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Turning on the Lights in Rural Myanmar

The Government of Myanmar, with the help of the World Bank, is currently rolling out off-grid electricity services as part of its National Electrification Plan, installing solar PV systems in eight of Myanmar's states and regions, benefiting over 2,000 villages and 140,000 households. **PHOTO: WORLD BANK (FULL STORY ON PAGE-9)**

Myanmar Ranking Improves

THE U.S. State Department said on Tuesday that Myanmar is no longer one of the world's worst offenders on human trafficking and removed Myanmar from the blacklist of foreign governments who use child soldiers.

In the same annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report in which Myanmar improved its ranking, the U.S. State Department demoted China to the lowest ranking because of its trafficking record, putting it in the same category as North Ko-

Myanmar was promoted for its efforts against recruitment of child soldiers.

rea, Zimbabwe and Syria.

Myanmar was promoted for its efforts against recruitment of child soldiers and its prosecution of government officials under a human trafficking law. Myanmar had been demoted to the lowest tier last year, shortly after it shifted to civilian government, ending decades of military-backed rule.

The report praised several instances of improved human rights last year, including the case of the Ava Tailor shop in

Kyauktada, where two girls were held in slave-like conditions for years.

"In one high-profile forced labour case, three children were physically abused and forced to work in a tailor shop in Yangon over the course of five years with little to no pay. Two police commanders dismissed initial reports of the abuse, prompting a local journalist to file a complaint with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

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Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint receives Mr. Steve Marshall, New Zealand's Ambassador in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint receives New Zealand's Ambassador

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint received H.E. Mr. Steve Marshall, Ambassador of New Zealand to Myanmar at the Py-

ithu Hluttaw Building Hall in Nay Pyi Taw at 2:00 pm yesterday. During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to legislative

sectors, investments, bilateral friendships, cooperation and democratic transition in Myanmar. —Myanmar News Agency ■

2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 5th regular session 23rd day meeting

IN the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting held yesterday, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin responded to a question by U Hla Htay Win of Zeyathiri constituency on arrangements made by the government on objecting and resisting a resolution by United Nations Human Rights Council forming and sending a Rakhine State fact-finding mission.

Minister of State U Kyaw Tin said the Human Rights Council at its 34th regular session on 24 March 2017 adopted the resolution without a vote.

Since Myanmar is not a member country of the Human Rights Council, it does not have a right to demand a vote on the resolution. However, when the resolution was made, Myanmar permanent representative to Human Rights Council do not agree with the resolution and dissociate from it. Similarly, council member countries like India and China also voiced their disagreement said the Minister of State.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs released a statement on March 24 rejecting the resolution and dissociated from it. When Human Rights Council president contacted Myanmar permanent representative on the formation of the fact-finding mission, Myanmar permanent representative explained that since Myanmar officially dissociated from the resolution, it will not cooperate in the process. Myanmar embassies were also informed of not

allowing the fact-finding mission into Myanmar added the Minister of State.

In the State Counsellor's trips to European Union headquarters and western countries in May and June, she had rejected the forming and sending of the fact-finding mission. She also rejected firmly about this in wherever country she went on a visit.

An Investigation Committee to probe the background situations that led to violent attacks that occurred on 9 October and 12-13 of November in Maungdaw, Rakhine State led by Vice President U Myint Swe was formed in 1 December 2016 and it was conducting investigations in the areas where the incident happen. Arrangements were made with Bangladesh for the commission to visit Cox Bazar in Bangladesh to conduct investigations and once a report from this commission is published, it will effectively counter the international pressure on accepting the fact-finding mission.

Suggestions in an Interim Report of Rakhine State Advisory Commission headed by former UN secretary-general Kofi Annan will also be implemented in accordance to the ground situation said Minister of State U Kyaw Tin.

Responding to a question by Daw Cho Cho of Ottwin constituency on repair and upgrading 25 beds Ottwin Township Hospital, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe said fund

for repair work is ready for allocation if the medical officer in the hospital request for it but there is no plan to upgrade the hospital as the patient occupancy rate is not up to the level requiring an upgrade. An upgrade will be considered once the occupancy rate reaches the set level added the Union Minister.

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe also answered to health related questions asked by U Moe Shwe of Putao constituency and Dr. Oo Aung Khin of Pyin Oo Lwin constituency.

Next, a motion urging the government to draw a sports calendar and hold sports competition in basic education schools, universities and colleges to develop outstanding sports personnel honoring the country and developing Myanmar sports submitted by U Tin Htway of Waw constituency was discussed by 11 hluttaw representatives and Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe explained to approve it.

Hluttaw then decided to approve the motion.

Additionally, the day's meeting included hluttaw deciding and confirming the bill on amending the guardian and ward law, the reading of annual reports of Pyithu Hluttaw economic and financial development committee and transport, communication and construction committee. —Kyaw Thu Htet, Aye Aye Thant (MNA) ■

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives New Zealand's Ambassador

MAHN WIN KHAING THAN, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker, received H.E. Mr. Steve Marshall, New Zealand's Ambassador to Myanmar at the Amyotha Hluttaw Building Hall, Nay Pyi Taw at 3:00 pm yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters concern-

ing with legislative sectors, cooperation and promoting friendships between the two countries.

Deputy Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aye Thar Aung and officials from the Amyotha Hluttaw office were also present at the meeting. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than holds talks with New Zealand's Ambassador. **PHOTO: MNA**

Deputy Construction Minister discusses Kayah road plan at Amyotha Hluttaw

Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin told the Amyotha Hluttaw that the Kayah State budget allocated funds in FY 2018-2019 to upgrade a portion of a road in Taunggyi Township.

The Deputy Minister said that nearly six miles of earthen road connecting Taunggyi Township to Nyaungshwe

Township with gravel. The project will also establish nine culverts. Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin answered a parliament member's inquiry about a by-pass road avoiding around Bawlake, Bawlake District, Kayah State, by saying that no such plan existed. —Thura Zaw, Hmway Kyu Zin (MNA)

Thura U Shwe Mann receives New Zealand's Ambassador

Chairman of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission, Thura U Shwe Mann received New Zealand's Ambassador to Myanmar H.E.

Mr. Steve Marshall at Hluttaw affairs building 1-1 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Matters relating to legal affairs were discussed in the meeting. —MNA



Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with New Zealand's ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Steve Marshall. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor meets Director-General of International Atomic Energy Agency

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, received the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Mr. Yukiya Amano, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at 10:00 am on 29 June 2017.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on the work of the

IAEA, its contribution to mankind through nuclear technology applied to health, agriculture and water resource sectors, and cooperation between Myanmar and the IAEA.

The Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi was also present at the meeting. — Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Mr. Yukiya Amano. **PHOTO: MNA**

Appointment of Ambassador - Head of the Delegation of the European Union agreed

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr. Kristian SCHMIDT as Ambassador – Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mr. Kristian SCHMIDT was born in Denmark on 12th July 1967. He obtained Economic degrees from the Droit University of France and the Copenhagen University of Denmark, Political Science degree from the Etudes Institute of France, Political Science and International Law degree from the University of Bologna of Italy and Master's degree in International Relations from the Cambridge University of the UK. From 1993 to 1999, he served at the Ministry of Industry and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations, New York respectively. He also served at the European Union and European Commission in various capacities from 2003 to 2013. Since November 2013, he has been serving as Ambassador Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Uganda. He is married and has three children.

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
Dated: 30 June 2017*

MNHRC participates in ASEAN-Europe human rights meetings

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) member U Nyunt Swe attended meetings on human rights between ASEAN region national human rights commissions and European organisations held in Brussels, Belgium and Berlin, Germany from June 19 to June 22.

