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Chin State will get priority for future business development in townships such as Mindat (pictured). Chin State is the least developed region in the country and one of the poorest. **PHOTO: TIN WIN**



Chin State gets priority for future business development

The Ministry of Planning and Finance said yesterday that Chin State will be prioritised for help in its future business development.

The news was learnt at a meeting in Yangon yesterday between First Vice President U

Myint Swe and members of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI). U Kyaw Win, Union Minister for Planning and Finance, said cooperation with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has already been

established and priority will be given to Chin State in the form of help for SMEs. Vice President U Myint Swe also instructed relevant ministries to develop the private sector in Chin State as soon as possible.

The Union Minister for

Planning and Finance and the Vice President were responding to Dr. Shwe Hein, the Vice President of the Chin State Chamber of Commerce, who spoke of the difficulties faced in the development lagging Chin State.

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China reopens Myanmar company bank accounts

China reopened Myanmar company bank accounts yesterday which were frozen on 14 June as part of an ongoing gambling probe, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Three banks — the Agricultural Bank of China, China Construction Bank and the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China — all located in Shwe Li, China, Yunnan Province near the Muse border post, have reopened the bank accounts of Myanmar companies, all of whom were engaged in border trade.

The move came following a series of talks between China and Myanmar. The statement released by the Ministry of Commerce yesterday stated that the bank accounts which were frozen have been reopened as of 6pm yesterday.

At a monthly meeting with entrepreneurs in Yangon yesterday, Vice President U Myint Swe expressed concern that the closure of bank accounts would impact bilateral trade in the future, pledging that the government is making its utmost efforts to reopen the bank accounts. Hours later, the accounts were re-opened. Market experts said continued shutdown of the accounts, which reportedly totalled Ks400 billion, could have affected domestic money circulation.

SEE PAGE-6

BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

Awarded By: EUROMONEY



Pyithu Hluttaw

Long-term projects that caused grievances to people discussed at Pyithu Hluttaw

Kyaw Thu Htet & Hmwe Kyu Zin (MNA)

At yesterday's Pyithu Hluttaw meeting it was decided that the Hluttaw would record the motion urging the Union Government to re-scrutinise long-term projects which caused loss of life and destruction of property, as well as those enterprises approved by previous governments which met with disapproval by the public.

"Presently, in accomplishing projects to be implemented, only the projects which will be beneficial for the State and in harmony with the national policies and objectives have been being granted in accord with laws, rules and regulations. Had there been cases that harmed the public benefit, necessary legal actions are being taken against those who violated, by withdrawing leases, investigating and taking actions against violators and making the violators pay compensation for damages. Regarding the granted projects for enterprises, cases that harmed the public are now emerging in many places. Hence authorities concerned are reviewing systematically submitted projects for taking necessary actions", said U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance.

Thirteen Hluttaw representatives discussed the motion, including Daw Aye Mya Mya Myo of Kyauktan constituency.



Pyithu Hluttaw is been convened in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

"As a democratic government, projects under implementation should be reviewed as to how much they were successful and beneficial. For the Thilawa industrial zone project, a total of 181 land plots had been reclaimed since 2010. Out of them, only more than 20 plots are being used as sites for enterprises, with 30 land plots or so are completely empty like farming fields. The remaining plots were fenced. The project was created just after local people had to abandon the farmland on which their forefathers worked for long. Although it was prescribed that the land must be re-confiscated if it was not used within 6 months starting from the date it was granted to be used, and simultaneously necessary volume of the land area must be confiscated, actual situations do not comply with laws, rules and regulations."

Daw Phyu Phyu Thin of Min-

galar Taungnyunt constituency agreed.

"Incorrect projects led to great losses for many people. And due to mismanagement, people are suffering from the ill effects of natural disasters. Projects are making removal of mountains and mining beyond the authority they are granted. Making dams at the



U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance. **PHOTO: MNA**

upper reaches of the Ayeyawady River, extracting marble from the bottom of rivers, sieving gold and mining are causing dry rivers. These are the side-effects of granting long-term leases. Now these enterprises should be controlled. Granting sports grounds that are used for public health to be used by enterprises are against the investment law. There are a lot of enterprises unaccepted by the public in Mingalar Taungnyunt township."

After the discussions of the 13 Hluttaw representatives, the Deputy Minister clarified some of the projects that were of concern.

"Successive governments in Myanmar granted 30 or 60-year long-term projects to foreign investors, national entrepreneurs and those who operated joint-venture enterprises between government and private sectors to fulfill the needs of the country. They include extraction of teak, produc-

tion of oil and natural gas, extraction of gems and jewels, mining, city development and urbanization, construction and exports, factories and other projects. The incumbent government has carried out the tasks of reviewing and scrutinising them after taking conclusions, findings and suggestions from the observatory teams on the natural environment."

The motion presented by Daw Mi Kun Chan of Paung constituency was discussed by U Win Myint Oo (a) U Nay Myo of Nyaungshwe constituency, U Nyan Hein of Thanbyuzayat constituency, Dr U Aung Khin of Pyin Oo Lwin constituency, U Nay Lin Tun of Bokepyin constituency, U Kan Myint of Thayet constituency, Daw Mar Mar Khaing of Thaton constituency, U Myint Wai of Gwa constituency, Daw Nan Htwe Thu of Phasaung constituency, U Bo Bo Oo of Sanchaung constituency, U Yi Mon (a) U Maung Tin Thit of Pobbathiri constituency and U Win Thein Zaw of Salingyi constituency.

Today's meeting made approval of the report of Pyithu Hluttaw Education Up-grading Committee, approval of an amendment of special acts on marriage (bill) and informing the acknowledgement of the bill on oil and oil products sent by the Amyotha Hluttaw, with amendment attached.

The 21st day meeting will be held on 26 June. ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

Allocation of ambulances, medical staff stipends discussed at Amyotha Hluttaw

Thura Zaw & Mi Mi Phyo (MNA)

The allocation of ambulances to hospitals, clothing and food allowances for medical staff, and tobacco control were among the issues discussed at yesterday's Amyotha Hluttaw meeting.

Dr Myint Htwe, the Union Minister for Health and Sports replied to the question raised by U Sai Pan Pha of constituency 12 in Kayah State about how ambulances are allocated to hospitals.

"The Ministry of Health and Sports had given ambulances to hospitals at the central level, with 100-bed hospitals at the district level already receiving ambulances in previous years. Now there are only 94 township

general hospitals in 10 townships left to be provided with ambulances. Under the present principles, ambulances will be given out to township-level hospitals only. For the time being, there are not any programmes to provide ambulances to station hospitals, station and rural health departments, or rural health departments (branches). Therefore, there is no arrangement to provide an ambulance to Hosae village in Maesae township."

Regarding a question about clothing and food allowances for medical staff raised by Dr Kyaw Ngwe of constituency 10, Magway Region, Dr Myint Htwe said the monetary allowances may soon increase.

"Of all the medical staff



Dr Myint Htwe, Union Minister for Health and Sports. **PHOTO: MNA**

serving in the departments under the Ministry of Health and Sports, midwives, nurses and matrons were granted Ks30 for food per month each and Ks5 for suits per year.

Now the Ministry has submitted to the Economic Committee of the Union Government to grant Ks20,000 instead of Ks30 for food per month during the training period and Ks20,000 for a suit per year instead of Ks5. If the Union Government's approval is made, all the staff would enjoy allowances according to the newly-set rates. Afterward, the Union Minister replied to questions raised by U Mahn Law Moun of constituency 8 in Chin State, U Lal Min Htan of constituency 10 in Chin State, and U Myo Htat (a) Salai Myo Htike of constituency 12 in Chin State.

After that, regarding "the motion urging the Union Government to deal with the weakness in arresting the cases by

authorities concerned although laws on control of cigars and tobacco was promulgated," put forward by Dr San Maung Maung of constituency 1, in Bago Region, Dr Mya Thauang of constituency 7 of Bago Region, Dr Than Win of constituency 1 of Mandalay Region, Major Zaw Tun, Tatmadaw representative, Dr Zaw Lin Htut of constituency 9 in Mon State, Dr Tin Tin Win of constituency 5 in Bago Region, U Win Zaw of constituency 7 in Kachin State, U Kyaw Ni Naing of constituency 11 in Shan State and Daw Htu May of constituency 11 in Rakhine State seconded respectively.

It has been learnt that 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 5th Regular Session's 20th day meeting will be held on 26th June. ■

Vice President U Myint Swe attends 7th regular meeting with Myanmar entrepreneurs

With a view to fulfilling the needs of entrepreneurs encountered in the respective sectors, and to promptly, smoothly and successfully operate their businesses, the 7th regular meeting with Myanmar entrepreneurs was held at the meeting hall of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) in Lanmadaw Township, Yangon yesterday.

The meeting was attended by Vice President and Chairman of the Private Sector Development Committee U Myint Swe, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, U Ohn Win, Dr. Than Myint, U Kyaw Win, Deputy Ministers Dr. Tun Naing and U Win Maw Tun, Myanmar Central Bank Deputy Governor U Set Aung, Yangon region government Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, Directors General, UMFCCI President and central executive committee members, associate organizations of UMFCCI, Chin State chamber of commerce and industry vice chairman and departmental officials.

In his speech to the meeting, the Vice President said these meetings had been held since 2016 December and had reached the seventh time. In the past six meetings 91 suggestions were made all of which had been responded back to relevant businesses through the UMFCCI.

