs hundreds of aircraft to replace its Soviet-era fleet, but Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has said foreign suppliers would have to make the planes in India with a local partner to help build a domestic industrial base and cut outright imports.

But Modi's Make-in-India drive runs the risk of conflicting with US President Donald Trump's America First campaign under which he has been pressing for companies to invest in the United States and create jobs instead of setting up factories abroad. In announcing their

agreement at the Paris Airshow, Lockheed and Tata said moving the production base to India would still retain jobs in the United States.

"F-16 production in India supports thousands of Lockheed Martin and F-16 supplier jobs in the US, creates new manufacturing jobs in India, and positions Indian industry at the centre of the most extensive fighter aircraft supply ecosystem in the world," a joint statement by the firms said.

Sweden's Saab is the other contender to supply the Indian Air Force, offering to make its Gripen fighter in India. It has not yet announced a local partner for the plane which it has pitched as a modern alternative to the F-16s.

The announcement comes days before Modi travels to Washington for a first meeting with Trump, scheduled for 26 June. India and the United States have

built a close defence relationship in recent years with Washington emerging as among the top three arms suppliers to India, along with Russia and Israel. India will also have the chance to export the F-16 that is flown by air forces around the world, the joint statement said. Some 3,200 of these planes are being flown by 26 countries and the model that is being offered to India will be Block 70, the most modern of all the F-16s.

"This unprecedented F-16 production partnership between the world's largest defence contractor and India's premier industrial house provides India the opportunity to produce, operate and export F-16 Block 70 aircraft, the newest and most advanced version of the world's most successful, combat-proven multi-role fighter," the statement said.—Reuters ■

IMF urges Japan to make most of growth by pushing structural reforms

TOKYO — Japan should capitalize on its current economic expansion by pushing for labour and other structural reforms, the International Monetary Fund said on Monday.

The IMF also said the country's monetary policy should be accommodative, calling on the Bank of Japan to "carefully calibrate" its yield curve control policy aimed at guiding long-term interest rates around zero and enhance its communication with market participants.

"We feel the best policy is to make the most of the positive (economic) momentum at present and to push ahead with needed reforms," IMF First Deputy Managing Director David Lipton told a press conference in Tokyo.

In its assessment of Japan released Monday, the IMF said

the country needs a well-coordinated reform package combining continued fiscal and monetary support with structural reforms.

Japan's economy has been on its longest run of expansion since 2006 thanks to robust overseas demand, particularly in other parts of Asia.

The IMF pointed out that Japan's labour shortages have yet to feed through to wages and inflation remains subdued, citing as policy challenges "demographic headwinds and an unprecedented level of public debt." The government of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is seeking to promote labour reforms, including imposing a binding cap on overtime hours and eliminating discrimination between regular and nonregular workers.—Kyodo News ■

Xi says BRICS cooperation will usher in new “golden decade”

BEIJING — Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Monday that the BRICS cooperation will be more productive and usher in a new “golden decade.”

Xi made the remarks when meeting with the heads of delegations from Brazil, Russia, India and South Africa who are in Beijing to attend the BRICS foreign ministers’ meeting. The BRICS cooperation mechanism has been in existence for ten years

and BRICS members have focused on development, which not only benefits the people in the five countries but also offers a recipe for the world to address food and security problems, Xi said. “BRICS countries are a community of shared interests and future,” Xi said, urging the countries to give full play to the win-win spirit and jointly contribute to the development of the organization.—Xinhua ■



Chinese President Xi Jinping (4th R) meets with the heads of delegations from Brazil, Russia, India and South Africa who are in Beijing to attend the BRICS foreign ministers’ meeting in Beijing, capital of China on 19 June, 2017. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Southeast Asia officers board Japanese ship for South China Sea tour

TOKYO — Southeast Asian military officers have embarked on a four-day tour of the South China Sea on the Japanese navy’s Izumo helicopter carrier in the latest sign Japan is stepping up efforts to counter growing Chinese influence.

The officers from the 10-member Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) joined the Japanese ship in Singapore on Monday, the Japanese Ministry of Defence said in an outline of the plan.

Other ASEAN military representatives will attend a

separate three-day event from Tuesday in Japan, to observe Self Defence Forces (SDF) military disaster relief drills, the ministry said.

“It is the first time we have done this,” a ministry official said at a press briefing in Tokyo.

The events show a hitherto unseen degree of coordination between Japan’s military services and civilian defence officials to bolster foreign ties.

It also marks a concerted push into military diplomacy by Japan’s hawkish prime minister, Shinzo Abe.

Japan is worried that China is cementing its control in the South China Sea with the construction of island bases, arms sales and development aid. Some \$5 trillion of ship-borne trade passes through the strategic waterway each year, much of it sailing to and from Japanese ports.

As Japan looks for a greater regional security role as part of its alliance with the United States, Abe’s administration believes Japan is better placed than the United States to woo Southeast Asian nations away

from Chinese influence.

Japan can help bolster countries’ capabilities in disaster relief and is able to emphasise its status as a fellow Asian nation, two Japanese government officials told Reuters, asking not to be identified because they are not authorised to talk to the media.

A 2014 military coup in Thailand means that the US government has limited engagement with the regime there, while US relations with the Philippines have been strained since President Rodrigo Duterte took office

last year, seeking to reduce what he sees as dependence on the United States.

Another plank of Japan’s emerging military diplomacy is military-industrial cooperation. Abe in 2014 ended a decades old weapons export ban, allowing Japan to offer arms technology as a lure for closer military ties.

Japan last week held a military technology seminar with representatives of Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore.—Reuters ■

1st antiterror drill held at nuclear plant for drone attack

MATSUYAMA (Japan) — Japan’s first antiterrorism drill simulating a drone attack on a nuclear plant took place on Monday in a western Japan prefecture.

Some 60 people from police and local coast guard participated in the exercise at the Ikata nuclear plant in Ehime playing out a scenario that a drone flew from a boat and placed a makeshift explosive on the premises of the No 3 reactor.

Officials of Shikoku Electric Power Co, the operator of the nuclear plant, and bomb disposal unit members of the Ehime prefectural police department also took part.

“We took into account the serious situation regarding terrorism in conducting this drill and I think

it is important to prepare for the unpredictable,” said Hideto Murase, a local security chief of the prefectural police.