At the meeting between representatives of European Union (EU), European Parliament and European organisations and ASEAN region national human rights commissions matters relating to EU human rights system, EU human rights policy in

Asia-Europe relation, EU-ASEAN relationship, EU support for ASEAN human rights sector, importance given to human rights in EU trade policy, work of European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI) and work of EU Special Representative for Human Rights were extensively discussed.

Workshop on the subject “Business and human rights” set by United Nations in conducting businesses, including foreign investments, without harming the people's human rights, were held in Brussels and Berlin. — MNHRC ■

Myanmar Ranking Improves

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The NHRC brokered a financial settlement with perpetrators rather than referring the case to prosecution under the anti-trafficking laws. Following public outcry over the NHRC's inadequate response to the case, four commissioners stepped down, the police chiefs who had ignored the initial reports were investigated, and demoted to auxiliary positions, and the ATTF police initiated the prosecution of six tailor shop perpetrators”, the report said.

Myanmar's elevation is a boost for State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's administration, which has faced criticism from human rights groups.

Ivanka Trump, the senior White House adviser and daughter of President Donald Trump, said ending human trafficking was in both the moral and strategic interests of the U.S., describing the effort as a “major foreign policy priority” for the administration.

“As a mother, this is much more than a policy priority,” she said at a ceremony to unveil the report. “It is a clarion call into action in defense of the vulnerable and the exploited.”

U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said that the roughly 20 million victims of human trafficking globally illustrate how much more work must be done.



U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, left, and White House adviser Ivanka Trump on Tuesday at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. for the release of the 2017 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

“Regrettably, our challenge is enormous,” Mr. Tillerson said. “Human trafficking is becoming more nuanced and more difficult to identify. Much of these activities are going underground, and they're going online.”

While some human rights groups and politicians criticised Myanmar's rise in the rankings, other American lawmakers praised the administration's handling of the rankings, including Republican U.S. Senator Bob Corker of Tennessee, who had questioned the Obama administration's decision to upgrade several countries in recent years. The chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Mr. Corker called this year's report “a step forward in efforts to improve the transparency and integrity of the rankings.”

The demotion of China in the rankings this year was

a public rebuke of China's human rights record by the Trump administration, which has previously avoided direct, public criticism of Beijing and other major powers on rights issues.

In the annual Trafficking in Persons report, the Department of State places each country onto one of three tiers based on the extent of their governments' efforts to comply with the “minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.”

A Tier 1 ranking indicates that a government has acknowledged the existence of human trafficking, made efforts to address the problem, and complies with the TVPA's minimum standards.

Each year, governments need to demonstrate appreciable progress in combating trafficking to maintain a Tier 1 ranking.—GNLM, Reuters ■

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Myanmar workers from Thailand return Myawady



Myanmar workers from Thailand arrive back in Myawady. **PHOTO: HTAIN LINN AUNG (IPRD)**

THOUSANDS of Myanmar workers from Thailand arrived back in Myawady started from yesterday morning through 999 gate of Myawady.

"We went to Thailand through the agents As we have no official documents, Thai police are going to arrest us.

Therefore, the employers asked to go back home.

The agents in Thailand repatriated the Myanmar workers to Myawady through the Thai police station. We have to pay 3500 baths per person"

said a worker.

U Theik Soe Moe, officer of Myawady District General Administration Department said that though we have planned to accommodate them at the Kyauk Lone Gyi rescue camp in Myawady, but they didn't accept our plan and they arranged to come back home directly.

Nearly 2516 Myanmar workers including initial 1546men and 970women arrived back in Myawady till 4p.m. on June 29.—Htain Linn Aung (IPRD) ■



Six Cargo vessels are handed over to Myanmar at the Sittway port. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Cargo vessels handed over to IWT

A ceremony to hand over six cargo vessels as part of the joint Myanmar-India Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project was held at Sittway port in Rakhine State on 26 June, according to a press release of the Inland Water Transport (IWT) yesterday.

The cargo vessels, worth US\$81.29 million, have been donated by India.

The cargo vessels are ready to transport goods and

people along the river. Moreover, authorities have planned to do the dredging for the heavy vessels to embark at the port. At the end of this year, the port will accommodate the goods from Rakhine and other states assisting Myanmar's national economic development.

Mr. Shri Vikram Misri, India's ambassador to Myanmar, and U Aung Kyaw Zan, Minister for State Electrical Power, Industry and Transport gave

speeches at the event.

The Indian ambassador then handed over ownership documents for the six cargo vessels to U Zaw Win, the managing director of IWT and formally cut a ribbon.

Finally, the officials inspected the 45-meter-long, 9.5 meter-wide vessels. Each has a cargo capacity of 300 tonnes and were constructed at Dala, Dagon Seikkan and Dawbon dockyards.—GNLM ■

Two industrial zones to be built in Haka and Paletwa

TWO industrial zones will be built in Haka and Paletwa townships in Chin State in next financial year, according to a statement issued by the Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) yesterday.

The projects will be implemented by Chin State government in Paletwa Township as part of the larger Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project, a joint river transportation project between India and Myanmar.

The whole project will cost over US\$450 million. The Kaladan River project is one of Myanmar's largest cooperative projects with India. Paletwa Township will supply the national grid. The government will also start industrial training courses in the next fiscal year.

"Small and medium enterprises will start in Paletwa township," said Salai Isac Khin for Municipal Electricity and Industry Minister of Chin State government. "Haka is one of the townships which are suitable for implementation of the development projects and creation of job opportunities for local people. To support the development of more industrial businesses in Chin State, Chin Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CFCCI) was formed.

Currently, there are six huge enterprises and over 200 small and medium enterprises in Chin State.—IPRD ■

Higher prices for imported used cars reduces demand

YANGON'S imported used car market has cooled as the cost of importation of used cars increased by Ks1 million, according to a press release of the Ministry of Commerce

yesterday.

"For the last three of four days, the car market has been cool," said U Myint Kyaw, a car dealer.

The price of the importa-

tion authorization document for a personal vehicle is now about around Ks 9.8 million. Authorization of taxi vehicle imports is Ks10.7 million.—GNLM ■

Poor quality Myanmar sugar and re-export ban causes glut, low prices

China's low demand of Myanmar sugar is leading to lower prices and surplus stock, according to sugar merchants quoted yesterday in Myanmar Alin Daily newspaper.

Myanmar's sugar exporters have been affected by China's confiscation of illicit imports at the Muse, Myanmar sugar merchants said. Myanmar government allows sugar to be exported through border

areas even when they have no legitimate permit from China.

The price of sugar is Ks300 per viss (3.6 pounds) lower than during the same period last year.

Most sugar in Myanmar is imported from Thailand and India, and then re-exported to China through Muse land port of entry because Myanmar sugar millers refining machinery are inadequate to produce sug-

ar for export. Myanmar consumes its own domestically produced sugar.

Until China imposed restrictions on Myanmar sugar three months ago, traders at Muse port of entry were exporting about 150,000 tonnes of sugar per month to China. Since China's sugar restrictions, export volume dropped to about half that rate.

Myanmar's sugar glut has

been exacerbated by the Ministry of Commerce's recent cessation of sugar re-exports authorizations. Ministry officials imposed the new restriction because re-exports weaken the kyat, according to 19 June news report of Myanmar Alin Daily newspaper.

Sugar imports are usually purchased with U.S. dollars and then purchased by Chinese traders with Chinese yuan, re-

sulting in a net outflow of dollars, increasing dollar demand and pushing down the kyat.

Traders who already have a re-export licence, which are generally valid for one year, may be allowed to extend their licence.

Nearly 1.6 million tons of sugar were re-exported during previous financial year, earning more than US\$900 million.