The regular meetings were



Vice President U Myint Swe discusses respective sectors at 7th regular meeting with Myanmar entrepreneurs at the hall of UMFCCI in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

held once every two months while five work committees responsible for five main components were holding their respective work committee meetings monthly and to date 25 work committee meetings have been held. Responsible persons from these work committees are in attendance today in order to follow up on the matters submitted by the entrepreneurs, said the Vice President.

A workshop was held to set-up a framework and process for private sector development, set priority works by work commit-

tees to be undertaken within six months and programs to be undertaken in states and regions. Accordingly, meetings were held in May by the work committee on sourcing financing in Mandalay Region and the work committee on human resources development in Mandalay and Yangon regions. Necessary coordination with relevant ministerial departments was also done.

With the technical and financial support of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), DaNa Facility and UK

aid, workshops titled “Training for Increasing and Facilitating Investments in Myanmar” were held at Hpa-an in lower Myanmar and Sagaing in upper Myanmar.

During the FY 2017-2018, foreign investments of US\$ 2.1 billion and local investments of more than Ks 500 billion entered into the Thilawa Special Economic Zone said the Vice President.

Setting policies alone is not enough to encourage private sector. Prevailing laws need to be assessed and amended as

well as meeting regularly with main leaders of each economic sector to connect the public and private sectors. He urged the businesses to openly discuss the difficulties they were facing and come up with suggestions.

Afterwards, Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint and Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win explained about work done by each ministry on private sector development.

Next, UMFCCI President U Zaw Min Win gave suggestions on private sector development and then UMFCCI border trade development work committee and Muse-Namhkan border trade merchants association discussed on border trade development, officials from Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association, Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association, Myanmar Lubricant Importers and Distributors Association and Chin State Chamber of Commerce and Industry suggested and discussed on their respective sectors. The Vice President, Union Ministers and officials responded and provided suggestions for coordination regarding the matters discussed.

The regular meeting came to a close after Vice President U Myint Swe delivered a closing speech.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Ministry of Information to work with press council for media freedom

By Yi Yi Myint &
Ohnma Thant

In a meeting with officials of the Myanmar Press Council in Yangon yesterday, the Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint said the ministry wanted to work together with the council for increased media freedom and news media development.

In the annual press freedom rankings of countries by Reporters Sans Frontières (RSF), Myanmar improved dramatically, jumping to 131st place this year from 143rd place last year. The improved ranking made Myanmar No. 3 among ASEAN coun-

tries behind Indonesia and the Philippines and ahead of Thailand.

But the Union Minister said more work still needs to be done for continued progress into the future.

“The striving for further progress depends on news media law, rules, practice, media personnel, the activities of media organisations and media organisations’ work on increasing and developing media freedom. The Myanmar Press Council is the media organisation that could effectively work for media development and suggests doing it earnestly in the coming years.

The ministry will cooperate in doing this”, Dr. Pe Myint said.

Afterward, Myanmar Press Council vice chairmen and officials discussed media development, News Media Law, the right to obtain news, training media personnel and resolution of complaints.

The Union Minister coordinated the discussions and then delivered a concluding speech.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister met with the Myanmar Journalists Association, the Myanmar Writers Union and the Myanmar Journalists Network at the Printing and Publishing Department meeting hall on



Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint addresses the Myanmar Press Council meeting in Yangon. **PHOTO: HLA MOE**

Theinbyu Street in Yangon.

Officials from the Myanmar Journalists Association, Myanmar Writers Union and Myanmar Journalists Network discussed their present work and requirements for news media

development.

Matters relating to increasing media freedom, collecting and displaying of news, News Media Law and journalism ethics were also discussed.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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Flower vases from Twentay mainly go to Yangon's parks

LOCAL clay pot manufacturers say that a wide range of flower vases produced from Twentay the most accessible delta town from Yangon, have chiefly been sent to Yangon's parks and gardens, according to a report from the Myawady Daily.

The majority of earthenware manufactured in the town are used as decorative objects in parks, gardens and other public recreation areas, said Daw Hla Yee, an owner of a family vase production business in Twentay.

"A wide variety of earthenware with different styles and sizes are available in Twentay. We also sold clay pots predomi-

Potters making in clay on pottery wheel in Twentay Township. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR**

nately to Ye, Dawei and Myeik townships of Taninthayi Region," she added.

An experienced pot maker in partnership with a helper can

make about 1,000 traditional earthen pot toys per day.

"We sell a water pot for between Ks 1,500 and Ks 8,000 each, while the selling price of

a vase ranges from Ks 200 to Ks 3,500, but the small-size toy pots are currently sold for Ks 50 to Ks 100 per item," Daw Hla Yee said.—GNLM ■

Asahi launches new beverage brand in Myanmar

JAPANESE beverage giant Asahi Group Holdings Ltd. has launched a honey-based energy drink as its very first original product in Myanmar.

The new product, Honey Gold, was put on the market by a joint venture, Asahi Loi Hein Co., 51 per cent owned by Asahi and the rest by local beverage manufacturer Loi Hein Co.

Honey Gold, available in a 250-milliliter can manufac-

tured in Myanmar, was officially launched after conducting a large-scale sampling campaign at more than 750 locations in two major cities. The company tested over 200 recipes for its new energy drink, which contains natural honey and vitamins, in an effort to cater to local tastes.

Founded in 1996, Loi Hein has worked together with Thai firms to distribute and manufacture beverages including

Myanmar's bestselling water brand, Alpine.

Loi Hein founder Sai Sam Htun told local media that the joint venture plans to diversify Loi Hein's soft drink brand, Blue Mountain, to include Asahi's Calpis brand as well as tea and coffee in coming years.

He also said his company will set up more joint ventures with foreign companies to boost output of its other brands.

Since Myanmar opened its doors to foreign investors in 2011, international beverage producers have rushed to partner with local manufacturers to compete in the local market. Coca-Cola Co. opened its bottling plant in Myanmar in mid-2013 after the United States lifted decades-old sanctions against the Southeast Asian country while PepsiCo Inc. started local production in March 2014.—Kyodo News ■

Agro export declines this fiscal year

EXPORTS from the agriculture industry as of 16 June this fiscal year showed a slight decline compared to that of last fiscal year, according to official figures provided by the Commerce Ministry.

There are seven export sectors in Myanmar; agricultural, mineral, forest, fishery, finished industrial goods, animal product and other export sectors.

Out of the seven sectors, only the agricultural industry

this fiscal year shows a small decrease in export value against last year, earning over \$742 million. It earned the second highest export value after finished industrial goods. The total export value from 1 April to 16

June this fiscal year reached over US\$ 2.4 billion, an increase of \$ 238 million more than that in the same point last year. Currently, Myanmar's agro products are mainly flowing into China's market.—Ko Htet ■

Eel fishermen suffer losses due to declining prices

EEL fishermen are struggling financially with declining prices during the monsoon season, as Myanmar's eel market is solely dependent on demand from China.

One viss (3.6 pounds) of eels fetched Ks 8,000 during the

summer when there was short supply in the market. The eels sell for Ks 5,600 per viss when both the supply and the demand are high in the rainy season, said a businessman from the eel purchase depot in Yedashe Town.

The eels fetched a good price in summer as demand exceeded the supply. During this rainy season, the supply at Muse market rises. Currently the price is declining day by day in spite of the high demand, he continued.

Some rural people are engaged in eel harvesting on a manageable scale. However, some of them utilise electrocution methods instead of the traditional method of catching, causing difficulties in eel harvesting.—Ko Lwin (Swa) ■



FDI of over US\$ 2.85 billion permitted in Hotel and Tourism sector so far

Foreign investment flowed heavily into the manufacturing and real estate sectors in the past two months.—Mon Mon ■

MIC permits 66 foreign and 24 Myanmar citizen investment projects

ufacturing business, livestock and fisheries, transportation and telecommunications, real estate development sector and other services while Myanmar citizen investments will enter the industrial and hotel and tourism sectors. —Htet Myat ■

through Muse. Currently, many rice merchants engaged at Muse depot are unable to trade as their bank accounts were blocked by Chinese banks, Dr Soe Tun, the vice chairman of Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) told the City News. Rice merchants said that excess stock in the local market is hurting the market. The prices of rice have decreased Ks1,000 per bag since the account suspensions earlier this month. — GNLM ■

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း: **"Sunday Special"** အချုပ်ပို (၈)
 မျက်နှာပါစင်သော The Global New Light of Myanmar
 နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကို ငွေအားကုန်သွယ်ရေးကဏ္ဍတွင် ဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

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Door-to-door water supply facilities being installed in Butalin Township

DOOR-to-door water supply facilities have been constructed in villages facing difficulty in accessing drinking water, said an official from the Butalin Township Rural Development Department.

The total cost for the project will reach approximately more than Ks10 million, Ks6.1 million being funded from the region government and Ks7 million from residents.

Under the development

project, a 1,600-gallon water tank was built in Poekon Village, Htanaunggon Village-tract, Butalin Township, Monywa District, installing water pipes to supply drinking water to the village with 80 households.

The construction work began on 23 June and the project is expected to be completed next month, said U Win Hsan from the aforesaid department.

The water tank is 12 feet

long, 12 feet wide and 20 feet high. "We, all villagers, warmly welcomed the door-to-door water project that will help us get drinking water quickly and easily," one of resident said.