The power company resumed operation of the No 3 unit in August last year after clearing stricter safety requirements introduced following the March 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster. The No 3 reactor runs on plutonium-uranium mixed oxide fuel, which contains plutonium extracted from reprocessing spent fuel. Shikoku Electric plans to finish building by March 2020 a facility capable of withstanding major terror attacks, such as those involving the crashing of aircraft, and preventing the release of radioactive materials.

—Kyodo News ■



A police officer takes part in an antiterrorism drill involving a drone at the Ikata nuclear plant in Ehime Prefecture in western Japan on 19 June, 2017. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Prevention is better than cure

Khin Maung Oo

AS known by all, cancer is a major public health problem in the whole world, as is it in Myanmar. Since our childhood days, a fear was conceived in our minds that a person suffering from a kind of cancer was a terminal patient, who was likened to a prisoner in a condemned cell waiting for the day to be hanged. But rarely was heard about it in those days. Contrariwise, these days kinds of cancer are numerous, namely tongue, mouth, stomach, intestine, colon, liver, lung, pancreas, bones, skin, ovary, prostate, renal, brain, leukemia and etc.,. Apart from a few, like breast cancer, many are regarded to be serious. With the advancement of medical research

and medicines, death rates may be reduced, but cancer cannot be wiped out, because we are being surrounded by risks of cancer worldwide.

Though we never smoke, we happen to become passive smokers as we breathe in cigarette smoke in public places, on roads, in markets, at bus stands, and in other places. In some houses and at stalls in markets we have to inhale smoke that comes out from burnt scented sticks.

In spite of warning that we should avoid consuming dyed foods and chemical-contaminated imported snacks as they can harm our health, we especially our children still cling to eating them. Knowingly our people can get dreadful and evil side-effects from the practices

of smoking and chewing betel quid. It has been learnt through articles in papers and face-book photos that it is difficult for them to abandon these bad habits.

It is heartening to read the news that sale of tobacco (cigarette) is strictly prohibited in school campuses and within a 100-ft-parameter of school premises. Some boys try smoking, at first just for tasting or to imitate the behaviors of their peers or seniors. But before they recognize it, smoking becomes an acquired taste for them.

Thus, it is likely for them to abuse drugs at any time. The State has enacted a Law to control consuming of tobacco and tobacco products on 4th May 2006 and it began to take into effect

on 4th May 2007. But, minors under 18 must not be sold or given or made to sell tobacco. And, words of warning hazards on smoking are required to be attached on packs of cigarette. Dr Thin Lwin, Minister for Social Affairs of the Kachin State Cabinet said that most people still failed to know and abide by the law, thus it was necessary to take action against those who violate the law.

“A stitch in time saves nine,” as the saying goes. If this problem remains unsolved urgently, it may become worse. We the whole populace should take part in the campaign for the law to take into effect so that our country will produce healthy, ebullient and promising youths for our future nation. ■

You have freedom of expression BUT.....

By Dr. Khine Khine Win

Freedom of expression can take many forms, encompassing verbal, non-verbal (wearing a shirt) artistic and physical expression. It is the cornerstone of any democratic society and crucial in democracy. The right to freedom of opinion and expression should be understood to be an essential instrument for the promotion and protection of other human rights.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UDHR declared that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. Being human being you have rights. You have right to freedom of expression. And also you have right to respect of others dignity and rights. The right to freedom of expression or freedom of speech as one of the basic human rights enshrined in many international human rights documents. For instance, Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights express that “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Government may restrict this right if they can show that their action is lawful, necessary and proportionate in order to protect national security, territorial integrity or public safety, prevent disorder or crime, protect the rights and reputations of other people etc. An authority may be allowed to restrict your freedom of expression if, for example, your freedom of express encourage racial or religious hatred. In most States, it is accepted that there

can be limitations on the freedom of expression. The main responsibility for upholding human rights in a country lies with the State. It must take legislative and executives action to carry out what it has promised to do and to ensure that his citizens understand and follow human rights rules.

Being citizens of Myanmar, we all have to know the article 354 of the constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (2008). The constitution of the Republic of Myanmar provides the right of freedom of expression given in article 354. It states that every citizen shall be at liberty in the exercise of the following rights, if not contrary to the laws, enacted for Union security, prevalence of law and order, community peace and tranquility or public order and morality: a) to express and publish freely their convictions and opinions, b) to assembly peacefully without arms and holding procession and etc.....

You have freedom of expression and you also have a duty to behave responsibly and to respect other people's rights. Bear in mind that some people want the right to speak freely but some want to deny others opinions if they disagree with their views. There will always be occasions when rights and freedoms conflict. Freedom of expression is one of the more obvious examples of this. For example, there is the clash between the freedom of expression and the right to privacy. You know that you have right to privacy and here your responsibility is you must respect privacy of others.

All human being possess innate dignity that goes beyond their personal



histories of success and failure and their ethical or unethical actions. Being you are in human rights world, you have responsible to respect of others dignity and rights. In this regard, when you have to judge someone, try to be fair. You have freedom of expression of course, but don't forget to judge fair to others and respect of others inherent dignity.

Now a day the biggest challenge to the freedom of expression is the worldwide web and increasingly global internet usage. The right to hold an opinion and the right of free thought is almost impossible to control. Mass media is the best instrument for the society to exercise its right to freedom of expression. However, the same society can enjoy freedom of speech and expression at the same time it can infringe this right. So, another issue arises: where are the limits of freedom of speech?

Both freedom of speech and privacy are fundamental rights, which are equally recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. However, sometimes these two rights must be in conflict with each other, and sometimes that is the case. Thus, freedom of expression is a very “sensitive” right, which shall respect certain restrictions, which as well shall be protected from the government intention and other influential persons to hide criticism addressed to them. Sometime, unrestricted freedoms lead to more accidents, for instance when they present threat or danger for the national security or for public order and public safety.

To conclude, you have right to freedom of expression but before using this right you have to make sure that your expression is not to violate another person's rights and break the privacy of others.

Senior General meets families of Myanmar Embassy staff, military attaché in Russia

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing who was in Russian Federation at the invitation of Army General Sergei K. Shoigu Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation met with staff and families of Myanmar Embassy and military attaché at the Myanmar Embassy on 18 June evening.

Afterward, the Senior General gave foods and gifts to the families of Myanmar Embassy and military attaché.