— Ko Htet ■

ASEAN-Myanmar forum highlight economic priority and investment

A forum held a week ago aired various viewpoints on Myanmar's path to economic growth including increased exports, lower deficits and more rational taxation and investment policies, according to a press release from the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI).

The 2nd ASEAN-Myanmar forum organized by the Singapore Institute of International Affairs and the UMFCCI sought to discuss beneficial investment

projects to spur growth and more economic integration with ASEAN.

Dr. Sean Turnell, an economic advisor to the Myanmar government said the state is prioritizing macroeconomic stability and then will seek to reduce its budget deficit and boost its Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Myanmar's lackluster exports and foreign direct investment has slowed economic growth in 2017, forum participants said. Myanmar is also facing increasing demands from

China, which has been barring substandard Myanmar agricultural products in the past several months.

Associate Professor Simon Tay, Chairman of Singapore Institute of International Affairs said, many countries are increasingly pursuing protectionist policies and imposing more restrictions on imports. The professor said that Myanmar, however, will benefit from more openness and transparency, particularly with trade partners like Singapore. —UMFCCI ■

MoC and Korea Land and Housing Corporation (LH) to jointly develop industrial complex

Ministry of Construction and Korea Land and Housing Corporation (LH) will jointly build an industrial zone, according to a report in City News yesterday.

LH and Ministry of Construction signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

in September 2015 to jointly develop the industrial complex and signed a Memorandum of Agreement in May 2017. The industrial complex will be located 10 kilometers away north of Yangon on Yangon-Mandalay Highway Road, about a 30 minute

drive from Yangon International Airport. The development will span 2.37 million square meters.

The project is a product of a 2013 bilateral trade agreement reached by the Korea-Myanmar economic cooperation joint committee. —YCDC ■

SHB gets permission to open Myanmar branch

Sai Gon-Ha Noi Joint Stock Commercial Bank (SHB) has received approval from the State Bank of Viet Nam (SBV) to open its branch in Myanmar. This would become the third foreign market where it has a presence.

Myanmar has a lot of potential in the finance and banking market although its economy is in the development phase. In addition, Viet

Nam and Myanmar signed a joint announcement on comprehensive cooperation in the finance and banking sector in 2010. The signing created a legal framework for the operation of Vietnamese banks in Myanmar.

The establishment of the branch in Myanmar will help SHB expand its brand name in the southeast region while promoting investment coop-

eration and seeking potential customers.

The SBV also permitted the bank to open five new branches in Ha Tinh, Dak Lak, Ha Nam, Binh Dinh and Tay Ninh provinces.

The branches are expected to begin operations in the third quarter of the year providing deposit, lending, payment, guarantee and foreign exchange services. — VNS ■

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Yangon's property market is waiting for condominium law for booming. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

A glance at property market in Yangon

By Htin Paw Win
(Kamaryut)

YANGON, once famous as the seat of government, has turned itself into economic hub of the country, and is home to nearly seven million people.

Currently housing sales in Yangon slipped but some spots are active. Property entrepreneurs are waiting for enacting of Property Law which has emerged in all countries in Southeast Asia except Myanmar and Brunei. As the Condominium Law is expected to emerge soon, it is expected to see the bouncing back of the property market which depends much on the country's economic trends.

The written quotation in property market is skyrocketing but on ground the it is less than the quotation. For example, the quotation for one square feet space on Pyay Road, one of the main roads in Yangon, stands from Ks 800,000 to 900,000, but in reality most of the deals end around Ks 600,000,. As the prices are not lower than ten digits, owning a house in Yangon is just a daydream for an ordinary family.

Regarding the matter of residing of foreigners in Yangon, one of the property agents expressed his view saying that there is very rare to see the real condominium in Yangon and that

if foreigners have a chance to buy a property they will not choose to rent a house but to buy one. He continued that currently renting is booming more than buying.

According to CEO U Myo Myint Aung of Zalatpwint Property Company, the business reached its peak after 2000, and 2003 is the heyday of the business. But according to market theories, the booming business will be down if there are abnormal activities in the market which all the people have witnessed in mobile phone or car markets, he said. Not to be too much egocentric, all are to consider the image of the country and all are to think about the future of the country, the entrepreneur said.

For foreign investors' part, they are comparing property price, availability of power and stable laws with other Southeast Asia countries and are reluctant to invest in the golden land and rush to a place where there are more opportunities.

One of the problems in the business is, he said, the ownership which is very much complicated. Before buying a house or a plot one should go to the relevant office whether the ownership is true or not.

There also are words of authorities to lower the tax. As the previous government raised the property tax, the govern-

ment did not receive these taxes which should be gone into its treasure-house. And there was a dramatic difference between 2015 and 2016 tax collection. One of the parts that should be taken into consideration in the business is the brokers or agents. There are

As the Condominium Law is expected to emerge soon, it is expected to see the bouncing back of the property market which depends much on the country's economic trends

laws for agents in neighbouring countries. Responsibilities and accountabilities of the agents are enshrined in these laws, the buyers have assurances and they cannot face extremely high price or cannot be subject to harm.

Another problem is that there may be lack of confidence between land owners and the contractors. In some cases, the contractors leave the business without abiding by the laws and they must be sued but the land

owners become the victims who know nothing about the business. This is very harmful to them.

Although there are property markets of renting and selling, there also are homeless people and squatters in town. Lower income and skyrocketing property prices are barriers between the seller and the buyer.

Water Bus service available soon

Yangon Region Transport Authority said that water buses will be plying in rivers and creeks in Yangon in the month of July.

Although the business is to be run in June, the facilities to be imported have not reached and the scheduled has to be changed.

The first line of Yangon Water Bus will be from Yangon to Hlaingtharyar via Insein disclosed Daw Tint Tint Lwin who is the chairperson of Tint Tint Myanmar Group Companies which won tender for running the business.

There will be three journeys: from Hlaingtharyar to Yangon will be the first ever one; the journey to Thanlyin's Star City; and from Dagon Myothit (North) near Bailey Bridge to Botataung in downtown Yangon.

As there will be three different watercourses, the type of boats will be different. These three or four types of boats are ordered from Australia, built in

Thailand and Myanmar; the chairperson said.

Along the journey, the stopovers will be near Insein suspension bridge, Bayintnaung Bridge, FMI housing, Hline Station Road, Kyimyindaing (Market Bridge), Lathar (Lanthit Bridge), Pansodan (Nan Thidar) and Botahtaung (No.4 Bridge). At the bank of the stopovers, ticket booths and bike racks will be established and snack shops will be opened on the boats. For passengers, ticket system will be introduced first and later this system will be expanded to card system and online system. As soon as boats arrive from Australia and Thailand, the trips will be started.

Daw Tint Tint Lwin said at a press conference that any boats can be used for Hlaingtharyar-Botataung trip and boats to be used for the trip are ordered from Australia. For trips in Ngamoeyeik Cree, small boats will be used because there are sandbanks and sand carriers along the route. The coastal boat type will be used for the route to Thanlying Star City.

Special attention is being paid to passengers' safety by the Public Transport Authority. The control centre will apply GPS system used in Hungary to control the boat speed by warning the boat operator and rescue teams are also organized for emergencies. ■ (Translated by Wallace)

Police release details on family of four killed in Htaukkhyant

THE grisly details of a quadruple murder-suicide last year in Mingaladon Township were revealed yesterday in an attempt to solve the gruesome case.

A family of four was found dead in a Mingaladon home by a relative, Daw Nwe Nwe Yi of Badamyar Myothit, Shwenatha village-tract of Mingaladon.

On August 20, 2016, Daw Nwe Nwe Yi, not having heard from her relatives, found the gate and the front door of the home closed. She told police that she and neighbours entered the home through a window and found a gory scene. In the front room she found the body of her son in law, Soe Naung, 37, and her grandson, Maung Han Thura, 13, dead of multiple stab wounds.

