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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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World heritage status for historic MraukU is expected to bring prosperity to Rakhine State. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Efforts made for MraukU inclusion on UNESCO World Heritage list

May Thet Hnin

With more staff and an increased budget, survey works are being carried out to put the MraukU region on the list of UNESCO World Heritage sites, said U Nyein Lwin, Director of the Department of Archaeology and the National Museum in MraukU.

About 40 staff members were divided into groups to produce a map with the Geographic Information System (GIS), comparing the history of the cultural heritage with the on-ground situation, installing signs indicating location and drawing up a long-term management plan, it is learnt.

"Work has started but much

need to be done. The Union Minister already explained to the people and an 11-member group led by an Assistant Director was sent. We are specially supported in this year budget", U Nyein Lwin said,

A draft nomination to include MraukU region on the World Heritage list will be submitted in September 2018 and a

final submission will have to be made by 31 January 2019.

Daw Khin Than, who is participating as a researcher and chairman of the MraukU region cultural heritage conservation group, said there was 90 per cent similarity in comparing the historical evidence with the on-ground situation.

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Frozen bank accounts of companies discussed

A top diplomat with the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar said yesterday that the issue of the frozen bank accounts of Myanmar businessmen stemmed from an effort by the Chinese government to crack down on illegal internet gambling.

The official said the problem is being dealt with and will be solved as soon as possible.

Dr Than Myint, the Union Minister for Commerce, met with Mr. Chan Chan, Charge d' Affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar, at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Commerce yesterday afternoon.

The Union Minister explained the recent controversy.

"Presently, there occurred events of freezing bank accounts of entrepreneurs in Yunnan Province in the People's Republic of China. As regards this, bank accounts of some Myanmar entrepreneurs paying monetary payment for Myanmar-China border trade happened to get involved, hence the occurrence of delays in bilateral border trade. With a view to promote convenience and help improve friendship between the two countries, and for the sake of the people from both countries, the matter should be solved and exports of rice and maize from Myanmar to China should be increased", Dr Than Mint said.

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သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမာန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

NEPC clarifies 6-month work at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Myo Myint, Aye Aye Thant
(Myanmar News Agency)

NATIONAL Education Policy Commission-NEPC reported its work in six months starting from October 2016 to April 2017 to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw yesterday.

In his clarification, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said the National Education Policy Commission (NEPC) is setting education policies, drawing curriculum formats and standards, quality assurance and assessment conducted in stages on the status of national education, assessed and suggested on implementation of education system, education policy and education projects.

Union Minister further mentioned about implementation of KG+12 system, suggestion on reducing subjects in grade one curriculum, assessing education level, conducting examinations, selecting members of National Curriculum Committee, numbers of women included in the committees and commissions, inclusion of education officers in National Academic and Quality

Assurance Assessment Committee (NAQAC) as per requirement of the work, selection of commission members and works of NAQAC.

Union Minister also explained about inclusion of regional culture, social norms, history and geography subjects in basic education level, implementation of National Education Strategic Plan 2016-21, implementation of new curriculum for KG and grade one, assessing education level and conducting examinations, assessment policy and new system, new assessment system, employment of teachers, teaching of ethnic language, upgrading of schools, employing more teachers, recognition as official schools, education and job opportunities for youth, balancing arts and science subjects in higher education level and participating in international competitions.

Union Supreme Court judges U Mya Han, U Myo Tint, U Soe Naing, U Khin Maung Kyi and Union Election Commission members U Myint Naing and U Than Htay then sworn-in in front of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker.



Four Union Supreme Court judges and two UEC members take an oath before Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker. **PHOTO: MNA**

Next, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win explained about proclamation of mid-term debt management strategy.

Member of Public Accounts Committee Daw Htu May read a report number (7/2017) on this matter and announced interested Hluttaw representatives to register their names for discussion.

Based on the comment by the Bill Committee, the Hluttaw then made decisions clause by clause on the bill on Myanmar Territorial Sea and Maritime Zones that the two Hluttaws were in disagreement.

Later, artisan oil well bill on which the two Hluttaws were in disagreement was debated by U Pyu Lwin of Magway Region

constituency 12, U Khin Win of Magway Region constituency 2, U Win Maung of Magway Region constituency 6, U Kyaw Swe of Magway Region constituency 11, U Zarni Min of Shwegu constituency, U Kyaw Gyi @ U Ohn Khin of Minhla constituency and U Kan Myint of Thayet constituency after which the Hluttaw made decisions clause by clause. ■



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint holds talks with head of the Asia-Pacific Unit for the DCAF in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets Head of Asia-Pacific Unit for Democratic Control of Armed Forces

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint met Dr Albrecht Schnabel, Head of the Asia-Pacific Unit for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) and party at the Hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw at 2:00 pm yesterday.

During the meeting, they

cordially discussed matters related to reforms of the Myanmar Police Force and security sector.

Present at the meeting were Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw Office. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Seminar on Preventive Diplomacy, Mediation and Early Warning Systems

The 3rd ASEAN Regional Forum Seminar on Preventive Diplomacy, Mediation and Early Warning Systems has convened at the Melia Hotel, Yangon, Myanmar, from 19 to 21 June 2017 and co-chaired by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the European Union and the United States of America.

Union Minister for Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe, National Security Advisor U Thaug Tun and Mr. Hassan Wirajuda, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia attended the Opening Ceremony of the ARF Seminar held on 20 June 2017.

Heads of Delegation and representatives from 27 ASEAN Regional Forum participating countries, Members of Governing Council and Members of Advisory Board from the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation, Members of Parliament from Pyithu



The 3rd ASEAN Regional Forum Seminar in progress. **PHOTO: MNA**

Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar; representatives from ASEAN Secretariat, senior experts from regional and international organizations, invited guests are also attending the Seminar.

At the Seminar, senior officials and experts shared their views and best practices on preventive diplomacy, mediation and the role of early warning

and early responses in the conflict prevention.

The Seminar was officiated by U Myint Thu, Director-General of ASEAN Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mr. Francisco Fontan Pardo, European Union Ambassador to ASEAN and Ms. Kristen F. Bauer, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the United States of America in Yangon. —Myanmar News Agency ■

President plants Eugenia at monsoon planting event

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw planted a Eugenia tree symbolising victory in Myanmar at an event for 2017 natural greenery movement yesterday in Pho Zaung Taung reserve block 17, Pobbathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw

The event was also attended by Vice Presidents U Myint Swe and U Henry Van Thio, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Union Chief Justice U Tun Tun Oo, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and members,

Hluttaw representatives, officials, staff and families of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

After the President planted the Eugenia plant, the Vice-Presidents, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, the Amyo-

tha Hluttaw Speaker, and the Union Chief Justice planted teak (*Tectona grandis*), tamalan (*Dalbergia oliveri*), padauk (*Pterocarpus*) and pyinkadoe (*Xylia xylocarpa*) plants at designated places.

Afterward, the President, Union Ministers, Union Attorney General, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, Hluttaw representatives observed the officials, staff and families of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation planting saplings.

The monsoon planting event planted a total of 400 saplings of various plant species, inclusive of teak, pyinkadoe, padauk and mahogany.

The Pho Zaung Taung reserve with 51 blocks covering 8,517.09 acres have various plant species thriving in it.— Myanmar News Agency ■



President U Htin Kyaw planting a Eugenia tree at a monsoon planting event for 2017 natural surrounding greenery movement. PHOTO: MNA

Frozen bank accounts of companies discussed

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The Charge D' affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar said progress in a solution of the matter will be shared with the public.

“Online gambling is deep-rooted in China, causing dubious ways and means on the monetary system for a long time. For this, Police Headquarters in China directly dealt with the matters, freezing about 5,000 bank accounts in China. Most are Chinese entrepreneurs, with some accounts of Myanmar businesspersons found to have engaged in it. For solving the current difficulties in bilateral border trade, a report has been sent to the Government of the People's Republic of China, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Commerce, Central Bank and the government of Yunnan Province. The event is being solved as soon as possible and progression of the matter will be made known”, said Mr. Chan Chan.—MNA ■

Waso-robe offering ceremony convening committee of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar holds meeting

VICE President U Myint Swe, patron of the convening committee for Waso-robe offering ceremony, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar addressed a work coordination meeting held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture yesterday afternoon.

Present at the meeting were Thura U Aung Ko, Union Minister for Religion Affairs and Culture, the chairman of the Waso-robe Offering Ceremony Convening Committee, committee members — Dr Myo Aung, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Aung Soe and U Maung Maung Win, working committee members, and committee members from 10 sub-committees and responsible officials.