The Senior General and party then tour Moscow to view the developments and took a ride on a subway train from Smolenskaya station to Ploshchad Revolyutsii station. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing gives gift to the families of Myanmar embassy and military attaché on 18 June. **PHOTO: MNA**



Shwedagon Pagoda crowded with pilgrims in Yangon. **PHOTO: KO KO ZAW**

Thais top list of foreigners who make pilgrimage to Shwedagon Pagoda

By Zaw Min Latt

Of the 615,940 foreign pilgrims to the Shwedagon Pagoda in 2016, Thai nationals were the most numerous, according to the office of the board of trusteeship of the Shwedagon Pagoda.

In 2017, 78,054 overseas pilgrims visited the pagoda in January, 77,062 in February, 64,005 in March, 40,789 in April and 36,674 in May.

An admission fee of Ks8000 is collected from each foreign visitor.

With the aim of allowing visitors to comfortably pay pilgrimage to the pagoda, terrazzo plates are being replaced on the platform around the pagoda,

with shade trees planted for greening the Singuttara hillock.

For added security at the pagoda, it has been learnt that taking candid photos and film shooting by drones are strictly prohibited in the vicinity of Shwedagon Pagoda.

The Shwedagon Pagoda, which enshrines four sacred relics of Lord Buddha, was built by King Okkalapa on the Singuttara hillock some 2,600 years ago.

The staff of Kakusandha, the water filter of Konagamana, a piece of the robe of Kassapa and strands of hair from the head of Gautama Buddha were enshrined in the pagoda on the full moon day of Tabaung

month 103 ME, by King Okkalapa, Taphussa & Bhallika two brothers and the people in a holy ceremony.

Later, consecutive kings of Okkalapa dynasty renovated the pagoda, which resulted in its present height of 326 feet, most of it gilded with gold leaf.

Religious ceremonies are held at the pagoda in their respective month, like Abhidhamma Holy Day and Lighting Festival in Thadingyut, the Tazaungdine Festival and the robe weaving festival in Tazaungmone, recitation by monks and the awarding ceremony for outstanding monks, Ovadapatimauk Holy Day and the competition for cooking the best delicious glutinous rice. ■

The event of rainy season tree cultivation held in Maungtaw

THE event of rainy season tree cultivation was held in Maungtaw to resist natural disasters and to create green and fresh environment.

By cooperating Maungtaw Township's Department of General Administration and Department of Forestry, the event of rainy season tree cultivation was held near Waytharli village, (0/5) mile stone in Maungtaw Township at 8 am on 19 June.

"The event of tree cultivation is held in Maungtaw Township every year in the rainy season.

The cultivated trees are conserved by the respective

villagers.

To resist the natural disasters, related departments and villagers have been growing trees in our region every year", said U Ba Tin, officer from the Department of Forestry.

Nearly 120 people including residents of Maungtaw Township and the staff of the Department of General Administration and Department of Forestry cultivated the trees.

In that event of tree cultivation, 50 teak trees, 50 xyliadolabrifomis, 50 Mahogany trees, 100 manjusha trees and 150 eucalyptus trees were grown.—Min Thit(MNA) ■

Cash donated for families of Y-8 plane crash victims

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu donated Ks 25 Lakh yesterday for victims of the crashed Y-8 Tatmadaw transport plane on 7 June.

At the ceremony held at the Ministry of Defence, Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win accepted the cash donations.

Similarly, Chairman of Marga Land Mark Co.Ltd, Mr. Stephen Suen, U Thein Aung (retired Chief Minister of Ayeyawady Re-



Marga Land Mark Co.Ltd Chairman accepts the appreciation letter from Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win. **PHOTO: MNA**

gion) and Daw Khin Htay Myint and family donated Ks 200 lakh and Ks 50 lakh respectively for the victims of the plane crash,

which was accepted by Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Britain's May condemns "sickening" attack as van rams Muslim worshippers

LONDON — A van ploughed into worshippers near a London mosque on Monday, injuring 10 people in what Prime Minister Theresa May said was a sickening, terrorist attack on Muslims.

Shortly after midnight, the vehicle swerved into a group of people leaving prayers at the Muslim Welfare House and the nearby Finsbury Park Mosque in north London, one of the biggest in the country.

The driver, a 48-year-old white man, was grabbed at the scene by locals and pinned down until police arrived.

"This morning, our country woke to news of another terrorist attack on the streets of our capital city: the second this month and every bit as sickening as those which have come before," May told reporters outside her Downing Street office.

"This was an attack on Muslims near their place of worship," said May who later visited the mosque.

The attack is the fourth since March in Britain and the third to involve a vehicle deliberately driven at pedestrians.

It also comes at a tumultuous time for the government with Britain starting complex divorce talks with the European Union and May negotiating with a small Northern Irish party to stay in power after losing her parliamentary majority following a snap election.

The mosques' worshippers, who come mainly from North and West Africa, had just left special prayers during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Abdulrahman Aidroos said he and his friends had been tending an old man who had suffered a heart attack when the van was driven at them.

"He was saying 'I wanna kill more people, I wanna kill more Muslims'," Aidroos told BBC TV. He said he had helped tackle and detain the driver while other witnesses said the imam had stepped in to ensure the man was not harmed.

"Their restraint in the circumstances was commendable," said Neil Basu, senior national co-ordinator for counter-terrorism policing. The man was arrested on suspicion of



Britain's Prime Minister, Theresa May, arrives to speak outside 10 Downing Street, following the attack at Finsbury Park Mosque, in central London, Britain on 19 June, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

attempted murder and police said they believed he had acted alone.

"I would like to ... thank our imam, Mohammed Mahmoud, whose bravery and courage helped calm the immediate situation after the incident and prevented further injuries and potential loss of life," said Toufik Kacimi, the chief executive of the Muslim Welfare House.

Police said 10 people were injured, with eight taken to hospital, two in a very serious condition.

The man who was being given first aid at the scene before the attack had died but it was not clear whether his death was directly linked.

Usain Ali, 28, said he heard a bang and ran for his life.

"When I looked back, I thought it was a car accident, but people were shouting, screaming and I realised this was a man choosing to terrorise people who are praying," he told Reuters. "He chose exactly the time that people pray, and the mosque is too small and full, so some pray outside."

Just over two weeks ago three Islamist militants drove into pedestrians on London Bridge and stabbed people at

nearby restaurants and bars, killing eight.

The latest incident also follows a suicide bombing at a pop concert in Manchester, northern England, in May which killed 22, while in March, a man drove a rented car into pedestrians on Westminster Bridge in London and stabbed a policeman to death before being shot dead. His attack killed five people.