Her daughter, Ma Cherry Pwint, 34, was found in the kitchen and her grandson Maung Swan Htet Myet, 8, was found in a bedroom. Both had multiple stab wounds. Upon finding her dead relatives, Daw Nwe Nwe Yi filed a murder case at the Htaukkhyant police station.

The ensuing police investigation revealed more disturbing details.

Soe Naung was found face up with four stab wounds to his chest. Ma Cherry Pwint had 12 stab wounds in the face, chest and back. Maung Han Thura had five stab wounds to the right side

of his chest and Maung Swan Htet Myet had four stab wounds and was found in his bed.

Near Soe Naung's left hand was found a blood-stained knife.

Bloody footsteps were near the body of Soe Naung. A footprint from a shoe was also found. A vest and a mosquito net covered in blood were kept as evidence. Police said no evidence was found that showed signs of trespassers into the house. On the table in the guest room, Ks105,000 in different denominations was found, as put there by U Khun Naung, father of Ma Cherry Pwint, the previous night. Police said this was evidence that money was not the motive for the deaths.

News of the four deaths spread on social media, with photos of three suspects said to have been taken by the mobile phone of Ma Cherry Pwint. Police said an enquiry into the photos was under way.

It was discovered that Soe Naung had purchased sand, stones and brick on credit from a depot owned by U Myint Kyaing and Daw Tin Tin Nyein on Seikkanthar street, in the 18th ward of Shwe Pyi Thar Township. According to the investigation, it was learnt that Soe Naung owed U Myint Kyaing Ks2,700,000 since early 2016. Soe Naung repaid Ks10,000 on 20th February 2016, police said.

The police force investigated a total of 156 independent witnesses. Authorities said there was no prominent evidences found as to who committed the crimes.

Footprints were found to have been those of Soe Naung, with the shoe print beside the cot found to be from the footwear of Daw Nwe Nwe Yi. The knife found near Soe Naung proved to have belonged to Soe Naung. On the blade of the knife Soe Naung's DNA was found. According to DNA tests, blood from the other murdered members of his family were also found.

Soe Naung graduated from university majoring in philosophy. Neighbours and friends said he was hot-blooded and in the habit of carrying knives and weapons. Since before their marriage until their death, there were marital and social problems between the husband and wife, police said. It was learnt that there were verbal disputes about economic problem among their family and Soe Naung was suffering mental disorder due to frequent insomnia.

Eight people who knew of their marital and social problems made statements at respective courts of justice. It was learnt that the case would be tried in accord with the law, depending on findings from the investigations. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Ceremony held to honor students and award schools in Zeyathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw



CHAIRMAN of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Thura U Shwe Mann attended and delivered a speech at a ceremony honoring students from basic education high school in Zeyathiri Township who passed with distinctions the 2016-2017 education year matriculation examination and award schools with highest passing rates was held yesterday morning in Seinsapin village Buddhist monastery school congregation hall, Zeyathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw.

First, commission chairman Thura U Shwe Mann said in any education system students need to learn, teachers need to teach and parents need to assess how their children are getting their education. Success will be achieved when all three works in tandem he said. Students who passed the 2016-2017 education year matriculation examination with

distinctions were then awarded with prizes by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission secretary U Aung Myint Tun, members U Ko Ko Naing, U San Shwe Aung and head of Ottara District administrative department U Aye Thaung.

Next, headmasters of schools in Zeyathiri Township with highest passing rates were awarded with prizes by head of Nay Pyi Taw council education department U Myo Win Aung. No. 1 Basic Education High School, No. 2 Basic Education High School and No. 16 Basic Education High School (Kyi Taung) won first, second and third prizes. Ma Su Le Po Po of No. 1 Basic Education High School who passed the matriculation examination with six distinctions then said words of thanks. Later, Commission Chairman Thura U Shwe Mann cordially greeted the teachers, students, parents and local elders. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Water Bus service available soon

Hsu Hnin Lae

YANGON Region Transport Authority said that water buses will be plying in rivers and creeks in Yangon in the month of July.

Although the business is to be run in June, the facilities to be imported have not reached and the scheduled has to be changed.

The first line of Yangon Water Bus will be from Yangon to Hlaingtharyar via Insein disclosed Daw Tint Tint Lwin who is the chairperson of Tint Tint Myanmar Group Companies which won tender for running the business. There will be three journeys: from Hlaingtharyar to Yangon will be the first ever one; the journey to Thanlyin's Star City; and from Dagon Myothit (North) near Bailey Bridge to

Botataung in downtown Yangon.

As there will be three different watercourses, the type of boats will be different. These three or four types of boats are ordered from Australia, built in Thailand and Myanmar, the chairperson said.

Along the journey, the stopovers will be near Insein suspension bridge, Bayintnaung Bridge, FMI housing, Hlaing Station Road, Kyimyindaing (Market Bridge), Lathar (Lanthit Bridge), Pansodan (Nan Thidar) and Botataung (No.4 Bridge). At the bank of the stopovers, ticket booths and bike racks will be established and snack shops will be opened on the boats. For passengers, ticket system will be introduced first and later this system will be expanded to card system

and online system. As soon as boats arrive from Australia and Thailand, the trips will be started.

Daw Tint Tint Lwin said at a press conference that any boats can be used for Hlaingtharyar-Botataung trip and boats to be used for the trip are ordered from Australia. For trips in Ngamoeyeik Cree, small boats will be used because there are sandbanks and sand carriers along the route. The coastal boat type will be used for the route to Thanlyin Star City. Special attention is being paid to passengers' safety by the Public Transport Authority. The control centre will apply GPS system used in Hungary to control the boat speed by warning the boat operator and rescue teams are also organized for emergencies. ■ (Translated by Wallace)

To avoid traffic accidents

Maung Thinn Pyant

POOR road conditions on Prince Kanaung Road in Shwe Linban industrial zone caused difficulties for factory workers and container trucks. Especially in the rainy season, Hlaingtharyar industrial zone, the largest in Yangon Region, sees road damages.

Ko Thiha, driver from a garment factory, said that it was long ago, roads in Shwelinban industrial zone were damaged. Imagine how it would be difficult for those who have walk back home as it is worse for factory workers who have a chance to take factory's ferries, he said. Craters

on the roads are the reason for causing car accidents at night. "Drivers who are used to travel on the road know the situation but for strangers they don't know and face many difficulties." said Ko Thi Ha. The crater near office of Shwelinban industrial zone is bigger than the others, he said.

As traffic is busy on Prince Kanaung Road, more accidents are seen especially at night as there are many spots of damages on the road.

To avoid traffic accidents and ensure safety for road users, roads in the industrial zone are to be repaired urgently. ■ (Translated by Wallace)

Nurturing youths and children

Khin Maung Oo

Minors are generally those at the age of learning at schools. In case they now lack a chance to learn at these places, they should have been in vocational training schools or should have been working at certain places of employment. Failing that, these young people may go astray, not only bringing nothing for themselves but also possibly causing great burdens for their families and our country.

At the present time, many youths are found to be involved in crimes. They lack chances to go to schools and to get any vocational training. Due to being in wrong surroundings or becoming drug-addicts, they unavoid-

ably happened to become involved in unacceptable events.

Being inquisitive and adventurous, youths ought to have been in schools, academic learning centers or working environments. Youths and children are easy to be cast or molded like wax, required to be shaped into fine and valuable figures or images by dying breeds of old well-minded generations. If they had unexpectedly gone astray, we must guide them to walk on the right path again.

It is best to guide and rehabilitate youths who have committed crimes instead of punishing them. We should try to determine as to which conditions instigated youths to commit offences and what kinds of weakness and re-

quirements they have, thence the need to rehabilitate them from the state of debauchery.