“At the very advent of the Buddha Sasana, the Gautama Buddha allowed Sanghas to use only three robes during the rainy season, Visakha, the lady who donated the Pubbaryon monastery



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the meeting for the Waso-robe offering ceremony. PHOTO: MNA

in “Savatthi” asked the Buddha for permission to donate extra robes to monks. At the request of Visakha, the Gautama Buddha allowed monks to accept robes in accord with religious ethics. The Waso robe was named after the event of offering in the month of Waso. Being a robe offered in accord with strict ethics, the Waso robe offering is to be called

a noble donation. According to Buddhist scriptures, donors may get benefits — possession of fair complexion, being free from dirt and wearing fine clothes. As for the Union Government, it is a sacred offering to Sayardaws and Sanghas in accord with the “viniya rules” laid down by the Lord Buddha”, the Vice President said,

The Vice President added, “Under notification 48/2017 issued on 12th June 2017 by the President's Office, the Steering committee and working committee for Waso robe offering ceremony were formed with a view to convening the robe offering ceremony successfully. And, the Steering committee has formed 10 sub-committees

to systematically allocate duties. Security duties are emphatically to be performed to the end of the ceremony. Healthy cuisines are to be prepared under systematic supervision. For convening the ceremony systematically, the working committee and sub-committees are required to cooperate. Simultaneously, management and cooperation are to be rehearsed so that it can be done successfully.”

Afterwards, Thura U Aung Ko, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture and chairman of Waso-Robe Offering Ceremony Convening Committee, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar clarified the performances of the leading committee, followed by explanations from responsible persons from respective sectors of sub-committees. Vice President gave advices concerning the submissions from sub-committees after which the meeting came to a close.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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Thanakha cultivators facing difficulty due to low demand

Min Htet Aung
(Sub- printing house)

Thanakha cultivators from Ayadaw Township, Mandalay Region, are facing difficulty because of low demand and scarcity of the skilled labours, said U Kyaw Moe, chairman of Ayadaw Township Thanakha Cultivation, Production, Export and Sales Association.

Thailand Thanakha cosmetics are challenging our Myanmar Thanakha market. In fact, they are fake thanakha cosmetics, for they do not have any thanakha powder. Moreover, Thanakha cultivation is costly because of high wages of skilled labours and high prices of pesticides. We are finding new market to solve this problem. Moreover, we are planning to form Myanmar Thanakha Federation to protect our Myanmar Thanakha market, he added.

Ayadaw Township is mainly dependent on cultivation of Soo species of the Thanakha because nothing can be grown in Ayadaw Township. Thanakha is on the list of forest products which



Thanakha cultivators from Ayadaw Township finding new market to solve the problem of low demand.

PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG

poses a big Thanakha cultivator because forestry products manufacturing is prohibited nowadays.

Ayadaw Thanakha Cultivation, Production, Export and Sales Association was founded to promote the living standard of Thanakha cultivators. The association provides the eight basic cosmetic production training courses and micro

management training courses to the members during the past 2 years. To overcome these difficulties, the association has planned to produce the value-added Thanakha powder, Thanakha lotion and other Thanakha cosmetic. Then, the association has plans for Thanakha cosmetics to penetrate international market.

Currently, the association

has issued the smart cards to their members for travel around the country on Thanakha business trips. Also, the association is trying to rid Thanakha of the list of the forestry products.

Thanakha is cultivated mostly in Ayadaw, Pakokku, Yezagyo, Pauk and Myaing. About 75 per cent of Thanakha are produced from Ayadaw Township. ■

Thura U Shwe Mann meets Charge d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy

Chairman of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann met Mr. Chan Chan, charge d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar at the Hluttaw Building Hall (I-1), Nay Pyi Taw yesterday at 11:45 am.

During the meeting, the Charge d'affaires said that re-

sponsible officials are speedily conducting assessments of the suspended bank accounts of Myanmar merchants in order to reopen them accordingly and in timely manner. And the chairman cordially and openly discussed the needs for careful conduct to be good in bilateral relations and cooperation. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Thura U Shwe Mann shakes hands with Charge d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Germany to provide assistance to supply electricity in Shan State

The German Development Bank (KfW) will assist 9 million euro to supply electricity to the rural areas in Shan (south) which have difficult access to the national grid, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

The German Development Bank (KfW) will hand over the financial assistance to Rural Area Development Department. The project will be implemented between 2017 and 2020.

The project will be implemented with an aim to develop

the living standard as well as to promote, health and education of the local people. To implement the project in rural areas, the Rural Area Development Department will select the villages which have high population density in the villages.

"The National Electrification Plan (NEP) project will use the outside power system of National grid. We will try to supply the solar power for household uses, said an official from the Rural Areas Development Department.— GNLM ■

Deposit rate reduction on gem purchases underway

Preparations are being made to scale down the euro deposit rate for gems purchased at the 54th Myanmar Gems Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw in order ease the purchase process, said U Tun Hla Aung, the secretary 2 of the Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association to Myawady newspaper.

For jade transactions, international traders have to deposit depending upon the value of raw jade and jewellery products. There is a plan to reduce the deposit rate at the upcoming Gems Emporium, he continued.

During previous years, foreign traders had to pay a deposit of 50,000 euros for raw jade stones while they paid 20,000 euros for jewellery. For the 54th

Gems Emporium, the deposit of raw jade stones will be reduced from 50,000 euros to 20,000 euros, and the jewellery to 10,000 euros.

Under the supervision of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, the 54th Myanmar Gems Emporium will be held from 2nd to 11th August 2017 at Mani Yadana Jade Hall, Nay Pyi Taw.

Jewellery products and gem stones will be featured at the emporium. Both authorised local and foreign traders are entitled to purchase these gems and jewellery at the emporium.

International traders are invited to visit the emporium. Normally, traders from China are the main buyers.—GNLM ■



A jade merchant inspects the valuable jade lot that will be auctioned at the 53rd Gem Emporium at the Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: AUNG SHINE OO**

Twelve enterprises recently permitted by MIC

The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) permitted 12 enterprises which are in line with investment regulations and laws in the current fiscal year 2017-2018, according to a recent meeting of MIC.

A total of 4,343 job opportunities are created from those permitted enterprises. They consist of two Myanmar citizen enterprises, two foreign enterprises and eight joint ventures, which will be engaged in the manufacturing and marketing of preserved and canned food, a

poultry and hatchery, hotel services, construction, leasing and management of apartments, warehouse and storage facility, health care services and operation of a teleport satellite and its related services, according to an announcement of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The FDI flowing into the country in the previous fiscal year 2016-2017 hit over US\$6.8 billion, which exceeded the expectation of US\$6 billion,

mostly into the industrial manufacturing and transport and communication sectors.

The foreign investments enter these sectors; oil and gas, power, transport and communication, manufacturing, real estate, mining, hotel and tourism, livestock and fisheries, agriculture, industrial estate, construction and other services.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) of over US\$6 billion is likely to flow into the country in 2017-2018, according to the DICA.—Ko Htet ■

Antivenom gearing up to penetrate export market

Antivenom immunoglobulin produced by the state-owned Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (Insein) is self-sufficient in the domestic market and is also being planned to be placed on the export market, said Dr Aung Zaw, the general manager of the factory.

“Our antivenom was sent to the embassies of Laos, Cambodia, etc. If the antivenom is effective with the snakes in their countries, they will contact us and we will be able to sell. We produce around 100,000 doses of anti-venom yearly. The Health Department purchases only 80,000 doses of antivenom in two types — liquid form and freeze-dried form. If we are able to export the remaining 20,000 doses of antivenom, we will earn foreign currency. But the problem is whether our antivenom is effective for snake-bite victims in their countries or not.

Antivenom is manufactured by harvesting the immunoglobulins from snake venom and also from horse blood. This antivenom produced by state-owned Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (MPF), formerly

known as Burma Pharmaceutical Industry (BPI), is more cost-effective than a dose of antivenom from Thailand. A bottle of Myanmar's antivenom sells for around US\$30.

In a bid to produce antivenom this fiscal year, 1,200 vipers and 800 cobras from Yangon, Magway, Ayeyawady, Bago and Mandalay regions are being purchased, said Dr Aung Zaw.

In addition to those markets, the forestry department said if they seize snakes that are bound for China through border gates, those snakes are purchased. Snakes are also bought from both upper and lower Myanmar, where snake bite incidents often occur.

There are around 14,000 cases of snake bites across the country annually, 70 per cent of which are from poisonous snakes. Ten per cent of people received fatal snake bites, according to the Ministry of Industry.

This factory produced 70,000 doses of anti-venom in FY 2014-2015 and more than 30,000 in FY 2012-2013.—GNLM ■

Trade deficit hit over US\$1.2billion in two months

The trade deficit as of 9th June this Fiscal Year 2017-2018 reached over US\$1.2 billion when imports exceeded exports.

The export value from 1st April to 9th June in the current FY was over US\$2.2 billion, whereas import value hit more than US\$3.4 billion, according to the statistics released by the Commerce Ministry.

Myanmar's exports are

dependent only on the sectors concerning minerals, natural gas, agriculture and fisheries. Agribusiness plays a vital role in the export sector, but agro exports have declined compared to last year. The export value this fiscal year increased over US\$200 million than that in the similar period of last year.

Capital goods, raw industrial goods and consumer goods are imported into the country.

The import value saw an increase of over US\$654 million more than last year.