May, weakened after losing her parliamentary majority in a June 8 election she had called to strengthen her hand in Brexit talks, has faced criticism for her record on security after the previous series of attacks blamed on Islamist militants.

She has also been criticised for her response to a fire in a London tower block last Wednesday which killed at least 79 people.

"Today's attack falls at a difficult time in the life of this city, following on from the attack on London Bridge two weeks ago — and of course the unimaginable tragedy of Grenfell Tower last week," May said.

She promised action to stamp out all forms of hatred, saying there had been far too much tolerance of extremism in Britain over many years.

Police had said hate crimes rose after the London Bridge attack and more officers would be deployed to provide reassurance to mosques.

The Muslim Council of Britain said Monday's attack was the most violent manifestation of Islamophobia in Britain in recent months and called for extra security at places of worship.

Finsbury Park Mosque said it was a "callous terrorist attack" and noted it had occurred almost exactly a year after a man obsessed with Nazis and extreme right-wing ideology murdered lawmaker Jo Cox, a former humanitarian aid worker. The mosque itself gained notoriety more than a decade ago for sermons by radical cleric Abu Hamza al-Masri, who was sentenced to life in a US prison in January 2015 after being convicted of terrorism-related charges.

However, a new board of trustees and management took over in February 2005, a year after Abu Hamza was arrested by British police, since when attendance has greatly increased among worshippers from various communities, according to the mosque's website. —Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

One dead, 10 injured in London mosque incident — police

LONDON— One person was killed and 10 others injured on Monday when a van collided with pedestrians near a North London mosque in an incident which is being investigated by counter terrorism officers, police said.

"One man was pronounced dead at the scene," the Metropolitan police said in a statement.

Police said eight people had been taken to three separate hospitals and two people were treated at the scene for minor injuries. —Reuters ■

Merkel wants good Brexit deal that works for both sides

BERLIN — German Chancellor Angela Merkel said she wanted a "good agreement" for both Britain and the European Union in the Brexit negotiations that started on Monday.

"For me, it is above all about the EU27 proceeding together and listening carefully to Britain's wishes and expectations," Merkel told a news conference after meeting Romanian President Klaus Iohannis.

"And it is also about representing our own interests and progressing towards a good agreement. But it is too early to speculate about the details. I want us to reach a good agreement and this should be in the interests of both sides," she added. —Reuters ■

Presumed death toll in London tower blaze rises to 79

LONDON — London police said 79 people were dead or missing presumed dead after a devastating tower block blaze last week.

London Police Commander Stuart Cundy said the toll from the Grenfell Tower blaze could still change but probably not as much as it had in recent days.

He also said that five people who were reported missing had now been found safe and well. —Reuters ■

US-backed SDF will retaliate if Syrian govt attacks again — spokesman

BEIRUT — US-backed Syrian militias accused the Syrian government on Monday of bombing their positions southwest of Raqqa city in recent days and threatened to retaliate if the attacks continue.

“The regime’s forces have mounted large-scale attacks using planes, artillery, and tanks since 17 June,” Syrian Democratic Forces spokesman Talal Selo said in a statement.

Selo said the attacks targeted SDF areas near the town of Tabqa and the adjacent dam, Syria’s largest, which the alliance of Kurdish and Arab militias captured from Islamic State militants in May.

There was no immediate comment from the Syrian army. The Kurdish-led SDF began this month to push into Raqqa, Islamic State’s base of operations in Syria. With air strikes and special forces from the US-led coalition, they had been encircling the city since November.

“If the regime continues attacking our positions in Raqqa province, we will be forced to retaliate... and defend our forces,” Selo said, accusing the government and its allies

of trying to obstruct the Raqqa offensive. The Syrian government has previously said it considers Deir al-Zor and the Badia region, south of Raqqa, as its military priorities, signalling that it did not intend to challenge the SDF’s Raqqa campaign.

On Sunday, a US warplane shot down a Syrian army jet southwest of Raqqa, with Washington saying the army had dropped bombs near the SDF. Damascus said the plane was downed while flying a mission against Islamic State.

The Syrian army said the plane crashed and the pilot was missing in the first such downing of a Syrian jet by the United States since the start of the Syrian conflict in 2011.

The US Central Command said the Syrian plane was downed in self-defence after “pro-Syrian regime forces” attacked an SDF-held town near Tabqa. Islamic State has been on the back foot in Syria over the past year, losing territory to separate military campaigns, including by the SDF and by the Russian-backed Syrian army.—Reuters ■

Somali soldier sentenced to death for mistakenly killing minister

NAIROBI — A Somali soldier was sentenced to death on Monday for killing a government minister after mistaking him for an Islamist militant, an army officer said.

Public works minister Abbas Abdullahi Sheikh Siraji was shot dead in his car in the capital Mogadishu in early May.

Soldier Ahmed Abdullahi Ahmed, was condemned to death by a military court “for mistakenly shooting the min-

ister,” army officer Hassan Ali Noor told Reuters. A second soldier at the scene at the time was released without charge on Monday.

Siraji, 31, grew up in a Kenyan refugee camp and was the country’s youngest minister. Militants from the al Qaeda-affiliated group al Shabaab have carried out frequent attacks in Mogadishu as they fight to oust Somalia’s Western-backed government and drive out African Union peacekeeping troops.—Reuters ■

Israel begins reducing Gaza power supply after Abbas cuts payment

GAZA — Israel began reducing its electricity feed to the Gaza Strip on Monday, deepening an energy crisis, after the Palestinian Authority limited how much it pays for power to the enclave run by the rival Hamas group.

The cutback, announced last week by the Israeli government, is expected to shorten by at least 45 minutes the daily

average of four hours of power that Gaza’s 2 million residents receive from an electricity grid dependent on Israeli supplies, Palestinian officials said.

The Palestinian Energy Authority said the Israel Electric Corporation (IEC) had cut by eight megawatts the 120 megawatts it supplies to the Gaza Strip over power lines.

An IEC spokeswoman confirmed a cutback had begun, in line with the West Bank-based Palestinian government’s decision to cover only 70 per cent of the monthly cost of Israeli electricity supplies to the Gaza Strip.

Last week, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s security cabinet gave the state-owned IEC the green light to imple-

ment the reduction, saying that Israel would not cover the shortfall in PA payments.