He went on to say that there are many difficulties to get drinking water in the past. Rain is a collection of safe water access. Villagers attain the rainwater from the earthen reservoirs in their own ways.—Zaw Phyto (Butalin) ■

Truck driver injured in Friday morning crash

A truck driver escaped with minor injuries in a truck accident that happened on Yangon-Mandalay Road on Friday morning, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

A 12-wheeled truck driven by Tun Lynn Kyaw, 35, with one other person on board, crashed into a 10-wheeled truck stopped near mile post No. 195/1 on the road near northern Thabyaytan Village, Yedashe Township, Bago Region as the driver lost control

of his vehicle.

The driver of the 12-wheeled truck sustained minor injuries while the front part of the 12-wheeled truck and left and back part of the 10-wheeled truck were badly damaged in the car crash, according to investigators.

Action is being taken against Tun Lynn Kyaw for reckless driving under Section 338 of Myanmar's Penal Code.—Ko Lwin (Swa) ■

454 volunteers of BFM donate blood

PHILANTHROPISTS of the KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation donated blood at the National Blood Center.

The donation was held on 9th, 16th and 23th June respectively, reaching the total blood donors 454 in three days.

On the first day 180 staff members participated in the event, 164 staff donated on 16 June and 110 staff donated on 23 June. BFM foundation held



their first blood donation event in 2015 between November and December in Yangon and Upper Mandalay. The founda-

tion chairman Daw Nang Lai Kham and over 900 KBZ staff have participated in blood donations.—Thura Lwin (ECO) ■

New industrial zone to be established in Yangon Region

A PROJECT to establish a new industrial zone in Yangon is targeted to start before the end of this year, according to a report of the Myawady Daily.

In cooperation with South Korea, the new manufacturing zone will be built on 600 acres of land in Nyaunghnabin Village, Hmawby Township, Yangon, said a spokesperson from the Urban and Housing Development Department under the Ministry of Construction.

The aforementioned depart-

ment signed an agreement with LH (Korea Land and Housing Corporation), a Korean government-owned corporation and feasibility study on the proposed plan has begun.

One of the project implementers said the project will start only after completion of a feasibility study that will last for at least half a year. The new scheme is part of the 2013 agreement of the Joint Committee of Economic Cooperation of Myanmar and South Korea.—GNLM ■

China reopens Myanmar company bank accounts

FROM PAGE-1

Myanmar businessmen who export rice, pulses, maize and sugar and who import fertilizer and tractors across the Myanmar-China border were among those whose accounts were affected.

Last week, soon after the accounts were frozen on 14 June, a delegation led by the Union Minister for Commerce met with the Consulate-General of China to open negotiations. The Ministry

also contacted the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar to talk about possible solutions when more bank accounts were frozen on 16 June.

The Ministry also contacted the Secretary of Shwe Li's Party Committee and an official from Shwe Li's Foreign Affairs Department for an official explanation as to why they froze the bank accounts and made negotiations to reopen the bank accounts as soon as possible.

A discussion meeting was held on 17 June in the Myanmar Pulse, Beans and Sesame Seed 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.

On 18 June the Director-General of the Muse 105-mile trade camp and the District Administrator of Muse met with a delega-

tion led by Shwe Li's Deputy Mayor in Muse. The Deputy Mayor of Shwe Li said 345 bank accounts were frozen to investigate possible links to internet gambling and smuggled goods from users in LwawMonKoo, Anwei townships and Inner Mongolia. He said 132 bank accounts owned by Burmese citizens were included when they froze the accounts.

The Deputy Mayor said it will take some time to finish the overall inspection of all the

frozen bank accounts, but said they would do their best to reopen bank accounts not connected with the crimes. In a phone call to the Chinese Embassy on 18 June, they said a special committee was formed to investigate these allegations, with the Deputy Mayor of Shwe Li in charge. Embassy officials said the process was a "direct administration" and had not been reported to the Yunnan Government.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Chin State gets prioritisation for business development

FROM PAGE-1

Dr. Shwe Hein said SMEs in Chin State did not receive any loans and requested reductions of many requirements in applying for loans at SMIDB Bank in Monywa, Sagaing.

Other officials said that help

for Chin State, one of the least developed and most poverty stricken regions in Myanmar, has already started.

Ministry of Commerce Permanent Secretary U Toe Myint Aung said the consumer affairs department of the commerce

ministry is already opened in Chin State and Directorate of Investment and Company Administration-DICA Director General U Aung Naing Oo told of an investment bank branch opening in September. A Ministry of Commerce office will also

open to assist with trade and investment in Chin State, it was learnt.

Replying to a question about providing market contacts, planting and packaging techniques and investments for exporting Chin State organic products lo-

cally and internationally, specifically neighbouring India, China and Southeast Asian countries, Myanmar Central Bank director general U Win Thaw said the market for Chin State coffee is possible, as the U.S. and Japan are showing interest.—GNLM ■

China, India, Japan hamper Asia oil demand growth, efforts to balance market

SINGAPORE — As the global oil market frets about a stubborn supply glut, faltering demand growth in key Asian crude importers is further hampering efforts to restore market balance.

A fuel glut in China, a hang-over from demonetization in India, and an ageing, declining population in Japan are holding back crude oil demand growth in three of the world's top four oil buyers.

The three countries make up a fifth of 97 million barrels per day (bpd) in global oil consumption, and any hiccups among them will mean lower-than-expected oil demand growth in Asia, helping to undercut the OPEC-led effort to support prices.

"We are indeed seeing lower demand from more than a few clients — air, marine, road, industrial ... They are actually consuming less fuel than anticipated," said Michael Corley, managing director of Mercatus Energy Advisors.

In China, vying with the United States as the world's biggest oil importer, imports in May were still at a near record of 9 million bpd, but a looming cut in refinery operations is set to hit demand for crude oil in the third quarter.

In India, which overtook Japan as the world's third-biggest oil importer last year, crude imports fell by more than 4 per cent between April and May to around



Employees close a valve of a pipe at a PetroChina refinery in Lanzhou, Gansu province in 2011. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

4.2 million bpd C-INIMP, as after-effects of the country's recent demonetization programme hit

consumption. For the first five months of the year, India's imports are about flat to the same

period last year, following an annual rise of 7.4 per cent last year.

In Japan, Asia's most advanced economy, oil demand has been in structural decline for years due to a declining, ageing population, and the rise of cars with better mileage or that use alternative fuels.

Japan in April imported around 3.5 million bpd C-JPIMP-TOT, down from a peak of 5.9 million bpd hit in 2005.

Coupled with plentiful supplies, the stuttering demand in Asia has contributed to a 20 per cent price fall for Brent crude oil LCOc1 to around \$45 per barrel, in what is the biggest slump in a first half of a year since 1997.—Reuters ■



India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) C38, carrying Cartosat-2 and 30 other satellites, lifts off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, India, on 23 June 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

India sends 31 satellites into space, some for foreign customers

NEW DELHI — India fired a rocket carrying 31 small satellites into space on Friday, several of them for European countries looking for high resolution earth images, underlining its strength as a low-cost provider of services in space.

The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) launched a 712 kg Cartosat-2 satellite for earth observation and 30 other tiny satellites from Sriharikota in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh at 9.29 am (0359GMT).

The rocket is carrying satellites from India and 14 other countries, including Austria, Bel-

gium, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovakia, as part of an international commercial arrangement by the state-run Indian Space Research Organisation. (ISRO)

"Congratulations to ISRO on its 40th successful Polar satellite launch ... You make us proud!" Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted.

Modi's government has been promoting the space program as a showcase of low-cost technology. In February, the ISRO launched 104 satellites in a single mission, most of them for foreign customers.

In 2015, the global space in-

dustry was valued at \$323 billion, according to Space Foundation report, and India accounted for just 0.6 per cent of that business.

Friday's lift-off comes 18 days after India put a three-tonne satellite, its heaviest, into the orbit matching the technical know-how of the United States, Russia, China, Japan and the European Space Agency.

"Our effort of continuing to provide increased earth observation, navigation as well as communication will continue," ISRO chief A.K. Kiran Kumar said in a speech after the launch.—Reuters ■

Western Japan city OKs plan to host US carrier-based aircraft

YAMAGUCHI, (Japan) — The western Japan city of Iwakuni expressed support Friday for a plan to bring dozens of US carrier-based aircraft to the Marine Corps' Iwakuni base under an agreement reached between the Japanese and US governments over the realignment of US forces in 2006.

Iwakuni Mayor Yoshihiko Fukuda said he decided to accept the plan amid the tense security situation involving North Korea, while vowing to ensure a favorable living environment for residents near the base, which is set to become one of the largest US air bases in the Far East in terms of the number of aircraft to be stationed there.

The carrier-based aircraft will come from the US Navy's Atsugi air facility in Kanagawa Prefecture, southwest of Tokyo. They are attached to the carrier Ronald Reagan deployed at the US Navy's Yokosuka base in the same prefecture.

Sixty-one aircraft, including F/A-18 fighters, will be brought to the Iwakuni base in stages through next May, raising the number of total aircraft stationed there to about 120 — around the same as that at the US Kadena Air Base in the southern island prefecture of Okinawa.

The relocation is intended to address noise problems at the Atsugi base, which is located in an urban area.—Kyodo News ■

Heavy rain forecast in Sri Lanka, floods, landslides feared

COLOMBO — Heavy rain is forecast in the southern part of Sri Lanka, leading to concerns that the country might be hit again by floods, an official here said on Friday.