There were trade deficits of US\$91.9 million in FY 2012-2013, US\$2,555.5 million in FY 2013-2014, US\$4,912.559 million in FY 2014-2015, US\$5,407.464 million in FY 2015-2016 and over US\$5.5 billion in FY 2016-2017, according to statistics released by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO). —Ko Khant ■

India's Modi to discuss visa issue with Trump next week — official

NEW DELHI — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will take up the issue of visas for skilled workers when he meets US President Donald Trump next week in Washington, a senior Indian government official said on Tuesday.

Trump has ordered a review of the US visa programme for bringing high-skilled foreign workers into the United States, putting technology firms and the outsourcing companies that serve them on notice of possible changes ahead.

The review threatens Indian IT services firm such as Infosys Ltd and Tata Consultancy Ser-

vices which advise large companies on tech issues and carry out a range of tasks for them, relying heavily on the H-1B visa programme.

"The H-1B visa issue will be one of the issues on the table during the PM's visit," Trade Secretary Rita Teatonia told reporters.

Modi will meet Trump in Washington on 26 June. The first meeting between them is expected to lay the ground for a further expansion in ties, which grew rapidly under former US President Barack Obama. However, Trump's focus on building ties with China, coupled with his

protectionist trade policies and his characterisation of India as an unscrupulous negotiator in the Paris climate change agreement have raised concern in New Delhi about a drift in relations.

Aside from the visa review, the Trump administration has launched an investigation of countries including India with which the United States runs a bilateral trade deficit.

Teatonia said the government would try to convince Washington that higher exports from India were a win-win for both countries as they helped American companies cut costs and create jobs.



(L-R) Amit Shah, president of India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Prime Minister Narendra Modi and LK Advani, a leader of BJP, sing a patriotic song during the party's national executive meeting in Allahabad, India on 12 June, 2016. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

The bilateral trade between the two countries more than doubled to about \$115 billion in 2016 from \$45.1 billion in 2006. However, the US trade deficit with India

also widened.

The trade shortfall was \$30.8 billion in 2016, up from \$12.7 billion in 2006. — Reuters ■

Singapore detains auxiliary policeman, bans publications over radicalism

SINGAPORE — Singapore said on Tuesday it had detained an auxiliary police officer for attempting to undertake armed Islamist violence overseas, and it also banned nine publications by a preacher for containing extremist religious views.

The city-state has increased its level of surveillance for Islamist radicalism as concern grows about the spread of Islamic State in the region.

Singapore has been urging citizens to report anyone deemed at risk of being radicalised, and has reiterated over the past year that it is a target of Islamist groups.

The Ministry of Home Affairs

said auxiliary policeman Muhammad Khairul bin Mohamed, 24, had been arrested in May and officially issued with a detention order this month under the Internal Security Act (ISA), which allows for suspects to be held for lengthy periods without trial.

Khairul, whose path to radicalism began in 2012, intended to undertake armed violence in Syria and was interested in joining the Free Syrian Army or other militant groups operating there, the ministry said in a statement.

"His readiness and proclivity to resort to violence in pursuit of a religious cause makes him a security threat to Singapore," it said.

A colleague, Mohamad Rizal bin Wahid, was put under a restriction order for supporting Khairul's intentions to engage in armed violence in Syria, it said.

Auxiliary police are private contractors hired to perform certain security duties.

Both men were in the auxiliary force at the time of their arrests last month.

Rizal did not share Khairul's desire to participate in armed violence but he had failed to bring the matter to the attention of authorities and had even suggested to Khairul various ways to get to Syria and die there as a "martyr", the ministry said.

The news comes just a week

after authorities said that they had detained the first Singaporean woman for suspected Islamist radicalism.

At least 16 Singaporeans have been put under restriction or detention orders under the ISA since 2015 because of their radicalisation, up sharply from 11 cases between 2007 and 2014, according to ministry data.

In a separate statement, the Ministry for Communications and Information said it banned nine publications by another Singaporean, Rasul Bin Dahri, that contained extremist religious views.

It said in some of his publications, the preacher rejected the idea of a secular state and

called on Muslims to establish an Islamic State.

"Rasul Bin Dahri is a Singaporean who has, through his radical teachings, betrayed the values that Singapore has held so close to us as a multi-cultural and multi-racial society," the ministry said in a statement.

"We will not allow his radical teachings and his extremist ideology to take root in Singapore," it said, adding distributing or possessing any of the prohibited publications would be an offence.

It was not immediately clear whether the preacher will face any other action. Reuters was not able to contact him for comment. — Reuters ■

Philippines launches offensive in hope of recapturing Marawi by weekend festival

MARAWI CITY (Philippines) — Philippine aircraft and troops launched a renewed push against Islamist militants in a southern city on Tuesday, and a military spokesman said the aim was to clear the area by the weekend Eid festival, although there was no deadline.

The offensive came amid worry that rebel reinforcements could arrive in the city after Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Fighting in Marawi City has entered a fifth week, and near-

ly 350 people have been killed, according to an official count. Fleeing residents have said they have seen scores of bodies in the debris of homes destroyed in bombing and cross-fire.

"We are aiming to clear Marawi by the end of Ramadan," said military spokesman Brigadier-General Restituto Padilla, as army and police commanders met in nearby Cagayan de Oro city to reassess strategy and operations against the militants, who claim allegiance to Islamic State.

But he added: "We are not

setting any deadlines knowing the complexity of the battle. We are doing our best to expedite the liberation of Marawi at the soonest time possible."

The seizure of Marawi and the dogged fight to regain control of it has alarmed Southeast Asian nations which fear Islamic State — on a backfoot in Iraq and Syria — is trying to set up a stronghold in the southern Philippines that could threaten the whole region.

Padilla said the military aimed to prevent the conflict from escalating after Ramadan

ends. "We are closely watching certain groups and we hope they will not join the fight," Padilla said. Some Muslim residents of Marawi said other groups could join the fighting after Ramadan.

"As devout Muslims, we are forbidden to fight during Ramadan so afterwards, there may be new groups coming in," said Faisal Amir, who has stayed on in the city despite the battle.

Fighting was intense early on Tuesday as security forces made a push to drive the militants, entrenched in Marawi's commercial district, south

towards a lake on the edge of the city. Planes flew overhead, dropping bombs while on the ground, automatic gunfire was sustained with occasional blasts from bombs and artillery.

Armoured vehicles fired volleys of shells while the militants responded with gunfire and rocket-propelled grenades.

Fighting later died down as heavy rain fell.

Military sources said troops were attacking the militants from three sides and trying to box them toward the lake. — Reuters ■

South Korea's Moon urges North Korea to return detainees swiftly

SEOUL — South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Tuesday said North Korea should swiftly return South Koreans and Americans detained in the reclusive nation and that it had “a heavy responsibility” in the death of a US university student.

Otto Warmbier, the 22-year-old student who had been held prisoner in North Korea for 17 months, died at a Cincinnati hospital on Monday just days after North Korea released him from captivity in a coma, his family said.

Three other US citizens, who are ethnic Koreans, and six South Koreans remain in custody in North Korea.

Warmbier was arrested while visiting as a tourist and accused of trying to steal an item bearing a propaganda slogan, according to North Korean media. Doctors caring for him last week described him as having extensive brain damage that left him in a state of “unresponsive

wakefulness.”

In an interview with CBS News, Moon said that while “we cannot know for sure that North Korea killed Mr Warmbier ... I believe it is quite clear that they have a heavy responsibility in the process that led to Mr Warmbier's death.”

“I believe we must now have the perception that North Korea is an irrational regime,” Moon told the CBS television network.

South Korea's Blue House on Tuesday cited Moon separately as saying: “It is very deplorable that North Korea does not respect human rights.”

The South Korean government will make every effort for the return of those held in North Korea, presidential spokesman Park Soo-hyun told a briefing.

US President Donald Trump blamed the “brutality of the North Korean regime” for Warmbier's death.

North Korea said last month it was its sovereign right to “ruth-



South Korean President Moon Jae-in. PHOTO: REUTERS

lessly punish” US citizens it had detained for crimes against the state. Korean-Americans Tony Kim and Kim Hak Song, who worked at the foreign-funded Pyongyang University of Science and Technology, were recently

detained for hostile acts against the government, according to North Korea's state media.

In March 2016, Kim Dong Chul, a 62-year-old Korean-American missionary, was sentenced to 10 years of hard

labor for subversion.

North Korea is also holding Canadian pastor Hyeon Soo Lim. He was charged with subversion and given a hard-labor life sentence in 2015.

Three South Korean nationals were detained in North Korea during their missionary work since 2013, and the remaining three South Koreans are North Korean defectors who returned and are in custody, a lawmaker briefed by the South Korean spy agency told reporters last week.

Dozens of North Korean missile launches and two nuclear bomb tests since the beginning of last year have heightened tensions on the Korean peninsula. Pyongyang has vowed to develop a nuclear-tipped intercontinental ballistic missile capable of hitting the US mainland.

Pyongyang continued to test-fire missiles since South Korean leader Moon took office pledging to engage in dialogue with North Korea.— Reuters ■

China, ROK eye for improvement of ties

BEIJING — China and the Republic of Korea (ROK) voiced willingness to improve bilateral relations during a strategic dialogue between foreign ministries.