Giving punishment to a young person who has become a prey of drug addiction is not correct and certainly not a perfect solution. Instead, we bring about better conditions for them only if their lives have been rehabilitated. Depending upon committed offences according to their age-groups, we have camps graded as youth rehabilitation centers and detention centers. We need to help youths build a better future after ensuring that the actual requirements of these youths have been discovered.

In implementing rule of law and national development, along with

peace and stability in the country, it is a great loss for the country if youths get involved in a series of crimes and offences. The reason these youths have gone astray may be attributed to the scarcity of job opportunities and thence being in great need of money. Another cause may be abuse of narcotic drugs. For these reasons, we must exert our concerted efforts to bring about chances for ill-bred youths to have access to learning at schools, vocational training schools and job opportunities, with a view to preventing them from returning to their depraved situations again, so that we will be able to build up a stable and peaceful nation with the strength of our youths who are reliable as well as motivated and disciplined. ■

Do as I say, don't do as I did

Khin Maung Myint

The title may seem a bit queer, but that's the kind of attitude we are often facing today. In fact it is an expression we use, to condemn someone who doesn't "practice what he preaches". It is an unleaderlike attitude. In this case it is directed not at any one particular individual, but towards a group of people from a certain country. They have no scruples, whatsoever, for principles and are devoid of self-respects. Those people are always pointing fingers at other countries for what they thought as disregards for human rights, while they themselves are ignoring or violating them.

It is common knowledge that the deteriorating climates or the extreme climate changes are threatening the whole world. Year after year the global warming, which is behind the climate change is getting worse without any sign of relenting. This situation is causing alarm around the world amongst those who are knowledgeable about its consequences. Today the heat related death rates of the human beings and the animals are on the rise at alarming rates during the summers, which is an indication of the effects of the climate change that anyone with a sound mind would be well aware.

By now most of the people had come to know that the excess of the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, of which Carbon Dioxide gas (CO₂) forms the major proportion are the main causes of the global warming that led to the rise in temperatures worldwide. This caused the climate changes and had given rise to unprecedented strong storms, heavy rainfalls, devas-

tating flooding, extreme colds, record breaking snowfalls, severe draughts, extensive desertification and increasing numbers of killer heat waves that had claimed many lives, loss of pasture lands and properties. The climate change is wreaking havoc around the world, sparing no country.

However, most of the people around the world including me, are disappointed to learn that one of the most emitters of CO₂ gas in the world is in the process of withdrawing from the Paris Agreements.

The majority of the people around the world realized and accept the fact that if the climate change cannot be put under control the world will face catastrophes of gigantic proportions. Thus almost every country in the world participated in the endeavour to find solutions to protect the world and all living things--humans, animals, trees and plants included--from being destroyed.

Under the guidance of the United Nations, many countries around the world endeavoured to bring the climate change under control. The deals reached at Paris during the 21st-

Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) held from 30 November to 12 December 2015, had produced many positive outcomes that could be effective in controlling the global warming and hence the climate change too. The Paris Agreement was signed by 195 countries and ratified by 150 countries and had become effective as of 4 November, 2016. The significance of the COP21 was: it managed to reach viable agreements and also able to get the two largest emitters of CO₂ in the world, the USA and China to sign the ratifications, which had been reluctant sign and were avoiding to do so for a long time. The environmentalists all over the world hailed it as a breakthrough and it provided hopes for the future of our Planet Earth.

However, most of the people around the world including me, are disappointed to learn that one of the most emitters of CO₂ gas in the world is in the process of withdrawing from the Paris Agreements. It is really distressful and outrageous that a country, which have been championing loudly and forcefully for the human rights around the world would consider committing such a heinous act against humanity. Not abiding by the Paris Agreements, which could control the climate change tantamount to, not only violating the human rights, but it's endangering the future of mankind. My understanding is that it is part of their latest policy of putting the interest of their country and people first.

If even an ordinary person, like me, have some knowledge that the main producers of the CO₂ gases are the industries and vehicles that run

on fossilized fuels, such as: petroleum, petroleum products and coals, they should know better. Since the new administration came into power in that country we had been witnessing their disregards for the environments. They are reluctant to accept the fact that the climate change is threatening the world and are even labeling it as a hoax. The most unthinkable was the fact that they are not honouring the commitments made by their predecessors and planning to withdraw from the Paris Agreements.

I have nothing to say about the slashing of the Medicaid or Healthcare, whatever that is called, or the restriction on the entry of certain nationals or the discriminations against immigrants as those have nothing to do with us. However, not accepting the presence of the dangers of the climate change, which is quite imminent and is a great threat to the whole world and planning to withdraw from the Paris Agreements is totally absurd and unacceptable from the human rights point of view. It is creating great concerns and disappointments for those who are knowledgeable of its consequences.

However, their decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreements, which is a move to please the industrialists and coal miners in their country, and the repealing of the restrictions on extractions and uses of coal are entirely unwise. Frankly, I see it as a violation of human rights of, not only just against one nation or one race or a group of people, but the whole world. Unthinkable things would happen if other countries followed their example and withdraw from the Paris Agreements. ■



Photo shows several debris retrieved from the military transport plane yesterday that crashed on 7th June in the Andaman Sea off the Taninthayi Coast. **PHOTO: MNA**

Two people stabbed to death in Rakhine, State Chief Minister provided cash assistance to survivors

Two of four people attacked yesterday in Kyunpaukpyu Village, Maungtau Township, Rakhine State were fatally stabbed yesterday morning, according to a Myanmar News Agency report.

U Aung Kyaw and U KoKo Thein, who were killed in the attack and two other victims who survived, were all from the village of Tarain, near the

location of the assault.

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu offered words of consolation and cash assistance of Ks500,000 to each of the the dead victims' families and Ks300,000 and Ks200,000 to an injured assault victim and another who was not injured, respectively.— Myint Maung Soe, Aung Kyaw Oo ■

Correction

Please read “U Ko Ko Shein appointed as Ambassador to Russian Federation” in the Press Communique on the Page three of the 28th June issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar.—Ed

Turning on the Lights in Rural Myanmar

The late afternoon breeze brings the village of Sai Pyun out— children race each other on bikes, weaving through neighbors fetching water in metal jugs on their heads or yellow plastic tanks carried on their shoulders, and through strutting hens and their chicks pecking at feed on dusty, sun-cracked roads.

As in much of rural Myanmar, residents of this village in Ayeyarwady make the most of the sunlight each day brings. Open doors, windows and slits in patterned rattan walls let in what light they can of the afternoon sun when the village is tinted gold. Chores that were too hot to do midday are completed, village residents bathe and wash clothes in the river. Mothers squat around a fire, cooking their families' dinner, smoke rising behind wooden, lattice fences.

Sometimes the sun sets as early as 5:30 pm, swallowing the village in darkness and leaving residents to rely on the dim light of candles or the limited lifespan of inverter batteries. Ei Po Po

Aung is one of these residents who in two weeks' time, along with her 11th grade classmates, will take her university entrance exam. She has ambitions to become a teacher, but she faces a few obstacles to achieve this dream.

“Last year, only nine out of 45 students in Grade 11 passed the exam,” said Ei Po Po Aung. “I want to pass the exam with many distinctions, but we have seven family members and only one light bulb for the whole family. I study about six hours every night and after the battery runs out, I rely on candlelight but I cannot see clearly and sometimes the wind blows the flame out.”

Ei Po Po's eldest sister suffered from tuberculosis in her childhood, and had to quit school after 5th grade to help her father fish.

“I really feel sorry that my eldest daughter didn't have a chance to study well,” said Ei Po Po's father, Win Bo. “So for Ei Po Po Aung, who is outstanding in her education, my biggest wish

is to help fulfill her dreams. We really worry for her so getting electricity can be a big help for my daughter to pass these exams.”