Spokesman for the Disaster Management Centre Pradeep Kodippilly told Xinhua that heavy rain ranging from 75 mm to 100 mm could occur, and therefore people should remain vigilant.

"We have issued an alert only. If the need arose, we will evacuate people due to threat of floods or landslides," he said.

Issuing a special weather

bulletin on Friday noon, the Department of Meteorology said showery weather was expected during next few days in the southwest of the country and possibility of continuing in some districts of the central and southern parts of the country are high.

"Showers or thunder-showers will occur in western, Sabaragamuwa, central and north-western provinces and in Galle and Matara districts in the south of the country. Fairly heavy showers (about 75-100 mm) can be expected at some places," it forecast.—Xinhua ■

Meteorological information and natural disasters

Khin Maung Oo

Droughts, floods, storms and severe climate changes are man-made disasters and natural calamities which can uproot people's lives. Though these cannot be prevented, we can take precautionary measures to alleviate the impacts of severe climate changes. The most important thing is to effectively deal with risks of various kinds of dangers which can happen to us due to unprecedented climate changes. To do so, it is most important to gather meteorological facts and figures as much as we can.

With a view to solving the fundamental need, the incumbent government is arranging to open a new meteorological radar center in Mandalay in 2018. It has been learnt that the new radar center is to be built near the Mandalay international airport. Now that construction work has already been completed, necessary parts and equipments are being installed. As for the capability of the newly installed radar, it can collect news and information on weather conditions within a radius of 100 kilometers. Hence it has the capacity to cover the whole Mandalay Region.

Thanks to the power and potential

of the newly installed radar, it would be possible to record to the fullest the data on meteorological conditions of the whole Mandalay Region. So long as we have reliable facts and figures on meteorology, we can forecast imminent weather conditions as accurately as possible. If so, the nearest possible forecasts on weather can help us to take precautionary measures, which will lessen the harmful impact on the lives of the people. As a consequence, we can avoid loss of many lives and destruction of government properties and machineries. Moreover, the acquired reliable data on meteorology can indicate changing

weather conditions, which can support us in making wise decisions in implementing national economic projects including the agricultural sector.

According to the need to take precautions against natural disasters, 3 meteorological radars and 30 automated weather detectors have been installed across the nation so as to anticipate cyclones during the period—from 2013 to 2017. The weather of a country is directly related to the lives of the people. To sum up, we wholeheartedly welcome and support the Union Government's concerted efforts to acquire meteorological data and information. ■

Love, yes. Hate no.

Khin Maung Myint

Our Lord Buddha had taught us to be compassionate towards all beings in the whole universe. The word compassionate embodies a wide range of meanings. To mention a few, it is a feeling of pity, sympathy, empathy and love. Likewise, other religions taught their disciples to have love towards others. For instance the Christians are taught to love others as they would love themselves. Also the teachings of other religions like Hindu and Islam also prioritized love. No religion in the world taught hatred

However, hate is abound everywhere in the world. Hate stems from various reasons and are based on different sources. Of all the various reasons and sources, I would like to discuss only two of them: hate based on religion and hate based on race or colour of the skins.

Throughout the history, we had witnessed what hate had done to the mankind. Hatred between religions had led to many wars and conflicts. The most significant being those fought between the Christians and the Muslims during the days of the Wars of Crusades. Then the wars between the Romans, Egyptians, Turks, Greeks, Persians and Mongols of the olden days can be seen as racial wars on the surface, but in my opinion they could have been religiously motivated.

The two world wars in the modern age were racially motivated. The ultra nationalism or racism of the Nazis had drawn the world into those two world wars. Here, it can also be

analysed that the colour of the skin also played an important role as the Nazism was based on the White Supremacist ideologies.

Other examples of racism and colour discriminations can be seen everywhere in the modern world. The most significant ones being those of the colonial Africa and the United States of America, where colour discriminations had led to many blood sheds. Though it could be presumed that today, as the African countries are independent such conflicts had diminished, but in a few

It is the avowed duty of the leaders of every religion to teach and guide the followers of their faiths to nurture love instead of hate towards others.

isolated cases they had taken the forms of religious ones—the bombing of the Coptic Christian Church in Egypt. and kidnapping of some Christian school girls in Nigeria by the Boko Haram insurgents who are Muslims,

However, in the US, the hatred and discriminations towards the black people still persist. At one time those attitudes seemed to have

diminished, but they are on the rise again lately. This time around, the hatreds are not only directed at the blacks but also at the Muslims, Jews, Hispanics and even Asians.

If we observe the above incidents, whether they be instigated by religion or race or skin colour, it is quite clear that hatred is the main driving force or the culprit behind them. I had often used a quotation in some of my previous articles wherever relevant. I am not sure who made that quotation, but it is very meaningful and logical. It says: "Love breeds love and hatred breeds hatred". I have modified that as "Hatred breeds terror and terror breeds hatred", to make my point that we should rid ourselves of hatreds.

After briefly discussing the situations in the world, let us observe the situations in our country. I am now in my eighties, and never in my lifetime have I ever witnessed hatred growing so strong amongst our people, like now. Today, people are quarrelling and beating up or killing one another for no apparent reason. I blame such actions on the feelings of grudges, animosities and grievances that gave way to hatreds and are being harboured in their minds. So, at the slightest incidence of arguments or confrontations they vent their hatreds with excessive force. The upsurge in murder rates are testimonies of the growth of hatreds. If hatreds could be replaced with loves the country would be a better place to live in.

Thus we should get rid off such undesirable mindsets. It is the avowed duty of the leaders of every

religion to teach and guide the followers of their faiths to nurture love instead of hate towards others. I had mentioned above that every religion taught love and none taught hatred, but regrettably some religious leaders of today are preaching hatred towards other religions. They are contradicting the teachings of their religions and are instigating unrest in the country by making hate speeches in the guise of sermons to their followers.

Worst still is the fact that the advance of the information technologies had made access to the social media very easy. This provided the platforms for the hate campaigns by the unscrupulous persons, including some religious leaders from some religions, including ours'. We are observing the lack of compassion or love among our younger generations. Everytime I was on Facebook, hate remarks and comments were always popping up, which are very distressful indeed.

In my opinion the religious leaders shouldn't be involved in such hate campaigns. It is their avowed duty to perpetuate the good teachings of their respective religions. They should know best that the essence of every religion is compassion. For us, Buddhists, we revered our lord Buddha as the Compassionate Buddha, because He was full of compassion toward all beings—celestial beings, humans, animals and spirits. As good Buddhists, let us nurture love instead of hate as our Lord Buddha had taught us. I would like to conclude my article with this slogan "Love, yes. Hate, no!" ■



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing observes Fortification and Engineering Installations Museum in Balaklava. **PHOTO: MNA**

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits museums in Russia

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing who was in the Russian Federation visited Archestrakyigar Mehailar Church in Sevastopol at 5 pm standard time on 22 June and gave donation to the church.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing then visited Fortification and Engineering Installations Museum in Balaklava. The museum officer explained about Soviet era submarines constructed to resist nuclear

bomb, submarines used from Soviet era to now and the construction of underground canal. Then, the Senior General and party toured the galleries in the underground canal.

Afterward, the Senior General and party walked on viewing along the strand street in Balaklava and visited the museum of the Black Sea Fleet headquarter where naval vessels, armaments and equipments used in the past were displayed. — Myanmar News Agency ■

DPTOA to add rubbish collection to their itinerary

By May Thet Hnin

THE Domestic Pilgrimage and Tour Operators Association, associated with the Myanmar Tourism Federation, will add rubbish collection to their local itinerary in the coming open season, said the vice chairman of the association.

“This movement aims to inspire public participation. We will inaugurate rubbish collection activity while going on pilgrimages, which will raise the public’s awareness to clean up the large amounts of rubbish discarded in public places”, the vice chairman said. “We hope the authorities concerned join this plan so that they can supervise a systematic system of waste disposal”, he added.

With better infrastructure

and rising hotel services, the frequency of domestic travel has increased dramatically in the past five years. There were 6.4 million local pilgrims, visitors and picnickers in 2016. This year there will be 7.1 million local visitors, it is estimated.

“At present, most of the tour companies are targeting inbound tourists rather than local visitors, who are actually the main buyers of local products. The tour agencies are offering various tour destinations across the country. We can see China gives more priority to their local visitors”, said U Myo Gyi. The inbound travellers travel all over the country especially to the UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Myanmar such as Hanlin, Beikthano, Sri Ksetra. ■

Myanmar Gazette

Appointment of Permanent Secretary

Union Government has appointed Director-General U Win Tint, Department of Construction, Ministry of Construction as the Permanent Secretary of the same department. —Myanmar News Agency ■

2nd workshop on Protection of Ethnic Rights Rule

THE opening ceremony of a second workshop on the Protection of Ethnic Rights Rule was held at Mingalathiri hotel, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, where Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin gave an opening speech.

The Union Minister said a Protection of Ethnic Rights Law was enacted in 2015 but a bylaw that provides rules for enforcement was not passed.

Protection of Ethnic Rights Rule need to be established as soon as possible, the minister said. Myanmar is a country where many ethnic nationals

lived together and there is a need for ethnic nationals to have full ethnic rights and the Protection of Ethnic Rights Rule will help in protecting ethnic rights as well as prevent and resolve disagreements between ethnic nationals.

The ministry has opened offices in Mon and Kayin States and will strive to open in other regions and states, said the Union Minister.