China hoped the ROK would show political will and resolution, honor its commitment, and work together with China to properly handle relevant issues, to improve relations as soon as possible, said State Councilor Yang Jiechi while meeting with ROK First Vice Foreign Minister Lim Sung-nam here on Tuesday.

Lim's visit comes at a crucial period of China-ROK relations, which have been severely affected by the deployment of the US Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system.

Yang said that the two countries should stick to friendly cooperation, and respect each other's core interests and major concerns.

Lim cited ROK President Moon Jae-in saying the ROK hoped to improve relations with China.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the China-ROK diplomatic relations. The ROK hopes to use the opportunity



Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi (R) meets with Republic of Korea First Vice Foreign Minister Lim Sung-nam in Beijing, capital of China on 20 June, 2017. PHOTO: XINHUA

to strengthen communication and coordination with China, Lim said.

Lim, who used to be the chief ROK delegate to the six-party talks, is visiting Beijing to co-chair the eighth high-level strategic dialogue between China and ROK foreign ministries

with Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Yesui.

According to Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang, the two sides will discuss the bilateral relations, the situation on the Korean Peninsula, and other issues of common concern. —Xinhua ■

Philippines to benefit from Belt and Road Initiative: finance chief

MANILA — Philippine Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez said on Tuesday that his country will benefit from the Belt and Road Initiative, noting it dovetails with the infrastructure buildup plan of the administration of President Rodrigo Duterte.

Dominguez said the initiative, particularly the revival of the maritime silk road, will help improve the Philippines' competitiveness in the global trade arena. With the airports and seaports as part of Duterte's envisioned “Golden Age of Infrastructure,” he said the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road component of the initiative will open new markets for the Philippine products in Beijing's planned corridor between China and the Middle East and Europe. Dominguez said the initiative is a “powerful idea,” adding that it will promote free trade and integrate economies across Asia and Europe.

“We think that the Philippines will definitely benefit in participating in this Belt and Road project particularly in the

maritime Silk Road section of the project,” Dominguez said in a statement.

He added “the Philippines is building a lot of infrastructures, of course with the help of China, and among the infrastructure that we are building are ports and airports. That will help lower the cost of shipping our goods to (China's) Hong Kong or to (China's) Shanghai and that will open markets to us along the corridor between China and the Middle (East) and Europe.” He said the Philippines' manufacturing industry, particularly companies producing electronics, and its food exports sector, especially those selling tropical fruits, will have more and quicker access to new and profitable markets under the Belt and Road project. “We are the largest exporters of tropical fruits (in Asia) so definitely there will be a lot of benefit to us if we are able to open markets in let's say Kazakhstan (and other countries), along the Belt and Road area. And that's aside from our manufactured goods,” Dominguez said.—Xinhua ■

Life is hard but we all have to struggle on!

Khin Maung Oo

While contemplating the definition of “Life,” my mind wandered sometimes to success and sometimes to failure. Of various definitions, I would like to emphasise the meaning which says life is a period of time. The period between someone’s birth and their death is defined as life, so is a period of someone’s life when they are in a particular situation or job. Some say that their life is a bed of roses and that there is no struggle throughout their life. In my opinion, it is an unacceptable viewpoint. Why? The reason is that there are always bound to be struggles and challenges whether you are rich

or poor. It can be said to have been the very tacit struggle of demanding for food for our survival. From then on, we undergo tests and trials of our lives, experiencing failures and success. We cannot get anything without working for something or demanding for something.

Every individual from a newborn baby or infant in the mother’s lap to a dying person has to pass the student life, married life and working life. A student who passes his exam is said to gain success. Here, we must note that failure in an exam is not a permanent loss. Likewise, we have similar results in our married or working life. The most important thing for us is to

bounce back from our fallen position, without losing hope. Simultaneously, we should not be satisfied with our present results, accepting that they are likely to move out of our hands anytime. A successful person should try hard to get sustainable success, whereas a failed person is required to find a solution to overcome that failure. “Where there’s a will, there is a way,” as the saying goes.

In struggling for success or progress, we need to do individually or in group. For the former, what we need is firm determination and a systematic approach to get good results, while for the latter, like in companies and enterprises, we need a good management team, cooperation and team spirit.

Without team spirit, if one-upmanship is prioritised, we will lack cooperation, which begets failure. Contrariwise, if the practices of exercising team spirit are cultivated among the group, cooperation, familiarity and transparency will develop.

Thus, a good management team will arise, bringing about success. Those who belong to the same group, community, society or nation can be likened to the same family members travelling in the same boat. Without team spirit or rather cooperation, it will delay our movement towards our destination. Life is hard, but we all have to struggle on, with team spirit, cooperation and transparency. ■

Asia’s rivers send more plastic into the ocean than all other continents combined

MILLIONS of tonnes of plastic waste are polluting the earth’s waterways, and a recent study shows that 86 per cent of the plastic trash running through the rivers comes from Asia, with Myanmar one of the major contributors.

The study by Ocean Cleanup, a Dutch foundation whose mission is to extract plastic from the sea, found that the majority of the trash comes from China, Indonesia, and Myanmar. The study suggests that the global riverine system is contributing between 1.15 and 2.41 million metric tons per year of plastic waste into the world’s oceans, much of it plastic bottles and plastic bags. Researchers found that two thirds of this input were generated by the top 20 most polluting rivers and that these



A scavenger collects plastic for recycling in a river covered with rubbish in Jakarta, Indonesia, April 20, 2009.

PHOTO: REUTERS

were mostly located on the Asian continent.

Seven of the top 20 rivers from all continents, which originate or pass through China’s major cities, are contributing around two thirds (67

per cent) of plastic released through rivers into the oceans. The Yangtze River that runs through Shanghai, one of China’s most populous areas, tops the list, followed by the Ganges, a trans-boundary river that runs through northern India and Bangladesh. Next is Xi River, the western tributary of the Pearl River, a major water source for the 100 million

people residing in Guangdong Province, China’s most populous province.

In ninth place on the list of waterways that contribute to plastic pollution is the Ayeyawady River in Myanmar, the country’s largest river that flows from north to south and eventually empties into the Andaman Sea. In 11th place is the Mekong River, which flows

though Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, China, Myanmar, Viet Nam. The researchers found that the Yangtze river’s mouth, where the conduit meets the sea, had a plastic concentration of 4,137 particles per cubic meter and contributed 20,000 tonnes of plastic every year to the oceans.

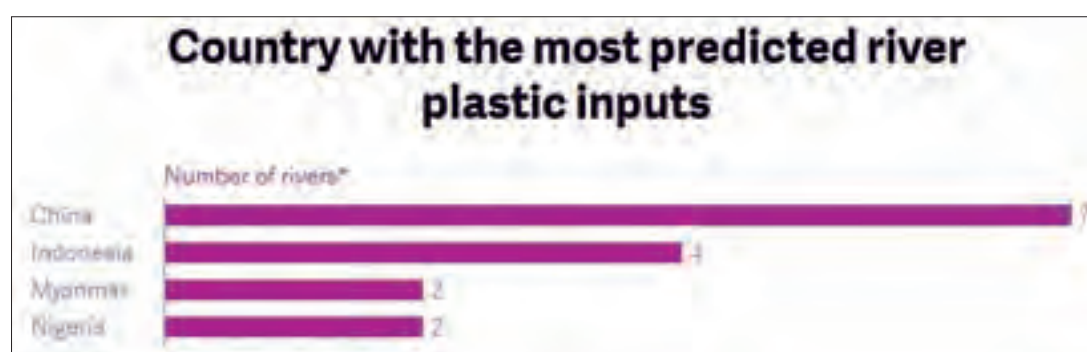
China had the highest number of rivers that contribute to plastic pollution with seven, followed by Indonesia with four and Myanmar with two.

China also manufactured the most plastic products — around 74.7 metric tons — in 2015, according to a 2016 report by Plastics Europe, a trade association.

The unceasing avalanche of garbage has devastating effects on the seas by choking marine life to death, altering ecosystems and causing environmental havoc that some experts liken to the climate change crisis.—GNLM ■



Workers load collected plastic bottles onto a truck in Manila in the Philippines, March 10, 2015. **PHOTO: REUTERS**



Data: The Ocean Clean up Foundation.



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing gives a souvenir to Secretary of the Security Council of Russia. PHOTO: MNA

Senior General visits headquarters of Guards Tank Division in Naro-Fominsk, Russia

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, who was in the Russian Federation at the invitation of Army General Sergey K. Shoigu, Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation, visited the headquarters of the Guards Tank Division in Naro-Fominsk, Russian Federation on 19 June.

Afterwards, the Senior General and party observed small arms and light weapons which are currently being used in the Russian Armed Forces. Also observed were military tank manoeuvres, military trainees programmes, a martial arts demonstration and military

dormitories.