Most of Sai Pyun's 76 households, including that of Win Bo, rely on fishing for their livelihood, but the bulk of the fish they catch are mainly to feed themselves. Candles and recharging batteries are practically a daily expense. Win Bo spends 500 kyat (40 US cents) on candles per night and 300 kyat (20 US cents) to recharge batteries every two days. With each household earning an average of 3-4,000 kyat or \$2-3 each day, expenses on candles and batteries eat up a large fraction of daily income.

For many families like Win Bo's, connecting to Myanmar's existing energy network seems like a far off dream. Only 30% of Myanmar's population is connected to the electricity grid and as of 2014, only 16% of rural households were connected.

Now the Government of Myanmar, with the help of the World Bank, is rolling out on-grid

and off-grid electricity services to rural communities as part of its National Electrification Plan. The plan aims to bring electricity to everyone in Myanmar by 2030, installing modern solar home systems and mini-grids for remote villages that would otherwise have to wait years for a grid connection. The plan calls for a phased approach— 50% access by 2020, 75% by 2025, and universal access by 2030.

The project's first procurement package for the supply and installation of solar PV systems for households, schools, clinics, religious buildings and street lights was launched through international competition in early 2016, and the resulting prices were more than 40% below budget and saved Myanmar \$37 million. These savings allowed an increase in the number of solar home systems for the benefit of more families and a 30% reduction in the families' contributions.

Installation of solar PV systems by local Myanmar companies is now under way in eight of

Myanmar's states and regions, benefiting over 2,000 villages and 140,000 households. The next round of international competitive bidding has started and installation is expected to start early 2018, aiming to electrify an additional 95,000 households.

Ultimately, about 450,000 solar home systems, 23,000 solar-based community connections for clinics, schools and religious buildings will be created, and over 150,000 public lights will be put up in the duration of the project. It will benefit approximately 700,000 people by October 2017 and more than 2 million people by 2021 from off-grid electrification alone. As new electricity services are being rolled out, it has the potential to transform life in rural Myanmar. New sources of electricity will help Ei Po Po Aung to study without disruption, conquering one more obstacle on her way to achieving her dream, and help her family save on daily expenses while enabling them to be more productive. — World Bank ■

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their works to the Global New Light of Myanmar at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon or by email to dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Real name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).— Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar news office

State Counsellor chooses Ma Htoo Htoo Mon as the person of honour for June

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor has been selecting the person who is worth congratulating from among the citizens, philanthropists and social societies monthly, releasing their names to make words of thanks known to the public. Ma Htoo Htoo Mon was selected as the person who is worth congratulating for the month of June 2017. Ma Htoo Htoo Mon was born with inborn physical disabilities and brought up.

In spite of these difficulties she tried very hard and did her best without abandoning herself to despair. Due to her arduous efforts, she passed her BEHS examination in the academic year 2016-2017. Thus, the Office of the State Counsellor has issued an announcement that she has been selected as the person who is worth congratulating for the month of June.

(Following is an unofficial translation of the congratulatory message signed by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.)



Ma Htoo Htoo Mon.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of State Counsellor
Informing Words of Thanks to the Public

6th Waxing of Waso 1379 ME
(29th June, 2017)

- In building the nation, sustainable human resource plays an important role more than consumable natural resources. Especially, youths are the ones to lead our country in future, standing in the sector of great importance. As youths who are to challenge 21st century world, it is very important for them to be well-equipped with intellect, knowledge and skills as well as firm resolution, good character and zealous efforts. Without even a hint of depression and annoyance over her hard life, Ma Htoo Htoo Mon managed to set an example for today's youths to emulate her enthusiasm.
- Ma Htoo Htoo Mon was born to U Myint Ngwe (farmer/deceased) and Daw Set Ngwe (farmer) on 27th October 1998 with inborn physical disabilities. Out of 3 siblings, she is the youngest. Since the time of birth, her right hand had no fingers, with her left hand long only up to the elbow. And, both of her legs only stretched up to her knees.
- Despite the fact that her family found it difficult for their living, encouragement of her parents and her zealous efforts pushed her to have passed her exams from the middle school in the village of Thaphanseik, without a fail annually up to 7th standard class. Yet, she found difficulties to proceed to learn her academic education due to financial difficulty of her family. Meanwhile, a charitable donor came to know her problem via social website page, helping her pass 8th and 9th standard examinations. She pursued her learning at 10th standard and took the BEHS examination for the first time in the academic year 2015-2016. At her first attempt, she failed but due to her zealous effort, enthusiasm and firm determination, support of the donor and her mother's encouragement made her pass the BEHS exam in the academic year 2016-2017, and she passed the exam from the examination center of Kalay township.
- In the present world full of fighting and arguments based on dissatisfaction and annoyance, Ma Htoo Htoo Mon managed to set an example for younger generation to emulate her self-confidence to confront with challenges, firm resolution and arduous efforts. Thus, it was released that she was selected as the person who is worth congratulating for the month of June, 2017.
- Like Ma Htoo Htoo Mon who can keep abreast with other strong and healthy ones and can make challenges of difficulties, though different from others, you all are requested to try hard with zealous effort, enthusiasm and firm resolution to become valuable youths who will serve for the country and its people, by putting on record with this congratulatory message.

Aung San Suu Kyi
State Counsellor

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission

Notification 15/2017
29th June 2017

Seven Defence Services Personnel representatives substituted

According to a request made in accordance with Section 33 of the Regions or States Hluttaw Election Law to substitute seven Defence Services Personnel Representatives who are parliamentarians, the Union Election Commission scrutinized and substituted the following seven Defence Services Personnel Regions or States Hluttaw representatives under the Notification 3/2016 of the commission dated 18-1-2016.

The Defence Services Personnel Representatives of Regions or States Hluttaw to be substituted were nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services in the second multi-party general election held on 8 November 2015.

- | | | |
|-----|--|--------------------------------|
| (1) | Kayin State Hluttaw
BC 18637
Col Aung Lwin | BC 22617
Col Myo Min Naung |
| (2) | Chin State Hluttaw
BC 21123
Col Kyaw Kyaw | BC 25995
Col Han Win Aung |
| (3) | Magway Region Hluttaw
BC 20595
Col Naing Oo | BC 20825
Col Min Oo |
| (4) | Mandalay Region Hluttaw
BC 21658
Col Myo Min Aung | BC 26109
Col Kyaw Kyaw Min |
| (5) | Rakhine State Hluttaw
BC 17517
Col Htain Lin | BC 22666
Col Phone Tint |
| (6) | Yangon Region Hluttaw
BC 20682
Col Tin Aung Tun | BC 27189
Col Aung Soe Moe |
| (7) | Shan State Hluttaw
BC 19729
Col Soe Moe Aung | BC 23911
Col Naing Win Aung |

By Order
Tin Tun
Secretary, UEC

Three-wheeled motor bike for BEHS students in Maungtaw Township

A donation ceremony organised by the Myanmar National Natural Disaster Management Committee was held at Basic Education High School (BEHS-1) in Maungtaw yesterday.

During the ceremony, officials donated a three-wheeled motorbike to students from Ng-aKuya Basic Education High School in Yay Myat Taung Village-tract in Maungtaw Township to be used for the ferrying of students between school and home. Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu handed over documents related to the motor bike to township elders.

The village was involved in terrorist activities that occurred in Rakhine State in 2016, but peace and stability has since been restored and villagers and students in the village are now enjoying life without anxiety, officials said.

—Myint Maung Soe, Aung Kyaw Oo ■

A villager missing in Maungtaw Township

A villager who went on a trip on the morning of 25 June was missing in Maungtaw Township, according to yesterday's report from Myanmar News Agency.