The Palestinian Authority said it had acted because Hamas had failed to reimburse it for the electricity. But the PA’s move was widely seen as a bid to pressure Hamas to relinquish its hold on the enclave the Islamist group seized in 2007.—Reuters ■

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Portugal's deadliest fire still rages after 62 people killed

PEDROGAO GRANDE, Portugal —More than 1,000 firefighters were still battling Portugal's deadliest forest blaze on Monday after it killed at least 62 people over the weekend.

Prime Minister Antonio Costa, who on Sunday visited Pedro Grande, a mountainous area about 200 kilometres (125 miles) northeast of Lisbon, called it the biggest human tragedy in Portugal in living memory.

Welcome light rain that started on Monday morning brought only modest relief to the shocked population and exhausted firefighters. Water planes, including French and Spanish ones, resumed their missions after stopping overnight.

"There is still a lot of forest that can burn and the rain does not make much difference," said Rui Barreto, deputy chief firefighter at the make-shift emergency services headquarters in Pedrogao Grande as thunder rolled



Firefightes work to put out a forest fire near the village of Fato, central Portugal on 18 June, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

through the skies over the ash-covered town.

Firefighters said the weather conditions were still adverse in most areas where the flames were raging. Two army battalions were helping the emergency services.

Dozens of fire engines fought the raging blaze in areas as far as 20km north of Pedrogao Grande. In a sign of help Portugal is receiving from its European neighbours, four Spanish fire engines were seen driving off from the headquarters.

At least half the victims died in their cars as

they tried to flee along a local motorway while many other bodies were found next to the road, suggesting they had probably abandoned their vehicles in panic. Despite government assurances that the first response by the emergency services was swift and adequate, many

blamed a lack of coordination between services in charge of fire prevention and firefighting and poor forestry reserve planning.

Police said a lightning strike on a tree probably caused the blaze on Saturday in a region hit by an intense heat wave and dry, gusty winds, which fanned the flames.

The regional prosecutor still ordered a criminal investigation into the causes, which he said would be shelved if the police version of events is confirmed. Many forest fires in Portugal are caused by arson or carelessness.

A public petition circulating on the Internet demanding an investigation into possible failures by the authorities has gathered about 270 signatures. Local residents said they had been without the support of firefighters for hours as their homes burned. Many blamed depopulation of villages that left wooded areas untended.—Reuters ■

Greek PM says court decision to not extradite Turkish soldiers must be respected

ATHENS — A court ruling to not extradite eight Turkish soldiers who fled to Greece following a failed coup attempt last year must be respected, Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras said on Monday.

"The Greek justice system has ruled on this issue ... and this decision must be fully respected," Tsipras said in response to a question during a joint press conference with his Turkish counterpart Binali Yildirim in Athens. Turkey alleges the men were involved in efforts to overthrow President Tayyip Erdogan last July and has repeatedly demanded they be sent back. Greek courts blocked two second extradition requests by Ankara, drawing Turkey's angry rebuke and highlighting often strained relations between the NATO allies which remain at odds over issues from territorial disputes to ethnically-split Cyprus.—Reuters ■

Russia at final stage of developing advanced electronic warfare system

MOSCOW — Russia's Radio-Electronic Technologies Group (KRET), part of the state hi-tech corporation Rostec, is at the final stage of developing the most advanced defensive aids system Khibiny-U, Adviser to the KRET first deputy CEO Vladimir Mikheyev told TASS on Friday.



"We are moving forward and are currently at the final stage of developing new technologies, for example, the Khibiny-U," Mikheyev said. The Khibiny-U is the next-generation modification of the onboard defence system with expanded capabilities by the frequency band, the range of targets and other parameters, he said.

A contract with

The onboard defence system comprises integrated technical means designed to identify and classify the threat of the protected object's destruction, and also to neutralize it. PHOTO: TASS

Russia's Defence Ministry for developing the Khibiny-U onboard electronic warfare system was signed at the MAKS aerospace show outside Moscow in 2013. It was reported that the contract for carrying out R&D work to develop the fighter jets' defense system against surface-to-air missiles and conducting all types of trials was worth 1.6 billion rubles (\$28 million at the current exchange rate).

The onboard defense system comprises integrated technical means designed to identify and classify the threat of the protected object's destruction, and also to neutralize it.—Tass ■

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Closing Date & Time- 20.7.2017(Thursday)(14:30)Hrs

2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 19.6.2017 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of 51th Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon. Phone: 95-1-291985, 291994

Indonesia launches sea patrols with Asian neighbours in lawless area

TARAKAN, Indonesia — Warships from Indonesia, the Philippines and Malaysia held manoeuvres on Monday near a naval base in northern Borneo to mark the launch of coordinated patrols to beef up security in waters plagued by insurgencies and banditry.

Helicopters and surveillance planes flew overhead as ministers and army chiefs from the countries attended ceremonies to launch the patrols and as regional security takes on added urgency after Islamist militants overran a town in the southern Philippines.

The Philippine military has said that some of the Islamist militants, who were made up of local insurgent groups that have pledged allegiance to Islamic State but also some foreign fighters, may have mingled with evacuees to slip away during the battle for Marawi City that has raged for almost four weeks.

“We need to watch



Indonesia navy soldiers on warship and helicopter are seen during the launch of coordinated patrols to beef up security between Malaysia, Indonesia, and Philippine off the Tarakan sea, in Tarakan, Indonesia on 19 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

out for the 500 to 600 terrorists there, 257 of whom have been killed already. The rest, based on information we are getting, are blending in with refugees to get out,” said Indonesian military chief Gatot Nurmantyo.

The spectacular col-

lapse in security in the southern Philippines has alarmed neighbours such as Indonesia and Malaysia.

Indonesia has deployed three Sukhoi fighters to help with security in case militants try to flee southwards towards Indonesia, the head of the

Tarakan air base Colonel Didik Krisyanto told the state news agency Antara at the weekend.

Indonesia on Monday also inaugurated a maritime command centre in the naval base of Tarakan, a town in the province of North Kalimantan on

Borneo island, witnessed by defence ministers and army chiefs from the three countries.

Maritime command centres to coordinate the patrols and information sharing will also be set up in Tawau in Malaysia’s Sabah and Bongao in the

Philippines.

“We see these (command centres) functioning as a triangle, like a spider’s web, where everything inside the triangle will be monitored,” said military chief Nurmantyo.

A port town, Tarakan is just south of the Malaysian side of Borneo and looks out across to Mindanao in the southern Philippines, a sprawling island that has suffered from hostage taking and piracy for decades.