The workshop was attended by state and regional ministers for ethnic affairs, representatives from self-administered zones and regions, ethnic affairs committee

members of Amyotha Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw, representatives from Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment commission, ministry of ethnic affairs, related ministries, Union Attorney General Office, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission and ethnic civil society organisations and will be held until 23 June. The first workshop on Protection of Ethnic Rights Rule was held earlier this year at the Royal President Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw from 31 January to 1 February. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Cash provision for victims of plane crash

YESTERDAY at the Ministry of Defence, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung presented Ks 155 lakh for victims of the military transport plane crash and Union Minister

for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win accepted the cash donations.

Similar on that day, Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo, Police Lt-Col Win Myint on behalf of officers from (101) in-

take donated Ks 30 lakh and 10 lakh respectively to the Defence Ministry and Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win accepted the cash. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Lt-Gen Sein Win accepts cash donation from Hotels and Tourism Union Minister U Ohn Maung. **PHOTO: MNA**

Probable jade estimate worth Ks 53.50 million seized at the Yaypu Inspection Gate

YAYPU and Mayanchaung Permanent Inspection Gates have opened in cooperation with the related departments on 1st March, 2017 for prevention of illegal goods.

Total 1,089 vehicles including 525 export vehicles and 564 import vehicles transported the goods along Mandalay and Muse Union road and total 224 vehicles involving 54 export vehicles and 170 import vehicles sent the goods along the road of Yangon-Myawady on 21 June.

Total 1070 vehicles including 502 export vehicles and 568 import vehicles transported along Mandalay and Muse Union road and total of 168 vehicles including 48 export vehicles and



120 import vehicles shipped the goods along Yangon-Myawady road on 22 June.

These two gates are checking the export and import goods. On 21 June, Yaypu Permanent Inspection Gate had achieved in deterring three cases with estimated worth Ks 5.9 million.

On 22 June, Yaypu Permanent Inspection Gate exposed eight deterring cases with estimated worth nearly Ks 83.50

million and Mayanchaung Permanent Inspection Gate also revealed five deterring cases with estimated worth Ks 10.365 million.

The inspection team including officials of the Customs Department checked the passenger vehicles and AD Van heading to Mandalay from Muse at the Yaypu Gate. The batteries, clothing and wallets that do not have official documents with estimated cost of Ks 3.6 million were seized on June 20.

Similarly, the Yaypu Gate’s inspection team seized total 99 Kg of Jade stones (probable) with estimated worth Ks 53.50 million hidden in two vehicles on 22 June.—GNLM ■

Trump denies obstructing FBI probe, says has no tapes of talks with Comey

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump said on Thursday he had not obstructed the FBI's probe into alleged Russian meddling in the 2016 US presidential election and had not recorded his conversations with former FBI chief James Comey.

Comey was leading the investigation into allegations Russia tried to sway the election towards Trump and the possibility Trump associates colluded with Moscow when the president fired him on 9 May, sparking a political firestorm.

"Look there has been no obstruction, there has been no collusion," Trump told Fox News Channel in an interview set to air on Friday. Fox released a partial transcript of the interview on Thursday.

The former head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation testified before a Senate committee that Trump had asked him to drop a probe into former national security adviser Michael Flynn's alleged ties to Russia.

Earlier on Thursday, Trump

said he did not make and does not possess any tapes of his conversations with Comey, after suggesting last month he might have recordings that could undercut Comey's description of events.

"I have no idea whether there are 'tapes' or recordings of my conversations with James Comey, but I did not make, and do not have, any such recordings," Trump wrote on Twitter.

Lawmakers investigating allegations of Russian interference in the US election had asked the White House for any such recordings. Shortly after dismissing Comey, Trump mentioned the possibility of tapes in a Twitter post.

"James Comey better hope that there are no 'tapes' of our conversations before he starts leaking to the press!" Trump tweeted on 12 May.

Allegations of ties to Russia have cast a shadow over Trump's first five months in office, distracting from attempts by his fellow Republicans in Congress to overhaul the US healthcare

and tax systems. Trump has privately told aides that the threat of the existence of tapes forced Comey to tell the truth in his recent testimony, a source familiar with the situation said.

Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the House of Representatives Intelligence Committee, said Trump still had questions to answer about possible tapes.

"If the president had no tapes, why did he suggest otherwise? Did he seek to mislead the public? Was he trying to intimidate or silence James Comey? And if so, did he take other steps to discourage potential witnesses from speaking out?" Schiff said in a statement.

CNN reported on Thursday that two top US intelligence officials told investigators Trump suggested they publicly deny any collusion between his campaign and Russia, but that they did not feel he had ordered them to do so.

Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats and National Security Agency Director Admi-

ral Mike Rogers met separately last week with investigators for special counsel Robert Mueller and the Senate Intelligence Committee, according to CNN.

The two officials said they were surprised at Trump's suggestion and found their interactions with him odd and uncomfortable, but they did not act on the president's requests, CNN reported, citing sources familiar with their accounts.

Reuters was unable to verify the CNN report. In his interview with Fox, Trump expressed concern about what he described as the close relationship between Comey and Mueller, who was appointed to take over the investigation after Comey was fired.

"Well he's very, very good friends with Comey, which is very bothersome," Trump said, according to the Fox transcript. The Kremlin has denied US intelligence agencies' conclusion that Moscow tried to tilt the election in Trump's favor, using such means as hacking into the emails of senior Democrats.—Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Three killed in gun attack on bank in Kenyan northeast

NAIROBI — Attackers shot and killed three people in a raid on a commercial bank in northeast Kenya's on Friday, police said.

Two civilians and a police officer died in the attack in Mandera County, police commander Charles Chacha said.

"There were five armed gangsters. When they arrived at the bank, they shot the officer at the door, and the police managed to shoot one of the criminals, but ...they escaped," Chacha told Reuters by phone.—Reuters ■

Friend of former South Korea leader jailed for three years

SEOUL — The friend of former South Korean leader Park Geun-hye, who was at the centre of an influence-peddling scandal that rocked the country's business and political elite, has been sentenced to three years in jail, Yonhap News Agency reported on Friday. The court decision was the first ruling against Choi Soon-sil, a long-time confidante of the ousted South Korean president, who has been arrested and is being held in jail over the corruption scandal that ended her administration.—Reuters ■

Two die in German storm as transport disrupted

BERLIN — Two people were killed in a storm that swept across northern Germany on Thursday, felling trees and disrupting rail and air traffic. A 50-year-old man was killed when his car was hit by a falling tree in a village south of Lueneburg, and an 83-year-old woman was killed when her car collided with a fallen tree on a highway near the city of Hanover.

The storm continued to rage through much of Thursday night over Berlin. Disruption to rail services lasted into Friday, with national rail operator Deutsche Bahn [DBN.UL] warning of delays between Hanover and Hamburg, Hamm and Bielefeld, and Berlin and Dresden.—Reuters ■

Merkel says May's offer on expats 'good start' but many questions remain

BRUSSELS — German Chancellor Angela Merkel described British Prime Minister Theresa May's offer on the rights of EU citizens after Brexit as "a good start" but said many other issues related to Britain's departure from the bloc still need to be resolved.

"Theresa May made clear to us today that EU citizens that have been in Britain for five years will retain their full rights. That is a good start," Merkel told reporters at an EU summit on Thursday. "But there are still many many other questions linked to the exit, including on finances and the relationship with Ireland. So we have a lot to do until (the next EU summit in) October."

Merkel spoke after May addressed the other 27 EU leaders meeting in Brussels, offering them what London described as a "fair and serious" deal on EU expats post-Brexit.—Reuters ■



British Prime Minister Theresa May and German Chancellor Angela Merkel attend the EU summit in Brussels, Belgium, on 22 June 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Suicide car bomber kills at least 11 in Pakistan's Quetta

QUETTA, (PAKISTAN) — A suicide car bomber killed at least 11 people, including four police officers, in an attack near a checkpoint in the volatile southwestern Pakistani city of Quetta on Friday, officials said.

Abdul Razzaq Cheema, director general of police in Baluchistan province, told Reuters it appeared the bomber had detonated a car packed with explosives.

At least 11 bodies were taken to hospital, along with 19 wounded people, said Wasim Baig, a spokesman for the Civil Hospital in Quetta.

Four of those killed were police officers, while nine security officials were among the wounded, said Fareed Sumalan, a doctor at the Civil Hospital.

Jamaat ur Ahrar, a splinter group of the Pakistani Taliban, claimed responsibility for the attack in a message sent to Reuters by spokesman Asad Mansur.

Baluchistan government spokesman Anwar ul Haq Kakar said the blast happened near the



A man wounded during a suicide blast is wheeled into the hospital in Quetta, Pakistan, on 23 June 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

office of the inspector general of police when officers stopped the car to search it near a checkpoint.

"It's possible the IG office was the target, or the assailants were trying to enter the (army)

cantonment which is close by," he said.

Television footage showed emergency services rushing to the scene, which was covered in debris, while security officials

cordoned off the area.

The normally busy intersection — which lies between a girls' school, a girls' college, the police office and the entrance to the army cantonment — was rel-

atively quiet because Friday was a public holiday ahead of the Eid celebrations marking the end of the holy Islamic month of Ramadan.

Quetta is about 100 km (60 miles) east of the border with Afghanistan and is the capital of Baluchistan, which has been plagued by militant violence. The province is the base of a separatist movement as well as home to the Taliban and other militant Islamist groups.