Then, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing observed training exercises of armed forces at the training grounds of the Guards Tank Division. In the evening, the Senior General met with Secretary of the Security Council of Russian Federation Mr. Nikolai Patrushev at local standard time 5:45 pm.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to enhancing cooperation between the two armed forces, bilateral military cooperation for security sectors and exchanging information of anti-violence. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Efforts made for MraukU inclusion on UNESCO World Heritage list

FROM PAGE-1

According to research, it is ready to be on the list as more than 90 per cent of historical evidences are in line with what was seen on the ground, but when the site visit was conducted to check the location of the walls, there were some differences, said Daw Khin Than.

Presently there are about 10,000 squatters living in MraukU region, and this matter will be handled according to the master plan, it is learnt.

"If the region becomes a world heritage site, it will be a

historical honour that the Rakhine State can proudly proclaim. More visitors will come as hotels springs up.

"Work opportunities for locals will increase. In striving to be on the list, the region is developing by getting a power supply, roads and bridges."

"Once the region is in the list, it will become fully developed within 10 years", added U Nyein Lwin.

Italy donated US\$1 million to UNESCO for this work and China and Australia had also approached to assist, it is learnt.

He further added that for MraukU to become a world heritage site, cooperation of the people is required.

"Local people need to be educated to know the value of the area. Signs we put up as a guide for the area were vandalised and we have to put it up repeatedly."

"People need to be responsible and help from the side of the authorities is also required" said U Nyein Lwin.

The ancient MraukU temple zone in Rakhine State will be the subject of a bid for UNESCO World Heritage Status,

with a team of experts set to begin surveying work with a view to drafting an application.

"We can start preparing for the process of gaining heritage status."

"It will take about five years before submitting the draft," said U Nyein Lwin.

A team of international experts will help survey the site and prepare the bid.

Chinese experts carried out an initial survey last week. It is hoped that Myanmar will receive international assistance and funding in order to support the application. ■

Airplane parts, one body recovered

As search and recovery operation continue for the crashed Tatmadaw Y-8 plane and victims onboard, a body and three pieces of aluminium airplane parts were recovered near the area where the tail portion of the plane was found. Ninety-three bodies have been recovered to date. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Credentials presented to Lithuanian President

U San Lwin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Lithuania, presented his Credentials to Her Excellency Ms. Dalia Grybauskaitė, President of the Republic of Lithuania on 19 June 2017, in Vilnius. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Cash donated for plane crash victims

YESTERDAY at the Defence Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw, U Aung Zaw Myint and wife Dr Myat Myat Ohn Khin (retired union minister) donated Ks2 million for the crew, military personnel and families onboard the crashed Y-8 Tatmadaw transport plane on 7 June. Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win accepted the cash donations. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Disaster Management work committees concludes survey trip to Cyclone Mora affected areas

National Natural Disaster Management Committee concluded its survey trip to the Cyclone Mora-affected areas in Rakhine State yesterday after reviewing aid supply, reconstruction of buildings and disaster awareness.

Representatives of five work committees under the National Natural Disaster Management Committee together with representatives of Rakhine State government yesterday

visited camps for the internally displaced persons in Sittway.

They inspected schools and houses damaged by the cyclone in Sittway and Buthidaung townships, looking into the situation in previous days.

The group that went to Rakhine State includes representatives of national natural disaster management work committee, news and information work committee, work committee to reconstitute livelihood, work



Workers reconstruct a house destroyed earlier this month by Cyclone Mora in Buthidaung. PHOTO: MNA

committee to assess immediate requirement, assessing and confirming damage and identifying requirement, and

reformation and reconstruction work committee under the national committee. — Myanmar News Agency ■

BRICS countries call to establish international anti-terror coalition

MOSCOW — BRICS foreign ministers (of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa — TASS) have urged the global community to establish a genuinely broad counter-terrorism coalition, a media note published on the Russian Foreign Ministry's web site said following the BRICS foreign ministers' meeting in Beijing.

"The Ministers deplore the continued terrorist attacks, including in some BRICS countries.

They condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations wherever committed and by whomsoever," the note says.

"They [the BRICS countries] reaffirm solidarity and resolve in the fight against terrorism, call upon the international community to establish a genuinely broad international counter-terrorism coalition and support the United Nations' central coordinating role in the international counter-terrorism cooperation," the document says.



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. PHOTO: TASS

ument says.

"They recall the responsibility of all States to prevent financing of terrorist networks and terrorist actions from their territories."

The ministers also highly valued the 2nd BRICS Counter-Terrorism Working Group Meeting held in Beijing on 18 May, 2017.

Besides, the BRICS coun-

tries "call upon an expedited adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism in the UN General Assembly," according to the note.—Tass ■

WORLD BRIEFS

US student who was returned from North Korea in coma has died

WASHINGTON — US student Otto Warmbier, who was imprisoned in North Korea for 17 months before being returned home in a coma less than a week ago, has died in a Cincinnati hospital, his family said in a statement on Monday.

"Unfortunately, the awful torturous mistreatment our son received at the hands of the North Koreans ensured that no other outcome was possible beyond the sad one we experienced today," the family said in a statement following Warmbier's death at 2:20 pm ET at the University of Cincinnati Medical Centre.—Reuters ■

French Police find weapons cache in home of Champs Elysees attacker

PARIS — Investigators found a cache of weapons at the home of the 31-year-old man who rammed his car into a police van on the Champs Elysees avenue on Monday, a judicial source close to the investigation said.

The source said on Tuesday investigators were compiling an inventory of the weapons and other equipment.—Reuters ■

Merkel urges EU to stick together after Brexit talks launched



German Chancellor Angela Merkel attends the German Industry Day, hosted by the BDI industry association, in Berlin, Germany on 20 June, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

BERLIN — German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Tuesday urged the European Union's remaining 27 members to stick together during talks on Britain's exit from the bloc, which began on Monday.

Merkel also said the talks

were important for the future of European integration.

Brexit was a setback but election results in the Netherlands and France this year have presented an opportunity to push ahead, Merkel said.

"Let's stay together, let's

not divide from each other," she said, with reference to the remaining EU 27.

"This is not just about the exit of Britain, with which we want to remain friends, with which we want to live in a good partnership, but it is also about the future of the European Union," she said at a German industry conference.

"The four freedoms that give us the internal market must not be jeopardised," she said with reference to the EU's freedoms of movement of goods, capital, people, and services. "This will be significant at the exit negotiations."

Merkel said she wanted the talks to be conducted "in a good spirit" and that Britain's position would become evident in the coming months.

"We will of course imple-

ment what Britain pitches, but in a way that the interests of the 27 member states are safeguarded."

At their first meeting in Brussels on Monday, British and EU negotiators agreed on a timetable for the Brexit talks. Both sides stressed their goodwill but acknowledged the task's huge complexity and tight deadline.

Almost a year to the day since British voters decided to leave the EU, the Brexit strategy debate within the UK government has intensified since Prime Minister Theresa May failed to win a snap parliamentary majority in the 8 June ballot.

She had called the early vote herself, saying it was to strengthen her mandate in the Brexit talks.—Reuters ■

University of Belgrade students overwhelmingly against Serbia's membership in NATO

BELGRADE — Nearly 88 pct of University of Belgrade students believe Serbia should not join NATO, 39.7 pct said they would not vote for the country's membership in the EU, while 50 pct believe Serbia will never become an EU member state, shows a survey on the University of Belgrade students' views on the Serbian foreign policy.

The survey, conducted by the Centre for International Public Policy, involved 1323 students from 38 faculties of the University.—Tanjug ■

Soros says Britain nearing tipping point, may reverse Brexit

LONDON — George Soros, the billionaire who earned fame by betting against the pound in 1992, said Britain was approaching a tipping point that would see the economy slow to such an extent that Brexit might even be reversed.

Soros used Quantum Fund in 1992 to bet successfully that sterling was over-valued against the Deutsche Mark, forcing then-Prime Minister John Major to pull the pound out of the European Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM).

Soros, who was born in Hungary but made his way to London as Communists consolidated power in Budapest, said economic reality was starting to catch up with a United Kingdom that voted 52 to 48 per cent to leave the European Union in a 23 June referendum.



George Soros.
PHOTO: REUTERS

“The moment of truth is fast approaching,” Soros said in an article emailed to reporters.

“The fact is that Brexit is a lose-lose proposition, harmful both to Britain and the European Union. It cannot be undone, but people can change their

minds.”

Britain’s \$2.5 trillion economy has shown resilience since last year’s referendum although sterling fell 25 cents against the dollar in the hours immediately after the shock vote.

But Britain went

from being one of the fastest-growing economies of the Group of Seven leading economic nations in 2016 to the slowest in early 2017, as the fall in the value of the pound after the Brexit referendum pushed up inflation and hit consumer spending.—Reuters ■

Iraq, Saudi Arabia aim to upgrade diplomatic relations — statement

DUBAI — Iraq and Saudi Arabia are setting up a coordination council to upgrade strategic ties, a joint statement said on Tuesday, as part of an attempt to heal troubled relations between the Arab neighbours.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi met with Saudi King Salman a day earlier on the first leg of a Middle East tour that will also include Iran and Kuwait.

Iraq lies on the fault line between Shi’ite Iran and the mostly-Sunni Arab world. Deep-running animosity and distrust between the two sides is fuelled by sectarian divides.