“Maintaining marine security is the duty of ASEAN countries and not other countries,” said Indonesian defence minister Ryamizard Ryacudu, referring to the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Singapore and Brunei also attended the launch of patrols as observers.

Indonesian naval authorities had also asked local people including fishermen in border areas facing the Philippines to report any suspicious people, Antara reported.—Reuters ■

Singapore aims to have legislation to tackle fake news in 2018

SINGAPORE — Singapore plans to introduce legislation to tackle fake news next year, Law and Home Affairs Minister K Shanmugam said on Monday.

“We will in the second half of this year consult with the stakeholders, the media, the legal profession, of course the

internet companies, we have to work with them, and see what the contours or shape of the legislation ought to be,” Shanmugam told a forum on how to deal

with fake news.

“Hopefully, we will have it in place next year or so,” he said in his opening address to the “Keep it real: truth and trust in the

media” forum organized by the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers and the local Straits Times newspaper.

The minister ex-

pressed concern about misinformation that exploits racial and religious divides in Singapore’s multi-racial society.—Kyodo News

Six soldiers killed in bomb attack in Thailand’s restive south

BANGKOK — Six soldiers on patrol were killed and four other people injured in a bomb blast Monday in restive southern Thailand, police said.

The bomb exploded on a road in Pattani province where military personnel carry out patrols on a routine basis. The police suspect it was planted by Islamic militants.

Bomb disposal unit members were dispatched

to the scene after the blast occurred in the morning.

More than 7,000 people have been killed since an insurgency began in 2004 in Thailand’s southern provinces of Narathiwat, Pattani and Yala, a predominantly Muslim region of the mostly Buddhist country. Last month, 59 people including children were injured in a bomb attack on a store in Pattani.—Kyodo News

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV MCC HA LONG VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC HA LONG VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE)
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV SOUL OF LUCK VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SOUL OF LUCK VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

Beyonce gives birth to twins: celebrity news websites

LOS ANGELES — US singer Beyonce has given birth to twins in Los Angeles, several celebrity news websites reported on Saturday, citing unidentified sources.

Beyonce, 35, and rapper and music producer Jay Z, already have a five-year-old daughter, Blue Ivy.

E! News, citing multiple unidentified sources, reported the birth and that Jay Z and Blue Ivy were seen at a Los Angeles area hospital on Thursday.

Us Weekly, also citing multiple unidentified sources, reported that the couple welcomed twins earlier this week.

“Bey and Jay are thrilled and have started sharing the news with their family and closest friends,” one unidentified source told PEOPLE.

Reuters could not verify the reports. A representative for Beyonce did not respond immediately to a request for comment.

The celebrity news websites did not provide additional details, such as the date and time the twins were born or the sex of the infants.



Jay-Z presents the Video Vanguard Award to his wife Beyonce as he holds their daughter Blue Ivy during the 2014 MTV Video Music Awards in Inglewood, California on 24 August, 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

The “Lemonade” singer, one of the most powerful women in the music business, announced the pregnancy on her Instagram

account in February along with an image of her posed in lingerie and caressing a noticeable baby bump.

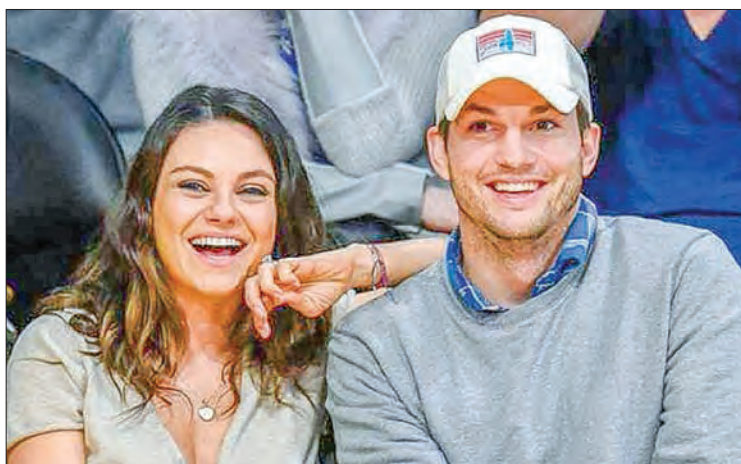
The announcement got more than 8 million “likes” in the first 24 hours to become the “most-liked” Instagram ever.

The R&B singer performed live at the Grammy awards in Los Angeles two weeks later, proudly displaying her swelling belly in a motherhood-themed show. She has since posted numerous pictures of her bare baby bump on her social media accounts.

The birth of Blue Ivy caused a paparazzi storm in 2012, with New York’s Lenox Hill hospital shutting down part of its maternity wing to accommodate music’s royal couple.

News of the pregnancy came less than a year after the release of Beyonce’s 2016 album “Lemonade,” in which she appeared to address long-standing rumors of trouble in her eight-year marriage.

The lyrics of several songs spoke about being cheated on, and regretting being married. But Beyonce made clear in the final tracks of the album and in music videos featuring Jay-Z that she had decided to stay in the relationship. The couple have never addressed the rumors publicly.—Reuters ■



Actress Mila Kunis and her actor husband Ashton Kutcher. PHOTO: PTI

I am a better son now after becoming a father: Ashton Kutcher

LONDON — Actor Ashton Kutcher says he is a better son since becoming a father himself.

The “What Happens In Vegas” star says he now understands how much his parents loved him and sacrificed for him, reported Femalefirst.

“As soon as I had kids, I called my parents and apologised because I had no idea how much they loved me,” Kutcher says.

The 39-year-old star, who has two kids with his wife Mila Kunis, says he celebrates every day with his children around him.

“That celebration happens every day I open the door, every day I go in their room and see them in the morning, every day we share a little secret or pass a message to each other. The act of being a father in itself is the gift,” he says.—PTI ■

Box Office: ‘Cars 3’ Races Past ‘Wonder Woman’ to No 1

LOS ANGELES — This weekend featured a heated race between four new films that opened in wide release. As of Sunday morning, it appears some have fared better than others.

The big winner is Disney and Pixar’s “Cars 3,” which is speeding to \$53.5 million from 4,256 locations, putting it in first place. That’s a lower opening than “Cars” (\$60.1 million) and “Cars 2” (\$66.1 million), but still enough to win the weekend. The first two “Cars” movies combined have made more than \$435 million in the US and \$1 billion globally. The “Cars” films are far from Disney and Pixar’s highest earners, but “Cars 3” is another example that even a decent opening for the duo is a victory in the big picture.