It is also at the centre of Chinese-backed "Belt and Road" development projects worth \$57 billion that first focused on Chinese firms building roads and power stations but is now expanding to include setting up industries.

Militants from the Islamic State group abducted and killed two Chinese nationals in Quetta last month. That attack prompted Pakistan to boost security around Chinese nationals and other foreigners in the province, which is already one of the most militarised regions in the country.—Reuters ■

Arab states send Qatar 13 demands to end crisis, official says

DUBAI — Four Arab states boycotting Qatar over alleged support for terrorism have sent Doha a list of 13 demands including closing Al Jazeera television and reducing ties to their regional adversary Iran, an official of one of the four countries said.

The demands aimed at ending the worst Gulf Arab crisis in years appear designed to quash a two decade-old foreign policy in which Qatar has punched well above its weight, striding the stage as a peace broker, often in conflicts in Muslim lands.

Doha's independent-minded approach, including a dovish line on Iran and support for Islamist groups, in particular the Muslim Brotherhood, has incensed some of its neighbours who see political Islamism as a threat to their dynastic rule.

The list, compiled by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Egypt and Bahrain, which cut economic, diplomatic and travel ties to Doha on 5 June, also demands the closing of a Turkish military base in Qatar, the official told Reuters.

Qatar must also announce

it is severing ties with terrorist, ideological and sectarian organisations including the Muslim Brotherhood, Islamic State, al Qaeda, Hezbollah, and Jabhat Fateh al Sham, formerly al Qaeda's branch in Syria, he said, and surrender all designated terrorists on its territory.

The four Arab countries accuse Qatar of funding terrorism, fomenting regional instability and cosying up to revolutionary theocracy Iran. Qatar has denied the accusations. Qatari officials did not reply immediately to requests for comment. But on Monday, Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani said Qatar would not negotiate with the four states unless they lifted their measures against Doha. The countries give Doha 10 days to comply, failing which the list becomes "void", the official said without elaborating, suggesting the offer to end the dispute in return for the 13 steps would no longer be on the table.

The demands, handed to Qatar by mediator Kuwait also require that Qatar stop interfering in the four countries' do-

mestic and foreign affairs and stop a practice of giving Qatari nationality to citizens of the four countries, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Qatar must pay reparations to these countries for any damage or costs incurred over the past few years because of Qatari policies, he added. Any resulting agreement to comply with the demands will be monitored, with monthly reports in the first year, then every three months the next year, then annually for 10 years, the official said without elaborating. US President Donald Trump has taken a tough stance on Qatar, accusing it of being a "high level" sponsor of terrorism, but he has also offered help to the parties in the dispute to resolve their differences.

Turkey has backed Qatar during the three-week-old crisis. It sent its first ship carrying food aid to Qatar and dispatched a small contingent of soldiers and armoured vehicles there on Thursday, while President Tayyip Erdogan spoke with Saudi Arabia's leaders on calming tension in the region.—Reuters ■

Damascus won't let 'enemies' benefit from de-escalation zones

DAMASCUS — The Syrian government will not allow its enemies to benefit from the creation of de-escalation zones in western Syria, the Syrian deputy foreign minister has said, ahead of international talks on the zones scheduled for early July in Kazakhstan.

Russia and Iran — which back Damascus — reached agreement with opposition sponsor Turkey on the creation of four "de-escalation zones" in western Syria at talks in the Astana last month.

Faisal Mekdad, the deputy minister, said Syria was "ready for the coming rounds of the Astana and Geneva tracks next month, based on preserving its sovereignty and unity and sparing the blood of its sons", state news agency SANA reported on Thursday.

He said Syria was scrutinizing "every letter" of an agreement set out in Astana last month and "will not allow anything thing to pass from which Syria's enemies could benefit".

A spokesman for President Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey was quoted as saying on Thursday that under the agreement Turkish and Russian forces would be deployed to the northwestern Syrian province of Idlib - a rebel stronghold.

Ibrahim Kalin, the spokesman, also said that a mechanism involving the United States and Jordan — two other important backers of the rebellion against Damascus — was being worked on for southern Syria including the Deraa region.

The four de-escalation zones set out in Astana are located in Idlib, Homs, the Eastern Ghouta region near Damascus, and the southern border with Jordan. The United States has said there are reasons to be sceptical about the de-escalation zones agreed in Astana. Washington has been seeking a bilateral agreement with Russia on creating a zone in southwestern Syria, an area that borders US allies Israel and Jordan.—Reuters ■

Chained to health ministry, Peruvians protest mining pollution

LIMA — Parents of sick children who live near one of Peru’s oldest mining pits camped out in front of the health ministry in Lima for an eighth day on Thursday, demanding help to deal with the impact of decades of mining pollution.

Dozens of residents of Simon Bolivar, a district in the city of Cerro de Pasco in the Peruvian Andes, travelled to Lima to press the government to declare a health emergency and build a regional hospital specializing in exposure to heavy metals.

“As a mother it’s so painful to see my daughter suffer,” said Sarita Custodio, crying and pointing to rashes on her daughter’s face and arms face as she sat chained to the entrance of the health ministry with other parents. “The doctor said it’s because of the lead.”

Lead, zinc, silver and other metals were mined at Cerro de Pasco for more than 400 years, leaving be-



Residents of the town Cerro de Pasco in the Peruvian Andes chained themselves outside of the health ministry to protest for what they describe as rampant pollution from a sprawling polymetallic mine operated by Peruvian mining company Volcan, in Lima, Peru, on 22 June 2017. The signs read ‘Without gold you live, without water you die’ and ‘Water is life, the water in Pasco kills’. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

hind piles of tailings and traces of contaminants in the soil and water that many blame for ailments ranging from cancer to learning disabilities. “Tonnes of it are outside all around and that’s what our children and residents have to live with,”

said Simon Bolivar Mayor Zumel Trujillo, adding that there were more than 25 contaminated sites in his district alone.

More than 40 per cent of the area’s children who were tested in a 2012 study had dangerously high levels of lead in their blood,

according to a screening of some 2,700 children by regional health authorities.

Peruvian miner Volcan Compania Minera, one of Peru’s biggest lead and zinc producers, said the last mining operation at Cerro de Pasco closed in 2015 but that it still processes stockpiles.

Volcan said most of the region’s pollution dates from decades prior to the start of its operations and that its current activities meet Peru’s environmental standards.

Protesters urged President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski to make good on his campaign pledge to modernize Peru by ensuring basic services such as health care are available to all.

The health ministry said it would emit a decree declaring a health emergency in Cerro de Pasco soon and allocate an immediate budget of about \$400,000 to help the sick. —Reuters ■

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(10 / 2017)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	DMP/L-022(17-18)	2 7/8" & 2 3/8" EUE Tubing (3) Items	Ks
(2)	DMP/L-023(17-18)	Spares of SJS Serva (TPB 600) Cementing Unit and Accessories (59) Items	Ks
(3)	DMP/L-024(17-18)	Spares for HT 400 Pump (12) Items	Ks
(4)	DMP/L-025(17-18)	Spares for Cat D 3406 Engine Ex Kenworth Truck (32) Items	Ks
(5)	DMP/L-026(17-18)	Spares for Komatsu Tracked Dozer (D 155A-1) (16) Items	Ks
(6)	DMP/L-027(17-18)	Spares for Komatsu Bulldozer (D 155 A-1) (47) Items	Ks
(7)	DMP/L-028(17-18)	Spares for Cat 3406 C Generator Set Engine Ex ZJ 70L SR-I Rig (60) Items	Ks
(8)	DMP/L-029(17-18)	Spares for Mack Truck (20) Items	Ks
(9)	DMP/L-030(17-18)	Spares of Cat 3512 Rig Engine Ex ZJ 70L SR-II Rig (51) Items	Ks
(10)	DMP/L-031(17-18)	Spares for SK 250 -8 Kobelco Excavator (28) Items	Ks
(11)	DMP/L-032(17-18)	Spares for Cat-D3408 PC Engine (33) Items	Ks
(12)	DMP/L-033(17-18)	Spares for EMSCO Drilling Rig (17) Items	Ks
(13)	DMP/L-034(17-18)	Spares for Cat-D3412 Gas Engine(18)Items	Ks
(14)	DMP/L-035(17-18)	Spares for Kenworth Truck (25) Items	Ks
(15)	DMP/L-036(17-18)	Electrical Spares for D3T2 Rigs(24)Items	Ks
(16)	DMP/L-037(17-18)	Electrical Spares for ZJ 70L Rigs (16)Items	Ks
(17)	DMP/L-038(17-18)	Electrical Spares for ZJ 50D Rigs(40)Items	Ks

Tender Closing Date & Time- 20-7-2017, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 22nd June, 2017 at the Finance Department , Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95 67 - 411206 / 411274

Facebook launches UK initiative to counter online extremist material

LONDON — Facebook Inc is launching a UK programme to train and fund local organizations to combat extremist material online, as internet companies attempt to clamp down on hate speech and violent content on their services.

Facebook, which outlined new efforts to remove extremist and terrorism content from its social media platform last week, will launch the Online Civil Courage Initiative in the UK on Friday, the company said in a statement.

The new initiative will train non-governmental organizations to help them monitor and respond to extremist content and create a dedicated support desk so they can communicate directly with Facebook, the company said.

“There is no place for hate or violence on

Facebook,” said Sheryl Sandberg, Facebook’s chief operating officer. “We use technology like AI to find and remove terrorist propaganda, and we have teams of counterterrorism experts and reviewers around the world working to keep extremist content off our platform.”