“The countries agreed to establish a coordination council to upgrade relations to the hoped for strategic level

and open new horizons for cooperation in different fields,” said the statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency.

It said the two countries had achieved a “quantum leap” in bilateral relations and stressed the importance of further official visits.

Saudi Arabia reopened its embassy in Baghdad in 2015 following a 25-year break, and in February Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir made a rare visit to Baghdad.

That has been seen as heralding closer cooperation against Islamic State, which controls territory in Iraq and in Syria and has claimed bombings in Saudi Arabia.—Reuters ■



SHWE BANK
Special Thanks



SHWE BANK (Shwe Rural & Urban Development Bank) thanks those who attended the opening ceremony of Shwe Bank's Razadiriz branch on 20th June, 2017. Our special thanks go to Speaker of Yangon Region Parliament U Tin Maung Tun, Daw Myint Myint Soe, Botahtaung Township's Representative of the Pyithu Hluttaw, Dr Daw Ni Ni, Patron of the Shwethanlwin and Dr Lin Aung, Senior Executive Director and Vice Chairman of Shwe Bank who cut the ribbon and unveiled the signboard of the branch bank at the ceremony, departmental dignitaries and guests, personnel from the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and its brotherhood associations, personnel from local business organizations, local and foreign banks, and those who sent commemorative gifts for the opening ceremony and those who assisted in holding the ceremony successfully.

SHWE BANK
Members of the Board of Directors
and
Employees of Shwe Bank

Location of Branch Bank – No-149 (C), Ground Floor, Room 8.G, 9.G, 10.G, Razadiriz Tower, at the corner of Razadiriz Road and Thanlyatson Road, Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region

Russia may start exporting advanced MiG-35 fighter jet in couple of years

LE BOURGET (France) — The exports of Russia's most advanced Mikoyan MiG-35 (NATO reporting name: Fulcrum-F) fighter jet may begin in a year or two after the plane is finalized to meet its required characteristics, state arms seller Rosoboronexport CEO Alexander Mikheyev said on Monday.

"I believe that within a year or two the plane will be brought to the state that meets its required characteristics, will receive its required outlook and is eventually accepted as a product for exports," the chief executive said at the Le Bourget aerospace show.

Deputy CEO of Russia's MiG Aircraft Company Viktor Chernov said earlier on Monday that the MiG-35 will complete state trials in 2017. According to him, the fighter jet has very good prospects:

"This machine, which is completing state trials this year, will have very good prospects — we count on such



MiG-35 fighter jet. PHOTO TASS

markets as South and Southeast Asia, Latin America and African countries."

The MiG-35 is Russia's most advanced 4++-generation multipurpose fighter

jet developed on the basis of the serial-produced MiG-29K/KUB and MiG-29M/M2 combat aircraft.

The fighter jet features improved flight and techni-

cal characteristics, the most advanced onboard radio-electronic equipment and a wide arsenal of air-to-air and air-to-surface missiles.

The plane can develop

a speed of 2.23 Mach and its operational radius exceeds the range of its predecessor MiG-29 by 50%.

The United Aircraft Corporation announced in early February it had signed a contract with Russia's Defence Ministry on the delivery of two such fighters in 2017-2018.

According to a TASS source in the defence sector, a contract for more than 30 MiG-35 for the Defence Ministry may be signed in 2018.

The flight tests of MiG-35 fighter aircraft began on 26 January and the plane's international presentation was held in the Moscow Region on the following day. Russia's state armament program through 2020 stipulates the deliveries of MiG-35 fighter jets to Russia's Aerospace Force. Commander-in-Chief of Russia's Aerospace Force Viktor Bondarev said earlier that the purchases of over 30 such fighter jets were planned.

—Tass ■

US Coast Guard interviews container ship crew after warship collision

TOKYO — The United States Coast Guard will on Tuesday start interviewing the crew of a Philippines-flagged container ship which collided with a US warship in Japanese waters killing seven American sailors.

The US coast guard investigation is one several into the incident on Saturday involving the guided missile destroyer USS Fitzgerald and the much larger ACX Crystal. The cause of the collision at night and in clear weather is not known.

"We are scheduled to interview the crew members," said US Lieutenant Scott Carr told Reuters, referring the crew of the merchant ship. The USS Fitzgerald crew will also be interviewed.

The US coast guard, which is undertaking the investigation on behalf of the US National Transportation Safety Board, will gather electronic data and ship tracking information from the USS Fitzgerald and ACX Crystal.

The investigation will also look into a time discrepancy in the ACX Crystal's initial report



The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Fitzgerald, damaged by colliding with a Philippine-flagged merchant vessel, is seen at the US naval base in Yokosuka, Japan. PHOTO: REUTERS

of the incident south of Tokyo Bay, said Scott. "There is a contradiction. It will be part of the investigation," Carr said.

The Japan Coast Guard has already spoken to the Filipino crew and is also probing the inconsistency. It is in talks with the US Navy for access to its crew members and data from the destroyer, a spokesman for the organization said.

The US Navy did not immediately respond when asked if it

would release tracking data to the Japan Coast Guard.

The ACX Crystal reported the collision at 2:25 am (1725 GMT) prompting Japanese authorities to initially log the incident at 2:20 am.

The Japan Coast Guard subsequently revised the time to 1:30 am meaning the container ship waited 55 minutes before contacting the coast guard, according to the Japan Coast Guard.—Reuters ■

Germany to focus on free, fair trade at G20 summit — Merkel

BERLIN — Germany wants to make progress in its presidency of the Group of 20 leading economies on improving free and fair trade and will try to get broad agreement on open markets at next month's leaders' summit, Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Tuesday.

She cautioned, however, that this might not be easy with US President Donald Trump who has made waves with his protectionist rhetoric.

"Open markets and free, fair sustainable and inclusive trade is a key focus of our G20 presidency," said Merkel, who will host the G20 in Hamburg next month.

She added that such conditions were beneficial for everyone and globalisation was not just fate but rather a process that could be shaped on the basis of Germany's belief in the social market economy.

"We'll do all we can to get as broad an agreement on this as possible in Hamburg. Given the new American administration that's not easy but none-

theless we need to make the effort," Merkel told an event hosted by the BDI industry association.

She added that G20 leaders would also discuss the steel industry, saying that progress needed to be made on the issues of overcapacity and fair competition in the sector.

"There's not just trade — it must be based on rules and needs to be fair," she said.

The findings of an investigation by Trump's administration into whether foreign-made steel imports pose a risk to US national security are expected to be released later this week. German Economy Minister Brigitte Zypries has written a letter to US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross in which she criticised Washington's plans to take action against steel imports, a German newspaper reported on Tuesday.

Merkel also said she deeply regretted Trump's decision to quit the Paris climate pact, which she described as an "ecological must". —Reuters ■



Fire engulfs a distribution center in central Tokyo, Japan on 20 June, 2017, in this still image taken from video obtained on social media. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Fire engulfs Tokyo storage building under demolition

TOKYO — Fire engulfed a storage building being demolished in the Japanese capital on Tuesday, injuring at least one person and sending clouds of black smoke into the sky.

Nearly 50 fire engines and ambulances were sent to the former dairy products distribution centre in eastern Tokyo, the Tokyo Fire Department said, as a helicopter hovered overhead.

It was unclear what caused the fire or if it was likely to spread to nearby buildings, a department spokesman said.

A 22-year-old man was injured but was conscious, he said. TV footage showed the building surrounded by what looked like scaffolding engulfed in flames and spewing dark smoke into the sky. The building has under demolition since March.—Reuters ■

Smoke in cabin forces SAS plane to make emergency landing in Poland

COPENHAGEN—A Scandinavian Airlines Systems plane was forced to make an emergency landing in Gdansk, Poland, shortly after takeoff on Tuesday due to smoke in the cabin, the airline said.

Eighty eight passengers and five crew members were evacuated upon landing and were un-

harmed, SAS spokesman Knut Morten Johansen said, adding that it was unclear what had caused the smoke.

The Airbus 319 had been due to fly from Gdansk to Copenhagen, and had been scheduled to arrive in the Danish capital at 0550 GMT, he said.—Reuters ■

A-Bomb Dome fragments retrieved in Hiroshima

HIROSHIMA—A group of researchers retrieved on Tuesday four fragments of the building known as the Atomic Bomb Dome, which barely survived the US atomic bombing of Hiroshima in World War II, from a nearby river.

The stone fragments are believed to have once formed part of a balcony column on the building, currently the Hiroshima Peace Memorial, according to the researchers from Hiroshima University, basing their assessment on photos taken before the bombing on 6 August, 1945.

It is the group's third

operation since 2014 to recover fragments of the dome from the Motoyasu River, which runs in front of the building. Many more pieces are believed to remain in the river.

The bomb detonated about 160 metres away from the dome but its frame remained intact. The building, which used to be an industrial exhibition hall, was the only structure left standing in the area.