The movie comes from director Brian Fee, who was a storyboard artist on the first two “Cars” films, as well as “Ratatouille” and “Wall-E.” The ensemble voice cast of “Cars 3”

includes Owen Wilson, Cristela Alonzo, Armie Hammer, Larry the Cable Guy, Bonnie Hunt, Nathan Fillion, Kerry Washington, and Lea DeLaria.

“Cars 3” bumps “Wonder Woman” out of first place, but the super hero movie continues to show strong. With an estimated \$40.7 million from 4,018 locations, the Warner Bros. and DC Comics film is seeing another extremely low drop of 32% from last weekend.

Otherwise, Tupac biopic “All Eyez on Me” from Lionsgate and Summit is beating out expectations with an estimated \$27.1 million from 2,471 locations. Demetrius Shipp Jr plays the mythologized rapper. Benny Bloom — who has two feature films and a long list of music videos on his resume — directed the film that explores Shakur’s origins, rise, and imprisonment. The release date aligns with what would have been Shakur’s 46th birthday.

“47 Metres Down” is opening to \$11.5 million from 2,270 locations. It’s the first major release from Entertainment Studios, which acquired the project from its original distributor, Dimension Films. Mandy Moore and Claire Holt star as sisters who decide to go cage diving, and end up at risk of being attacked by sharks.

Finally, “Rough Night,” a raunchy, fem-centric R-rated comedy from Sony, is on track to earn only \$8.1 million from 3,162 locations. The project combines the talents of director and co-writer Lucia Aniello, co-writer and actor Paul W Downs, and star Ilana Glazer — the three are frequent collaborators on Comedy Central’s “Broad City” and “Time Traveling Bong.” Scarlett Johansson, Kate McKinnon, Jillian Bell, Zoe Kravitz, and Glazer make up a rowdy girl gang who reunite for a bachelorette weekend that goes horribly wrong.—Reuters ■

World's biggest sailing ship Sedov embarks on training voyage in Baltic Sea

KALININRAD — The world's biggest sailing ship Sedov, which changed its home port from Murmansk in northwest Russia to Russia's westernmost port city of Kaliningrad in late May, has sailed off from Svetly port in the Kaliningrad Region on a training voyage in the Baltic Sea.

"The voyage was due to begin on Saturday evening but the fog prevented the ship's departure. That is why, the voyage began this morning," spokeswoman for the Baltic State Academy of the Fishing Fleet (part of the Kaliningrad State Technical University, which is the ship's current manager) Irina Obrazova

told TASS.

There are 114 cadets from maritime educational institutions of Murmansk, Kerch and Kaliningrad aboard the barque Sedov. The sailing ship is heading for the port of Den Helder (the Netherlands).

The sailing ship Sedov will follow the route of the barque Kruzenshtern, which embarked on a training voyage on 14 June, the spokeswoman said.

Both barques are expected to take part in The Tall Ships Race 2017 (STD), which will pass through Halmstad (Sweden), the Finnish ports of Kotka and Turku, Lithuania's Klaipeda and Polish Szczecin.

In August, the Russian sailing ships will also call at the German port of Rostock. The voyages are expected to be completed on 18 August in Kaliningrad.

The Sedov barque, originally named the Magdalene Vinnen II, was launched in Kiel in 1921 at Germany's Friedrich Krupp Germaniawerft. She was used as a cargo ship voyaging from Europe to South America, Australia, South East Asia and Oceania. In 1936, the Magdalene Vinnen II was sold to Norddeutscher Lloyd, Bremen and renamed the Kommodore Johnsen. The new owner modified it to a cargo-carrying training



Barque Sedov. PHOTO: TASS

ship, and apart from its permanent crew, the ship was to have 50 to 60 trainee officers aboard on each journey.

She came under Russian state ownership after the surrender of Germany, on 20 December, 1945, when the British handed over the ship to the Soviet Union as war reparation.

In the Soviet Union, she was converted into a

sail training vessel of the Soviet Navy. She was renamed the Sedov after the Arctic explorer Georgy Sedov who died during an Arctic expedition in 1914.

Today, The Sedov is a sail training vessel, training cadets from the universities of Murmansk, St Petersburg, and Arkhangelsk. She participates regularly in the big maritime international events as a privileged host

and has also been a regular participant in The Tall Ships' Races.

The Sedov has been entered into the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest traditional sailing ship in operation. The 117.5-metre-long ship has sails more than 4,000 square metres in area. She holds the official world sailing ship's speed record — 12.6 knots.—Tass ■



Tuon Tem, 49, holds a bowl with porridge outside of his restaurant in Siem Reap province, Cambodia on 19 June, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Cambodian eatery offers 'Pol Pot' rice porridge

PHNOM PENH — A Cambodian food stall began on Monday serving a thin, watery rice porridge that almost everyone had to eat during the 1970s rule of the Khmer Rouge, who were responsible for one of the worst genocides of the 20th century.

The owner of the small "Pol Pot regime porridge" shop in Siem Reap town said he wanted to offer the porridge as a reminder of the country's dark past.

About 1.8 million people were killed during the 1975-1979 rule of Pol Pot's ultra-communist Khmer Rouge, from torture, execution, disease and starvation after harvests failed. Restaurant owner Tuon Tem, 49, said he lost nine relatives at that time and was offering the porridge to remind young people about how hard life was then.

"I had this idea to have young people, including my

children, to know how hard it was," Tuon Tem, who is also a captain in the army, told Reuters by telephone.

Tuon Tem said he offered two plates of porridge, a modern version with fish, vegetables and rice and the Khmer Rouge style, a thin gruel with salt on the side, all for \$1.5. Customer Chin Ka Moniroth, 26, was not impressed with the dish, though he said the restaurant might attract young people, wanting to

try something new. "It's tasteless, it's just water and salt," Chin Ka Moniroth said. Police were also not impressed with the restaurant, saying it could not use the name Pol Pot. "He was a brutal killer," Siem Reap police chief Ho Vanny told Reuters. "This is not appropriate."