The British government has stepped up attacks on Silicon Valley internet companies for not acting quickly enough to take down extremist online propaganda and fostering “safe places” where extremists can breed following a string of attacks in recent months in London and Manchester.

Facebook, Alphabet Inc’s Google and Twitter Inc have responded by saying they have made heavy investments and

employed thousands of people to take down hate speech and violent content over the past two years. Security analysts say the efforts have dramatically reduced the use of these platforms for jihadist recruitment efforts, although more work needs to be done.

Prime Minister Theresa May has sought to enlist British public opinion to force the US internet players to work more closely with the government rather than proposing new legislation or policies to assert greater control over the web.

Earlier this week, May urged fellow European Union leaders at a meeting in Brussels to join her in putting pressure on tech companies to ‘rid terrorist material from the internet in all our languages’. —Reuters ■



A pump jack used to help lift crude oil from a well in South Texas' Eagle Ford Shale formation stands idle in Dewitt County, Texas, US in 2016. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Big Oil turns to big data to save big money on drilling

NEW YORK — In today's US shale fields, tiny sensors attached to production gear harvest data on everything from pumping pressure to the heat and rotational speed of drill bits boring into the rocky earth.

The sensors are leading Big Oil's mining of so-called big data, with some firms envisioning billions of dollars in savings over time by avoiding outages, managing supplies and identifying safety hazards.

The industry has long used sophisticated technologies to find oil and gas. But only recently have oil firms pooled data from across the company for wider operating efficiencies - one of many cost-cut-

ting efforts spurred by the two-year downturn in crude oil prices.

ConocoPhillips says that sensors scattered across its well fields helped it halve the time it once took to drill new wells in Eagle Ford shale basin of South Texas.

By comparing data from hundreds of sensors, its program automatically adjusts the weight placed on a drill bit and its speed, accelerating the extraction of oil, said Matt Fox, ConocoPhillips' executive vice president for strategy, exploration and technology.

It is just one application, but if applied to the more than 3,000 wells ConocoPhillips hopes to

drill in the Texas basin, those small sensors could lead to "billions and billions of dollars" in savings, Fox said in an interview.

"We started using data analytics in our Eagle Ford business," he said. "And everywhere we look there are applications for this."

The cost and complexity of such systems vary widely. Oil giants such as ConocoPhillips buy a mix of off-the-shelf and custom programs, along with data repositories. The Houston-based producer's employees use Tibco Software Inc's Spotfire data visualization package to analyze information from well sites. Tibco declined

to discuss its pricing.

Services firms including Schlumberger NV and General Electric Co oil and gas unit sell sensor-equipped gear, data repositories and software to improve producers' decision-making.

Back when oil traded at more than \$100 a barrel - before the price crash in 2014 - data analysis was an "afterthought" for most oil firms, said Binu Mathew, who oversees digital products at GEOil & Gas.

Now — with prices at about \$43 a barrel after recovering from a low of about \$26 in early 2016 - "the efficiency aspect is far, far more important," Mathew said.—Reuters ■

Kidney-on-a-chip to help study, treat kidney conditions

SAN FRANCISCO — Researchers with the University of Washington (UW), in collaboration with the Seattle-based organ-on-a-chip company, Norti, have been developing the "kidney-on-a-chip," a laboratory model for understanding how kidney is affected by drugs, toxins and environmental exposures.

The microfluidic chip, about the size of credit cards, contain a central chamber lined with live

kidney cells.

A rocket carrying a payload that includes 24 such chips will transport the kidney research project as early as 2018 to the International Space Station.

The project is an attempt to understand how microgravity and other factors worsen kidney health.

"Weightlessness is an accelerator," said Edward J. "Ed" Kelly, associate professor of pharmaceuticals at the UW School of

Pharmacy and Kidney Research Institute investigator. "In the microgravity environment on the International Space Station, kidney problems are more common. They develop in weeks or months, instead of decades."

With the space medicine project, researchers hope to use these discoveries to design better treatments on Earth for proteinuria, or the presence of protein in the urine

that signals possible kidney problems; osteoporosis, namely bone loss; and kidney stones.

"By studying the kidney-on-a-chip after a few weeks in space, we expect to learn more about how osteoporosis, kidney stones and other kidney conditions develop," Kelly said in a news release. "This information may lead to breakthroughs in treatment and prevention." —Xinhua ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV PATHEIN STAR VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PATHEIN STAR VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV STAR GLOBE VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV STAR GLOBE VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L 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 BEN LINE AGENCIES
(S'PORE) PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV HAN DE VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HAN DE VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T-3 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 HANSSY SHIPPING PTE
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PHOTO: PTI



SINGER RIHANNA helps a fan overcome heartbreak

LOS ANGELES — Rihanna recently received a direct message on Twitter from a fan asking how to get over a upsetting breakup and the singer helped the follower by telling him his sadness “won’t be forever”.

The Twitter user, @Walad-

Shami, shared a screenshot of the conversation in a tweet in which the 29-year-old R&B star wrote, “Just believe that the heartbreak was a gift in itself! Cry if you have to, but it won’t be forever! You will find love again, and it will be even more

beautiful!” (sic).

Rihanna’s advice on tackling heartbreak also included indulging in a variety of junk foods to cure her mood, as she previously revealed that she was a “moody eater”.

— PTI ■

Ron Howard enters ‘Star Wars’ after Han Solo movie directors depart

LOS ANGELES — Oscar-winning filmmaker Ron Howard is stepping into a galaxy far, far away for the upcoming “Star Wars” Han Solo spin-off movie, Lucasfilm announced on Thursday, after the film’s production was thrown into upheaval by the surprise departure of its directors.

Howard is one of Hollywood’s best known directors with films such as “Frost/Nixon” and “A Beautiful Mind” to his credit.

Lucasfilm’s president, Kathleen Kennedy, announced on Wednesday that filmmakers Phil Lord and Christopher Miller, best known for the 2014 hit “The Lego Movie,” had left the project due to creative differences. “Phil Lord and Christopher Miller are talented filmmakers who have assembled an incredible cast and crew, but it’s become clear that we had different creative visions on this film, and we’ve decided to part ways,” Kennedy said in a statement on StarWars.com.

Kennedy announced Howard’s hiring for the film on Thursday, saying in a statement, “At Lucasfilm, we believe the highest goal of each film is to delight, carrying forward the spirit of the saga that George Lucas began forty years ago.”

Film trade publications reported that Lord and Miller had clashed with Kennedy and veteran “Star Wars” writer Lawrence Kasdan over the comedic direction of the film. The



Director Ron Howard poses for photographers at the British Academy Film Awards Nominees Party at Kensington Palace in London, Britain, on 11 February 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

untitled Han Solo movie will follow the origin story of young Han Solo, the handsome, roguish space smuggler made famous by actor Harrison Ford. It started filming in February in London. Production is on a brief hiatus amid the directorial changes until Howard takes over on 10 July, Lucasfilm said.

Rising star Alden Ehrenreich will play Han Solo, while Donald Glover will play Lando Calrissian, made famous in George Lucas’ original “Star Wars” trilogy by actor Billy Dee Williams. Woody Harrelson, Emilia Clarke and Thandie Newton will also star in the film.

The spin-off is part of Walt Disney Co.’s expanding slate of “Star Wars” movies, which was rebooted by 2015’s blockbuster hit, “Star Wars: The Force Awakens.” That film made more than \$2 billion at the global box office.—Reuters ■

Neve Campbell to star opposite Dwayne Johnson in Skyscraper

LOS ANGELES — Actress Neve Campbell is set to join Dwayne Johnson on Legendary’s 3D action thriller “Skyscraper”. The movie, to be directed by Rawson Marshall Thurber, is slated for July 13, 2018 release, reported Deadline. Production

on the film will begin in August. Johnson stars as a former FBI Hostage Rescue Team leader and war veteran who now looks after security for skyscrapers.

On assignment in China he finds the tallest, safest building

in the world suddenly ablaze, and hes been framed for it. A wanted man on the run, he must find those responsible, clear his name and somehow rescue his family who are trapped inside the building above the fire line.

—PTI ■

Stars come out for European premiere of Edgar Wright’s ‘Baby Driver’

LOS ANGELES — Big Hollywood names hit the red carpet in London on Wednesday for the European premiere of British director Edgar Wright’s new heist movie “Baby Driver”.

The movie stars “The Fault in Our Stars” teen heartthrob Ansel Elgort as the titular Baby, a tinnitus-afflicted getaway driver who falls foul of a group of crooks, led by Oscar-winners Kevin Spacey and Jamie Foxx.

The film, which was shot in

the US city of Atlanta, features elaborate car chases, choreographed to the music that Baby listens to in order to drown out the ringing in his ears.

Foxx, who won the Academy Award for Best Actor for 2004’s “Ray”, said he valued Wright’s creativity in an industry where film franchises often dominate. “The stuff that Edgar Wright does was just amazing, and there’s not a lot of that right now, so you appreciate

the fact that you get a chance to be in something original and something fantastic that really — it creates its own genre in a sense,” he said. Wright burst onto the film scene with 2004’s “Shaun of the Dead”, a zombie film set in suburban London, and found success with police action-comedy “Hot Fuzz” and comic adaptation “Scott Pilgrim Vs. The World”. “Baby Driver” opens in cinemas on 28 June.