The skeletal structure, which has become a symbol of peace, was designated as a World Heritage site by UNESCO in 1996.—Kyodo News ■



Former NBA basketball player Dennis Rodman speaks to the media as he leaves for North Korea. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Rodman gives Trump's "The Art of the Deal" as gift for N.Korea's Kim — AP

SEOUL — Former National Basketball Association star Dennis Rodman on Thursday gave North Korea's sports minister a copy of US President Donald Trump's book "The Art of the Deal" as a gift for the country's leader Kim Jong Un, the Associated Press said.

The copy of the book was not signed by Trump. Photos from the AP showed Rodman sporting a blazer on top of a pink shirt as well as his trademark facial piercings, handing over the book to the minister, Kim Il Guk.

Rodman has been

visiting North Korea since Tuesday, his latest trip to the isolated state.

On that day, the North released American student Otto Warmbier who had been held for 17 months and was said by his parents to be in a coma.

Rodman visited the North in 2013 and 2014. The US government has issued travel warnings to Americans against travel to the North.

Rodman met North Korean Olympic athletes, including judo gold medalist An Kum Ae, reported the AP, which has a bu-

reau in North Korea's capital of Pyongyang.

"All of you guys should be proud of yourselves, because, you know, a lot of people don't give you guys credit, because this is such a small country, and not many people from North Korea can compete around the world," Rodman was quoted as telling the athletes.

"But for you guys to come back here in your country, with a medal, that says a lot about North Korea, because people don't really take North Korea so seriously about sports or anything like that."

The former basketball star has said his visit is not linked to the White House. Before Trump became president, Rodman appeared twice on his "Celebrity Apprentice" show and praised the billionaire real estate developer on Twitter during last year's election campaign. Tension has escalated on the Korean peninsula over North Korea's nuclear and missile tests since last year.

North Korea has vowed to develop a nuclear-tipped missile capable of hitting the US mainland.—Reuters ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV AZURIT VOY. NO (0630)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV AZURIT VOY. NO (0630) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-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 CHUN AN SHIPPING PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV BANGPAKAEW VOY. NO (19)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGPAKAEW VOY. NO (19) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MSTL-2 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN SHIPPING CO LTD

Phone No: 2301928

Lynyrd Skynyrd sues ex-drummer over movie about 1977 plane crash

NEW YORK — Surviving members of Lynyrd Skynyrd have filed a lawsuit against the Southern rock band's former drummer to halt the production of a movie depicting the 1977 plane crash that killed lead singer Ronnie Van Zant.

Lead guitarist Gary Rossington, Ronnie's brother and current lead singer Johnny Van Zant, and others contend that "Street Survivors: The True Story of the Lynyrd Skynyrd Plane Crash," based on recollections of former drummer Artimus Pyle, violated a 1988 consent order governing the use of the band's name.

The lawsuit against Pyle and co-defendant Cleopatra Records Inc was made public on Friday in the US district court in Manhattan. A trial is scheduled for 11 July, court records show.

Pyle could not immediately be reached for comment. It is unclear whether he has a lawyer.

Brian Perera, Cleopatra's president, said in an interview he would be willing to settle, but



Members of the band Lynyrd Skynyrd backstage after performing in the 47th annual Grammy Awards at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, California, US on 13 February, 2005. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

added, "I understood my First Amendment rights. Filmmakers can make biopics."

Known for such songs as "Sweet Home Alabama" and "Free Bird," Lynyrd Skynyrd

went on hiatus after its touring plane crashed in Mississippi on 20 October, 1977, killing Ronnie Van Zant, guitarist Steven Gaines and four others. Twenty people, including Pyle, survived.

In 1987, surviving band members reunited for a "tribute tour," prompting litigation that led to the consent order. The plaintiffs, who include representatives of the estates of Ronnie Van Zant,

Gaines and late guitarist Allen Collins, said they had issued a cease-and-desist letter last summer to halt the defendants' plan for a movie titled "Free Bird."

They said that while Pyle, who left the band in 1991, "is free to exploit his own personal life story," the retitled movie would destroy their right to use the name and history of Lynyrd Skynyrd, causing "incalculable" loss and irreparable harm.

Such a movie "may contain a potentially inaccurate or skewed portrayal of Lynyrd Skynyrd's story as filtered solely through the eyes of Pyle masquerading as the 'True Story' of a defining moment in the band's history," the plaintiffs said.

"Street Survivors" is now being edited, and could be ready for theaters in 2018, Perera said.

The case was assigned to US District Judge Robert Sweet, who oversaw the 1988 consent order. The case is *Ronnie Van Zant Inc et al v Pyle et al*, US District Court, Southern District of New York, No 17-03360.—Reuters ■

Jack Black leads star-studded cast for 'Jumanji' reboot

BARCELONA — US actor Jack Black has some big comedic shoes to fill in his forthcoming project, which sees him take the lead role in "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle", a star-studded reboot of the hit 1995 comedy that starred the late Robin Williams.

Black said that he only watched the original film after being cast in the follow-up. He described Williams as a "genius" who was "at the peak of his powers" in the movie.

The original "Jumanji" saw Williams play a man who escapes from captivity inside a magical jungle-themed board game.

The new film sees that premise reversed, with the lead



Actor Jack Black.
PHOTO: REUTERS

characters journeying into the game's fantastical world.

"In this one we actually travel with the characters into the jungle and it's gorgeous and treacherous and exciting", Black told Reuters.

In another twist away from the original, which saw Williams' character enter the game as a child, this film sees child characters transform into adults when they get pulled into the game.

Black and co-star Nick Jonas were promoting the film at Cine Europe 2017, an annual cinema convention held in Barcelona.

In addition to Black and Jonas the film features screen muscleman Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, and comedian Kevin Hart.

"Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle" is due out in Cinemas in December.—Reuters

Livestreams, bad blood drive Katy Perry's 'Witness' to No1

LOS ANGELES — After weeks of promotion, a 96-hour livestream and an attempt to end some bad blood with Taylor Swift, Katy Perry's "Witness" made its debut atop the US Billboard 200 chart on Monday, the singer's third chart-topping album.

"Witness," in which Perry infused political themes into pop music, sold 162,000 albums, 51,000 songs and was streamed more than 19 million times in its opening week, totaling 180,000 album units, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

The Billboard 200 album chart tallies units from album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album).

Perry's promotional tour included numerous performances, interviews and a four-day livestream on YouTube before the album's release.

In one interview, Perry said she was ready to bury the hatchet on her long-running feud with Swift.

Swift has yet to respond, but she released her back catalog to streaming services on the same day as Perry's "Witness" release in what was widely seen as a bid to steal Perry's thunder.

On Monday, Swift's 2014 album "1989" climbed to No 31 on the Billboard 200 chart on the strength of nearly 19 million streams, just under the streaming figures for Perry's "Witness." Perry became the second solo female artist to top the Billboard chart this year, following on last week's No 1 debut from Halsey. Other new releases in the top 10 this week include hip hop singer SZA's "CTRL" at No 3, country music group Lady Antebellum's "Heart Break" at No 4 and punk rock band Rise Against at No 9 with "Wolves." —Reuters ■

Chinese artist hopes paper weapons will stir thoughts of peace

BEIJING — Chinese artist Li Hongbo hopes his paper sculptures of weapons — from AK-47 assault rifles to bullets and pistols — will inspire people to think about peace.

“I produced this artwork (because) after all, there is still military competition, war and fear in this world,” Li said ahead of the opening of his latest exhibit.

“I wonder if (my work) could make people ... pursue a kind of true peace, a truly beautiful world for mankind without any disputes,” he said.

“Ocean of Flowers”,

which opened at the Eight One Art Museum in Beijing on Sunday, comprises nearly 2,000 brightly coloured paper sculptures that can be folded up into weapons.

“A weapon that is used to kill people becomes a toy, a flower. It is an extreme contrast,” said 56-year-old Wang Duanting.

Li, who grew up in a farming family, said he always loved the flexibility of paper, which was invented in ancient China.

Similar to the way traditional Chinese honeycomb paper lanterns



Chinese artist Li Hongbo (C) and his assistants set up his work “Ocean of Flowers” at Eight One Art Museum in Beijing, China on 14 June, 2017. According to Li, nearly 2000 sculptures in shape of different weapons, made of hundreds of pieces of brightly coloured paper, reflect his thoughts about desire, destruction, hatred and war. PHOTO: REUTERS

are made, Li pastes narrow strips of paper together, which he then cuts and chisels to achieve a shape.

The paper objects can expand and contract like an accordion. “It’s very creative and these bullets are a lot of fun.

It looks like there’s elasticity in it,” said seven-year-old Hao Jiabei. The “Ocean of Flowers” exhibit was first shown in Sydney in 2012.

The Beijing edition, which runs to 20 July, is the largest showcase of Li’s work in his native country.—Reuters ■

“Madame Chic” author’s lifestyle resonates with Japanese women



Jennifer L Scott, author of the “Lessons from Madame Chic” series, speaks to Kyodo News in Los Angeles on 28 April, 2017. She said her books’ concepts of “less is more” and “the 10-item wardrobe” resonate in particular with Japanese women. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

LOS ANGELES —If becoming a best-selling self-published author in America came as a surprise to Jennifer L. Scott, making it big in Japan was an even bigger shock to the Southern California-based author of the “Lessons from Madame Chic” series.