Tuon Tem said police had told him to remove the sign but he had not done so, not yet anyway. — Reuters ■

mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule		
(20-6-2017 07:00am ~ 21-6-2017 07:00am) MST		
07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Family of Toys
07:47	Am	Myanmar Outstanding Lady Thin Zar Phyo
08:03	Am	News
08:25	Am	A Street Vendor "Spreading Knowledge"
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Archery Session (from Ramayana Play)
09:48	Am	Products of Myanmar — Kachin Traditional Knife
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Gardener: Rose Plantation
10:32	Am	Coconut Shell Artist

10:56 Am Hip-Hop and Design

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Monday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:25	Pm	A Day out With Sarah (EP-6)
07:56	Pm	Kyaikhteeyoe: Mountain Drivers
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Taste of Myanmar (Rakhine Monte Ti)
08:49	Pm	Serene and Happy Rural Life in Myanmar

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Monday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(For Detailed Schedule - www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

MRTV Programme Schedule (20-6-2017, Tuesday)	
6:00 Am	2:15 Pm
◆ Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw	◆ TV Drama Series
7:00 Am	3:15 Pm
◆ Breakfast News	◆ TV Drama Series
8:35 Am	5:05 Pm
◆ Law Affairs	◆ Mono Classical Songs
9:10 Am	5:25 Pm
◆ Documentary (Mandalay Palace)	◆ Catch Asia NEWS (46)
9:35 Am	5:30 Pm
◆ MRTV Youth Programme	◆ Money Talk Myanmar
10:30 Am	6:20 Pm
◆ Documentary	◆ Football Magazine
12:30 Pm	6:35 Pm
◆ TV Drama Series	◆ Kyae Pwint Myae Yae Yin Khone Than
1:00 Pm	7:15 Pm
◆ Radio Drama	◆ TV Drama Series
1:50 Pm	8:00 Pm
◆ Yes or No Talk Show (Part-1)	◆ News/ International News/ Weather Report
	8:35 Pm
	◆ Documentary
	9:00 Pm
	TV Drama Series

Shibasaki leveler sends Tenerife to promotion playoff final

TOKYO — Gaku Shibasaki netted a vital equalizer and steered Tenerife to the promotion playoff final in the Spanish second tier on Sunday as they secured a 1-1 aggregate draw with Cadiz, enough to see them through.

The former Kashima Antlers midfielder, who grabbed headlines with his brace against Real Madrid at the Club World Cup final in De-

cember, placed home a low cross from the right in the 34th minute for his first goal in front of his home fans.

Tenerife, who lost the first leg 1-0, won the return match by the same scoreline and played out a scoreless extra 30 minutes to book a final berth after they finished the regular season in fourth, a place above Cadiz.

“(Shibasaki) is a man

who gives us time,” manager Jose Luis Marti told their website. “He’s a player with a lot of quality. He has the calmness to look for space.”

Tenerife will now face Getafe, who finished the season third and beat Huesca 5-2 on aggregate in the other semifinal. Tenerife will be at home on Wednesday before the return leg away on Saturday.

—Kyodo News ■

Japan's Matsuyama finishes 2nd at US Open

ERIN, Wisconsin — Japan's Hideki Matsuyama placed second at the US Open on Sunday, tying the record for the best showing by a Japanese man at a major. The 25-year-old Matsuyama made a final day charge up the leaderboard with a 6-under 66, carding eight birdies and two bogeys for an overall 12-under-par 276 total, four strokes behind American Brooks Koepka who finished with a four-day score of 272, tying a US Open low-score record.

Matsuyama tied for second with Brian Harman of the United States who shot an even-par 72 on Sunday, giving up his 54-hole lead. Matsuyama equaled Isao Aoki's record for the best



Japan's Hideki Matsuyama hits an approach shot on the 14th hole during the final round of the US Open at Erin Hills in Erin, Wisconsin on 18 June, 2017. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

finish by a Japanese man in one of the four majors. Aoki finished second to the legendary Jack Nicklaus at the 1980 US Open. Hisako Higuchi, winner of the

LPGA Championship in 1977, remains the only Japanese golfer to win a major championship on either the PGA or LPGA tours.—Kyodo News ■



Myanmar Player Si Thu Aung seen in an international competition. **PHOTO: SOE NYUNT**

Myanmar U 22 and U18 to play friendly match against Italian giant Inter Milan

Myanmar U 22 and U 18 football teams, who are playing in the SEA Games and other international matches, will play friendly matches with Inter Milan youth FC coming August.

Representatives of Myanmar Football Federation and Italian Football authorities had reached an agreement. The match is the last match for Myanmar U 22 before competing in the SEA Game.

Myanmar football players begun their training this month

in Taunggyi and Yangon respectively for the SEA Game and midfielder Si Thu Aung, one of Myanmar's shining players, has been chosen to participate in U22 for the SEA Game. Myanmar U 22 team will be headed by Coach Gerd Friderich and Myanmar U 18 by Coach Bun Berli

Myanmar U 22 will play with Inter Milan youth club on 12 August and Myanmar U 15 will play against the same team on 14 August in Thuwanna Stadium. —Shine Htet Zaw ■



Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo in action with Mexico's Diego Reyes at FIFA Confederations Cup Russia 2017 at Kazan Arena in Kazan, Russia on 18 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

No need for alarm bells after draw, says Ronaldo

KAZAN, Russia — Portugal twice surrendered the lead against Mexico in their Confederations Cup opener on Sunday but the 2-2 draw was no cause for alarm, according to captain Cristiano Ronaldo.

Hector Moreno scored in added time to earn a point for the Mexicans five minutes after Cedric put the Portuguese in front. “It wasn’t the result that we wanted,” said Ronaldo. “There’s no need to set off any alarms, the team was good. It was a good result at 2-1 but that’s football.

They scored in the last few

minutes and now we think of the next game.

“We need to keep believing in ourselves, we know we have a great chance.

There are two games to go and that’s why we’re cool, we’re at ease. Now we need to think of the next game, which we have to win. If we win we’re one step away.”

Portugal play hosts Russia in Moscow on Wednesday, while Mexico take on New Zealand in Sochi.

The Russians top Group A after beating the All Whites 2-0 on Saturday. The FIFA Player

of the Year, who had scored 11 goals in seven games coming into Sunday’s encounter, was perhaps not as influential as usual but was still named man-of-the-match.

The Real Madrid striker, whose club future has been the subject of media speculation after he was accused by Spanish prosecutors of committing tax fraud, which Ronaldo denies, set up Portugal’s opener.

His pass split the Mexican defence and gave Ricardo Quaresma a golden opportunity to open the scoring. —Reuters ■