U Tun Maung from Guit Chaung village, Maungtaw Township in Rakhine State went on a trip at 9:00 am on 25 June and did not return home.

His wife Ma Nginchee @ Ma Hla Nyo reported a missing person case to Ngakhuya police station on 28 June. —Myanmar News Agency ■

US unveils enhanced airline security plan to avoid laptop ban

WASHINGTON/NEW YORK — The United States on Wednesday unveiled enhanced security measures for flights to the country designed to prevent expanding an in-cabin ban on laptops, but an airline trade group said the changes might cause more disruptions.

The measures, which European and US officials said would begin taking effect within three weeks, could require additional time to screen passengers and personal electronic devices for possible explosives.

The measures would affect 325,000 airline passengers on about 2,000 commercial flights arriving daily in the United States, on 180 airlines from 280 airports in 105 countries.

The United States in March banned laptops on flights to the United States originating at 10 airports in eight countries, including Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and Turkey, to address fears that bombs could be concealed in electronic devices taken aboard aircraft.

Britain quickly followed suit with a similar set of restrictions.

The decision not to impose new laptop restrictions eases US and European airlines' concern that expanding the ban to Europe or other locations could cause major logistical problems and



Passengers use their laptops on a flight out of John F. Kennedy (JFK) International Airport in New York, US, on 26 May 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

deter travel. "Inaction is not an option," US Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly told a news briefing, adding that he believed airlines would comply with the new screening.

But he said the measures were not the last step to tighten security. US carriers said they would follow the new security directive, but industry trade group Airlines for America (A4A), criticized Homeland Security for not working more closely with them

on the new policies.

"The development of the security directive should have been subject to a greater degree of collaboration and coordination to avoid the significant operational disruptions and unnecessarily frustrating consequences for the travelling public that appear likely to happen," A4A Chief Executive Nicholas E. Calio said in a statement. Kelly had been saying since April he thought an expansion of the laptop ban was

"likely." He said in late May the government could potentially expand the ban worldwide.

Homeland Security officials told reporters they expected more than 99 per cent of airlines would comply, a move that would effectively end the controversial electronics ban.

Airlines that fail to satisfy new security requirements could still face in-cabin electronics restrictions, Kelly said.

"We expect all airlines will

work with us to keep their aircraft, their crew and their passengers safe," he said.

European and US officials told Reuters that airlines have 21 days to put in place increased explosive trace detection screening and have 120 days to comply with other security measures, including enhanced screening of airline passengers.

US authorities want increased security protocols around aircraft and in passenger areas, expanded canine screening and additional places where travellers can be cleared by US officials before they depart.

Since laptops are widely used in flight by business class passengers — who pay double or more than the average ticket price — the airline industry had feared expanding the ban could cut into revenue.

Airline officials told Reuters they were concerned about adding enhanced security measures to all airports worldwide that have direct flights to the United States rather than focus them on airports where threats are highest. European airline groups said in a document reviewed by Reuters that if the threats are confirmed, the restrictions should be deployed to cover all EU departing flights, not just US-bound flights.—Reuters ■

US-backed SDF sees big risk of clash with Turkey in northwest Syria

BEIRUT — The US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) see a "big possibility of open, fierce confrontation" with the Turkish army in northwestern Syria that would undermine the assault on Islamic State at Raqqa, a senior SDF official said on Thursday.

Naser Haj Mansour, an adviser to the SDF, told Reuters the SDF had taken a decision to confront Turkish forces "if they try to go beyond the known lines" in the areas near Aleppo where the sides exchanged fire on Wednesday.

Turkey has recently deployed reinforcements into the area, according to Turkey-backed rebel groups, prompting SDF concern that Ankara is planning to attack nearby areas under SDF control including the predominantly Kurdish Afrin area.

The SDF is an alliance of Kurdish and Arab groups spear-

headed by the YPG militia which Turkey views as an extension of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), which has waged a three-decade insurgency in Turkey.

Mansour said an attack on SDF-controlled areas would "do great harm" to the US-backed Raqqa assault by drawing some SDF fighters away from front lines.

The Turkish military said on Wednesday it had fired artillery at YPG positions south of the town of Azaz in what it said was a response to the YPG's targeting of Turkey-backed rebels. Mansour said the SDF had responded to Turkish shelling.

Asked about the chances of greater confrontation between the SDF and Turkish forces in the area north of Aleppo, Mansour said: "Certainly there is a big possibility of open and fierce confrontations in this area, par-



A general view shows the Kurdish city of Afrin, northwest Syria on 18 March 2015. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

ticularly given that the SDF is equipped and prepared."

He added that the SDF had decided to confront Turkish forces "if they try to go beyond the known lines".

On Thursday, Turkey's deputy prime minister, Numan Kurtulmus, said it would retaliate against any cross-border gunfire

from the YPG and not remain silent in the face of anti-Turkey activities by terrorist groups abroad.

Kurtulmus also reiterated Ankara's opposition to the US arming of YPG combatants and said that US officials would understand that this was the "wrong path".—Reuters ■

Iraqi forces capture historic Mosul mosque where Islamic State declared "caliphate" — military

BAGHDAD — Iraqi forces captured on Thursday the wrecked historic mosque of Mosul in which Islamic State proclaimed its self-styled "caliphate" three years ago, an Iraqi military statement said.

Taking the Grand al-Nuri Mosque hands a symbolic victory to the Iraqi forces which have been battling for more than eight months to capture Mosul, the northern city that served as Islamic State's de facto capital in Iraq. The insurgents blew up the medieval mosque and its landmark leaning minaret a week ago, as US-backed Iraqi forces started a push in its direction. Their black flag had been floating on al-Hadba, the "hunchback" minaret, since June 2014.—Reuters ■

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation
Central Committee for Holding Myanmar Gems Emporium
The Information on Fifty -Fourth Myanmar Gems Emporium 2017

1. The significant Fifty -Fourth Myanmar Gems Emporium will be held on August 2 to 11, 2017 at Maniradana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

2. Rough jade, rough gems, cut and polished gemstones, jewelries, jade carvings and gemstone pictures will be sold in Euro currency at the Emporium.

3. Gems lots and jade lots will be put up for sale through open tender system and specifying reserve prices as follows;

Sr.	Kind of Gem	Reserve Price (Euro) for Open Tender
-----	-------------	--------------------------------------

(a)	Gems	500 and above
(b)	Jade	4,000 and above
(c)	Finished product and Jade Carving	1,000 and above

4. Foreign visitors eligible for the following qualifications will be granted admission to the Fifty -Fourth Emporium 2017, excluding those blacklisted for their default on payment in the previous emporiums;

(a) The person who was invited by the Emporium Central Committee with invitation card.

(b) The person who requested the invitation card via the Foreign Jade Associations.

(c) The person who requested to receive the invitation card through the respective Embassies and Consulate -General.

(d) Foreign visitors are permissible to make bids for the lots up to the value of the 20-fold of the minimum deposit paid by the types of gemstones. The minimum amount of deposit to be paid and the amount permitted to bid are as follows;

Sr.	Kind of Gem	Deposit to be paid	Permitted limit to bid
(1)	Gems	€ 10,000	€ 200,000
(2)	Jade	€ 20,000	€ 400,000

(e) Making bids for lots priced more than the permitted limit is required to make additional deposit (5% of its value) to the Account No. EEM 400034 opened with the Myanmar Economic Bank (Nay Pyi Taw) by the name of The Central Committee of Emporium (Deposit). Deposit must be made by the preview deadline as below;

Sr.	Kind of Gem	Kind of selling system	Deposit Payment Date
(1)	Gems	Open Tender	August 4, 2017
(2)	Jade	Open Tender	August 5, 2017

5. Starting from 11th July 2017, admission card will be issued at the Maniradana Jade Hall, Registration Office to the foreign merchants who have already paid the deposit ahead.