By mid-2015, the 36-year-old had the number-one best-selling book in Japan. To date, “Lessons from Madame Chic,” released in Japan as “The French Only Own 10 Sets of Clothes” in 2014, has sold more than 720,000 copies. Scott’s “10-item wardrobe” has gone beyond her books and brought her to Japanese television. Comic book adaptations of her books

have also been released in Japan this year.

“It’s actually a mystery to me why it’s so popular in Japan,” Scott said of her books, published by Daiwa Shobo. “(But) I think that right now, the concept of less is more, the concept of the 10-item wardrobe, resonates in particular with Japanese women.”

Less than three years after Scott’s “20 stylish secrets” took hold in Japan, the “final lesson” in the trilogy — titled “Polish Your Poise with Madame Chic” in the United States — arrived on Japanese bookshelves on 20 May to educate readers on the art of poise.

“I think that as society

progresses, poise is becoming a lost art, especially in America,” said Scott.

“People are spending more time on screens, more time in an interactive virtual world rather than the real world...They’re losing how to act in real life.”

The art of poise is one of the many lifestyle tips that Scott adopted from her Parisian host family as a foreign exchange student. Most of the stories behind the lessons she learned revolve around the protagonist of her books, the so-called Madame Chic.

Chic, a French matriarch that took Scott into her upscale 16th arrondissement apartment for six months in 2001, taught

the young Californian “how the French elevate the little things in life to the art of living.” When Scott returned to the States, she brought back the French ways of eating without depriving oneself, dressing to one’s personal style, and purchasing “the best you can afford.”

Ten years later, the expecting mother published a series of blog posts about “The Top 20 Things I Learned While Living in Paris.” After some encouragement to publish, Scott wrote “Lessons from Madame Chic.” Despite her loyal blog following’s positive feedback, at first, “Nobody wanted the book,” said Scott. “I went to, like,

50 literary agents, and they all said ‘no’.”

It was only after she self-published in late 2011 and “became an instant best-seller on Amazon” as well as the “first self-published book reviewed in the New York Times” that the publishing world took notice of “Madame Chic.” Since Simon & Shuster published “Lessons from Madame Chic” in 2012, the book has been translated into 16 languages.

“It has changed my life,” Scott said of “Chic’s” success. “I’ve been to Japan twice because of it...I’ve never traveled to any of the countries specifically for this book, other than Japan.”—Kyodo News ■

mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule		
(21-6-2017 07:00am ~ 22-6-2017 07:00am) MST		
07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (Ep-2) (Jivitadana Hospital)
07:51	Am	Orchid Lover
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	An Ardent Aficionado of Traditional Design
09:03	Am	News
09:27	Am	A Life In The Ring
09:43	Am	Product of Myanmar - Myanmar Circular Stone Slab
09:54	Am	Will you feed the pigeons?
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Those Who Never Give Up (Ep-1) Aung Thamar Di Gold Shop
10:52	Am	A Nun's Creation in Fruit Carving
(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Tuesday 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
07:27	Pm	Visiting A Serene Village In The Northwest of Myanmar
07:42	Pm	Grow Back For Posterity “The Dawn of Development”
07:54	Pm	Art Students: Their Dream
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP-1) The Culture of Pennant Pillar
08:40	Pm	News Extra
08:47	Pm	Living in Off-Season
(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Tuesday 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 (21-6-2017, Wednesday)	
6:00 Am	5:05 Pm
◆ Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw	Wiffuse & Affire of Myanmar Ladies (Part-3)
7:00 Am	5:35 Pm
◆ Breakfast News	◆ MRTV Travelogue
7:30 Am	6:20 Pm
◆ Money Talk Myanmar	◆ Football Magazine
8:35 Am	6:35 Pm
◆ Solution for Agriculture	◆ Real Story Real Movie
10:30 Am	7:15 Pm
◆ Pyi Thu Ni Ti	◆ TV Drama Series
12:30 Pm	8:00 Pm
◆ TV Drama Series	◆ News/ International News/ Weather Report
1:50 Pm	8:35 Pm
◆ TV Drama Series	◆ Road to SEA Game
3:15 Pm	◆ Documentary
◆ TV Drama Series	◆ TV Drama Series
4:20 Pm	◆ Fine Arts — Bosom of Dramatic Performance
◆ Documentry (Let's Think Let's Change)	

Bout schedules announced for 30 June MMA fight in Thuwunna stadium



Aung La Nsang is preparing to fight in Yangon again. **PHOTO: PHOE THAW ZIN**

Bout schedules for 30 June Mixed Martial Art (MMA) fight in Thuwunna stadium were announced and the main event is a middleweight world championship match between reigning world champion Vitaly Bigdash (Russia) and Aung La Nsang (Myanmar).

The first MMA fight for 2017 will include 11 bouts involving mostly Myanmar fighters. The match between Bigdash and Aung La is a rematch as in an earlier match in Indonesia on the second week of January, Bigdash won Aung La on a point decision.

Aung La was not scheduled to fight in that match but stepped in after the scheduled opponent of Bigdash dropped out of the match with a short notice.

Aung La blamed the short preparation time for his loss then and said he is now prepared for this rematch. While Aung La is looking forward to a successful rematch in front

of home crowd, Bigdash, while considering Aung La to be one of the toughest fighters he ever faced and expecting a spectacular fight but is confident of retaining his title.

In addition to this main fight, there'll be fights between Saw Yan Paing (Myanmar) and Saw Ba Oo (Myanmar), Tha Pyay Nyo (Myanmar) and Htat Aung Oo (Myanmar), Bruno Pucci (Brazil) and Jimmy Yabo (Philippines), Shwe Kyaung Tha (Myanmar) and Ye Yint Thwe (Myanmar), South Korean Kevin "Oldboy" Chung and Zhong Qing Ya (China) and a woman match of Jenny Huang (China/Taipei) and Yamaguchi (Japan). There will be a Myanmar flyweight championship semi-final fight Saw Min Min vs Tun Lwin Moe and Ye Thway Ne vs Pat Kyaw Lin Aung. The winner of the two matches will fight in the final.

In the traditional Myanmar boxing match, Myo Htat Oo and a new blood Win Hlaing Oo will fight.— Nyi Myat Thawda ■



Swansea City's Gylfi Sigurdsson. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Swansea keen to keep hold of 'priceless' Sigurdsson

LONDON — Swansea City have received no firm bids for midfielder Gylfi Sigurdsson and will do everything in their power to hang on to the "priceless" Iceland international, the Premier League club's chairman Huw Jenkins has said.

The 27-year-old was one of the few players who shone for Swansea during a troubled campaign in which the club narrowly escaped relegation after winning four of their last five games. Sigurdsson chipped in with nine league goals and 13 assists, and Jenkins said the club did not want to sell either him or Spanish striker Fernando Llorente, who scored 15 goals. "We've not had any firm bids and if we ever get any firm bids then we will deal with them in the proper way," Jenkins told British media. "Our aim is to try and keep Gylfi and Fernando, keep our better players and to make sure we can add to (the) squad."

"It's hard to suggest what sort of value Gylfi has in today's market, but to us he is priceless and we've got to make sure we do everything in our power to make sure he stays with us." Jenkins added that striker Bafetimbi Gomis, who spent last season on loan at Olympique de Marseille, is likely to leave the club, with talks ongoing between Swansea and Turkish side Galatasaray. "Gomis to Galatasaray is possible, we have been talking," Jenkins said. "His intention is to move away from the club and when we can find a solution that suits both parties then we will do that and move forward—Reuters ■

KBZ Bank Cup 2017 to be held as part of preparations for 29th SEA Games

By Zaw Gyi

With participation of Hong Kong, Cambodia and Japan, the Myanmar Football Federation will organize the KBZ Bank Cup 2017 as part of preparations for U-22 soccer match 29th SEA Games.

The KBZ Bank Cup is seen as an opportunity for the young White Angels to prepare for the upcoming 2018 AFC U-23 Championship qualification, as well as the 2017 SEA Games, which will be held in July and August, respectively.

Myanmar U-22 team is a team which will participate in the 29th SEA Games in August. It's composed of 9 to 10 players from the National team who participated in 2015 U-20 World Cup.

Myanmar U-22 will play against Cambodia U-22, Hong

Kong U-22 and a Japanese university football team in the KBZ Bank Cup.

In the 2018 AFC U-23 Championship, they will face Australia, Singapore, and Brunei.

"As this KBZ Bank Cup 2017 is one of the preparations for the 29th SEA Games, we expect U-22 team will have achievements in the upcoming AFC U-23 championship qualification and 29th SEA Games," said CEO, Myanmar Football Federation, Phone Naing Zaw.

U-22 team will play friendly matches against Myanmar All Stars on June 24 and Inter Milan U-18 team in early August.

The team will also participate in 2018 AFC U-23 Championship Qualification to be hosted in Yangon in July.

Currently the team has been camped in Taunggyi. ■



Aung Thu tries to kick the ball in an international match: **PHOTO: PHOE THAW ZIN**