—Reuters ■



Director of the movie ‘Baby Driver’ Edgar Wright (3rd L) and cast members (L-R) Lily James, Ansel Elgort, Jon Hamm, Eiza Gonzalez and Jamie Foxx. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Okinawa marks 72nd anniversary of fierce WWII ground battle

NAHA, (Japan) — Okinawa on Friday marked 72 years since the end of a fierce World War II ground battle that killed a quarter of its civilian population, with resentment running deep over the continuing burden islanders bear in hosting the bulk of US military bases in Japan.

Touching on a crash-landing accident involving the US military's Osprey aircraft near the main island in December and other incidents, Okinawa Gov. Takeshi Onaga said at a memorial service for the war dead the same day, "We see moves running counter to a reduction of the burden."

He also criticized the central government for moving ahead with a plan to relocate the US Marine Corps Air Station Futenma within the prefecture, which he has fiercely opposed while proposing instead that the air base be moved outside of the island prefecture.

Onaga said he cannot "tolerate" the ongoing construction work, describing it as going against "the will of the people" in Okinawa.

The governor said he understands the importance of Japan-US security arrangements, in which the US military



People pray in front of the Cornerstone of Peace at the Peace Memorial Park in the Okinawa city of Itoman on 23 June, 2017, the 72nd anniversary of the end of the Battle of Okinawa. The memorial bears the names of more than 200,000 people who died in the fierce ground battle during World War II, including those of Americans. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

is granted the use of facilities and areas in Japan for the security of the country, but noted that the burden should be shared by the "entire nation."

"I want people in this country to sincerely think about Okinawa's situation and how Japan-US security arrangements should be," Onaga said.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who also attended the ceremony held at the Peace Memorial Park in Itoman, the site of the final stage of the Battle of Okinawa, renewed the government's pledge never to wage war again.

Acknowledging that Okinawa's base-hosting burden is heavy, Abe

added, "I'm determined to produce definite results to allay the burden."

US bases in the prefecture were built on land expropriated from islanders during the post-war US occupation that lasted until 1972. Despite only accounting for 0.6 per cent of the country's land mass, Okinawa is home to about 70 per cent of the total area of land exclusively used by US military facilities in Japan.

The plan to move the Futenma base from a crowded residential area in Ginowan to the Henoko coastal area in Nago is perceived by many locals as just imposing another burden and they want the

base to be moved outside the prefecture.

But the central government has maintained that the current relocation plan is "the only solution" to removing the dangers posed by the Futenma base without undermining the perceived deterrence provided by the Japan-US alliance.

Okinawans are also frustrated with noise, crimes and accidents linked to US bases, and safety concerns were reignited by the 13 December crash-landing of a US Marine MV-22 Osprey aircraft — the first major accident involving tilt-rotor transport aircraft deployed in Japan.—Kyodo News ■

CONDOLENCE

All staff of the Myanmar Education Consortium (MEC) would like to express our sadness of the passing away of Dr. Myo Myint. We offer our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Dr. Myo Myint during this time of sorrow.

Myanmar Education Consortium (MEC)

Harry Potter still casts spell for fans 20 years on

LONDON — Dressed in a long black gown and holding a wand, George Massingham is keen for everyone to know he is a Harry Potter super fan.

If he isn't doing Professor Severus Snape, the mysterious potions master at Hogwarts School, the 27-year-old likes to dress in some other costume relating to J.K. Rowling's fantastical world of witches and wizards.

Massingham said of his colleagues: "They don't react as much now as they used to. They just sort of go 'oh, you're wearing that again'."

Monday marks 20 years since the release of "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone," the first of seven Potter books in a series that sold 450 million copies in 79 languages and sparked a \$7 billion movie franchise.

Massingham is not the only super fan. Tracey Nicol-Lewis, 43, and her 15-year-old son Brenden like to dress up in Hogwarts uniform for trips to the supermarket in Cardiff, Wales.

Nicol-Lewis' obsession with Rowling's world of wizards started when her husband gave her one of the books, "Goblet of Fire," shortly before he died.

"We kind of clung to that," she said.

She has since spent around 40,000 pounds (\$50,600) on all things Harry Potter, putting together a collection of

2,506 pieces of memorabilia.

South Wales prop-maker Victoria Maclean, 37, has a similarly large collection of Potter memorabilia decorating her home in Cardiff.

She has a wizard-themed toilet, and her mother's ashes sit in a glass jar replica of Wolfsbane Potion — a magical substance from the Potter series that stops werewolves being dangerous.

"People are going to look at it and think I'm a complete freak," said Maclean, who named her children Harry and Daniel after British actor Daniel Radcliffe, who plays the wizard in the movie franchise.

For 29-year-old Luke Williams, the link to Radcliffe is even stronger. His dark hair, thin nose, brown eyes and even his voice bear a striking resemblance to Radcliffe, who first starred as Harry in the 2001 film version of "The Philosopher's Stone."

Plans to do a graphic design course were scrapped as Williams embarked on a 15-year career as a Potter impersonator. It has taken him around the world to parties, book launches and shows. But he longs for a different kind of attention.

"The girls still squeal when Harry Potter walks down the road ... but I'd rather be a Brad Pitt lookalike," Williams said.—Reuters ■



Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(24-6-2017 07:00am ~ 25-6-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Great Shwedagon-The Prayer Halls And Buddha Images (Part-1)
07:52	Am	Thin Byu Mat
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Taung Byone Nat Festival (Ep-3)
08:46	Am	Chinlone and the dreams of the player
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	The Longest Living Siblings (Part-I)
09:48	Am	Myanmar Traditional Art Bronze Casting
09:54	Am	Temple Stalls
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	NexGen: Next Generation "Thin Wai Khaing (Golfer)"

10:35	Am	Oboist and His Life
10:56	Am	Nature Charm of Myanmar Rain

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm)- Friday 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
07:26	Pm	Dawei - Tavoy, Travel To The Southern Part Of Myanmar
07:45	Pm	Guiding Star of Song Birds
07:52	Pm	Today Myanmar: The Smart Card for Squatters
08:03	Pm	News
08:25	Pm	Creator Of Imagination
08:52	Pm	Yangon Markets: Nyaung Pin Lay Market

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

Friendly match against Myanmar Vs Thailand to be held

By Nyi Myat Thawda

MYANMAR national football team will play an exhibition match with ASEAN giant Thailand national football team at the Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay on October 5.

U BhoneNaingZaw, the chief executive officer of Myanmar Football Federation said, "MFF had already taken agreement with Football Association of Thailand (FAT) to play home in order to show the ability of Myanmar's football players in front of their fans and we are also discussing about the play time of the match for the broadcasting service to be convenient".

Myanmar lost Thailand 0-2 in the first round and 0-4 in the second round of the semi final in ASEAN Suzuki Cup in 2016.

So Myanmar needs to re-take the victory again to oppose with Thailand in the upcoming friendly match in October. Myanmar national football team will be headed by German coach, Gerd Freidrich.



File photo shows Myanmar and Thailand players competing in a match. **PHOTO: SOE NYUNT**

Myanmar futsal teams prepare for SEA Game

Myanmar's male and female futsal teams are preparing in the training camps to get the achievement at the 29th Southeast Asian Games hosted by Malaysia. The coach, Rizar, an Iran nationality, is training the Myanmar male futsal squad and has initially selected 30 players. Though the trainings had begun since 19 June, camp trainings will start on 25 June. The Myanmar male futsal team is composed by the talented players of the 2016 ASEAN futsal cup and new players.

The coach, U Htay Myint, the highest achievement coach of Myanmar futsal history is training the Myanmar women's futsal team composed of 24 players. He has trained the Myanmar men's futsal team and acquired second prizes at the ASEAN futsal championship.

Myanmar women futsal team was organized in 2016 and added new players for this year. They have entered training camp since May. They are scheduled to play with Thailand before the SEA game. — Shine Htet Zaw ■

Regions and States Shooting contest awarding ceremony 2017 held in Yangon

SHOOTING contest rewarding ceremony 2017 representing all Regions and States took place at the North Dagon Shooting Range in Yangon yesterday.

Deputy Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Health and Sports U Kyaw Oo, officials from Ministry of Health and Sports and its committee, officials from Myanmar Shooting Sports Federation (MSSF), Chairman of the MSSF U Zaw Liwn Oo, Vice Chairman of the MSSF U Kyaw Moe Win and rewarded athletes attended the ceremony. During the rewarding ceremony, men and women athletes from respective Regions and States were rewarded by the officials.

Firstly, individual contest for both men and women of 10 meter



Rewarded athletes pose for a documentary photo with officials after the rewarding ceremony at the North Dagon Shooting Range, in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

pistol and air rifle shooting were awarded in order of first, second and third.

At the team contest of 10 meter air-rifle pistol shooting

for men Yangon Region won first prize and Ayeyawady Region and Mandalay Region attained second and third respectively and Yangon Region got first while

Shan State Sagaing Region possessed second and third at the team contest of 10 meter pistol shooting for women.

At the team contest of 10

meter air-rifle shooting for men Shan State got first, Sagaing Region second and Mandalay Region third.

At the teams contest of 10 meter air-rifle shooting for women Shan State won first, Mandalay Region second and Chin State third.

Yangon Region got trophy in the event of women Pistol shooting contest with total marks of 1004 and at the event of men pistol shooting contest with total marks of 1601.

Shan State got trophy at the event of women air rifle shooting contest by total marks of 1140.8 and at the event of men air rifle shooting contest by total marks of 1690.2 respectively. —Myanmar News Agency ■