6. Application Forms for admission to Emporium can be downloaded from provided websites (www.mining.gov.mm or www.mge.gov.mm), starting form 20th July 2017. Application can also be submitted via On-Line Pre-Registration System from www.mge.gov.mm. The requirements to make the admission card are as follow;

(a) Name, Position, Passport and National Scrutiny Card No. (Passport Issuing Country)

(b) Photocopy of Passport.

(c) Two passport photos taken within one month.

(d) Complete contact information, (to state Phone No., Fax No. and E-mail if applicable)

(e) Admission fee-Myanmar currency (Kyats) Equal to US\$ 100.

7. Buyers shall settle payment for the purchases within deadline as prescribed by the Sales Agreement. The necessary arrangements will be made if the buyer desires to bring his/her fully paid purchase along with them.

8. Shipment of fully paid purchase to the buyer is made under the EXW(EX Works)System. Purchase will be timely despatched once the buyer has made full payment for the purchase. Emporium Central Committee will be responsible for loading the merchandise onto the Transportation Vehicles from the Emporium Hall while the buyer himself or his authorized representative company will be held liable for the remaining processes.

Emporium Central Committee



An aerial photo of wildfires burning across almost 50,000 acres near the ski resort of Brian Head, about 245 miles south of Salt Lake City, Utah is shown in this handout photo provided on 27 June 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Utah wildfire levels 13 homes, forces evacuation of 1,500 people

SALT LAKE CITY (Utah) — A fierce wildfire that has destroyed more than a dozen homes and forced the evacuation of 1,500 residents raged largely unchecked in southwestern Utah for an 11th day, as an army of firefighters struggled to corral the flames.

As of Tuesday morning, the blaze had scorched nearly 50,000 acres, the bulk of that in the Dixie National Forest, with crews managing to carve containment lines around just 10 per cent of the fire's perimeter, officials said.

The fire erupted on 17 June near the ski resort of Brian Head, Utah, about 30 miles northeast of Zion National Park, and spread quickly as high winds drove flames

into dense forests, threatening homes in nearby communities.

The town of Brian Head ordered an evacuation of all residents, and the number of people forced from their dwellings throughout the fire zone has climbed to 1,500, according to US Forest Service spokesman Andrew Jackson.

Local fire spokeswoman Elayn Briggs said at least 13 homes and eight outbuildings have been demolished since the blaze began but no serious injuries have been reported.

The fire was ignited by human activity, but officials said they were still investigating the precise cause. By Tuesday evening, more than

1,600 firefighters were assigned to the conflagration, backed by an aerial force of 13 water-dropping helicopters. Their efforts were hampered by thick stands of highly combustible dead timber left blighted by bark beetle infestations, Jackson said.

The Brian Head blaze ranks as the largest of 20 major, active wildfires burning across Utah and five other Western states — Arizona, California, New Mexico, Idaho and Oregon. Those fires have blackened a total of 150,000 acres, according to the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho. Another large blaze in Arizona dubbed the Frye Fire has charred nearly 40,000 acres since it was

sparked by lightning on 7 June near Mount Graham, but it was more than 40 percent contained by Tuesday, authorities said.

Arizona Governor Doug Ducey declared a state of emergency on Friday, with more than 20 separate fires burning across the state.

The 1,400 residents of Mayer, Arizona, a town about 75 miles north of Phoenix, were told to evacuate as a nearby wildfire grew to 18,000 acres on Tuesday afternoon. "It's burning in an area that hasn't seen fire for 40 years," said Tiffany Davila, spokeswoman for the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management. "It's tough going right now." —Reuters ■

Australia, United States begin their biggest joint military exercise

SYDNEY — Australia and the United States began their biggest ever joint military exercises on Thursday, a show of force, largely at sea, aimed at sending a message both to allies and potential foes, including China.

The exercises involving 33,000 US and Australian troops

on board battleships equipped with strike jets, comes as tension over China's more assertive activity, particularly in the disputed South China Sea, has raised fears of confrontation.

Admiral Harry Harris, head of the US Pacific Command, asked how he thought China would

view the exercises, said the size of the deployment was intended as a signal.

"I'm pleased about that message it sends our friends, allies, partners and potential adversaries," Harris told reporters on board the USS Bonhomme Richard.

Relations between the United States and China have soured in recent months as the United States seeks to counter what it perceives as Chinese assertiveness in the Pacific, encapsulated by Beijing's artificial island building in the South China Sea. —Reuters ■

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Oil rises for sixth session, buoyed by US output decline

SINGAPORE — Crude oil rose for a sixth straight session on Thursday to its highest since 19 June on a decline in US output, but ongoing worries about global oversupply continued to drag.

US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude had risen 21 cents, or 0.5 per cent, to \$44.95 per barrel by 0648 GMT, while benchmark Brent futures gained 20 cents, or 0.4 per cent, to \$47.51 a barrel.

“The fast ramp-up in shale drilling and the unexpectedly large rebound in Libya/Nigeria production are on track to slow the 2017 stock draws,” investment bank Goldman Sachs said.

“This creates risks that the normalisation in inventories will not be achieved by the time the OPEC cut ends next March. We expect this will leave prices trading near \$45 (a barrel) until there is evidence of a decline in the US horizontal oil rig count, sustained stock draws or additional OPEC production cuts.”

The US Energy Information Administration (EIA) said crude stocks rose 118,000 barrels last week, while weekly production declined 100,000 barrels per day (bpd) to 9.3



An oil pump jack can be seen in Cisco, Texas, on 23 August 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

million bpd. That was the biggest decline in weekly output since July 2016.

There was additional support stemming from a decline in US gasoline inventories.

“Prices were also supported after data showed another strong drawdown in inventories in the US,” ANZ said in a note.

“Gasoline inventories fell 894,000 barrels. This suggests demand is starting to pick up, after a slow start to the US summer driving season.”

Other analysts and traders noted the US production decline last week was related to temporary

factors like Tropical Storm Cindy in the Gulf of Mexico and maintenance work in Alaska that will likely be reversed in coming weeks.

Still, global supplies are ample despite output cuts by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and other producing countries of 1.8 million bpd since January.

OPEC and the other producers, trying to reduce a crude glut, agreed in May to extend the supply cut through March 2018. But OPEC has exempted Nigeria and Libya from curbing output.

OPEC delegates have said they will not rush to

cut crude output further or end the exemptions, although a meeting in Russia next month is likely to consider further steps to support the market.

“OPEC compliance with production cuts has been good overall at 104 percent year to date and 106 percent in May, thanks primarily to cuts from Saudi Arabia that have been deeper than their commitment,” Jefferies said.

“Despite these efforts the market remains stubbornly oversupplied, with incremental volumes from the US, Libya and Nigeria offsetting much of OPEC’s efforts.”—Reuters ■

New computer virus spreads from Ukraine to disrupt world business

FRANKFURT/WASHINGTON — A computer virus wreaked havoc on firms around the globe on Wednesday as it spread to more than 60 countries, disrupting ports from Mumbai to Los Angeles and halting work at a chocolate factory in Australia.

Risk-modeling firm Cyence said economic losses from this week’s attack and one last month from a virus dubbed WannaCry would likely total

\$8 billion. That estimate highlights the steep tolls businesses around the globe face from growth in cyber attacks that knock critical computer networks offline.

“When systems are down and can’t generate revenue, that really gets the attention of executives and board members,” said George Kurtz, chief executive of security software maker CrowdStrike. “This has heightened awareness

of the need for resiliency and better security in networks.”

The virus, which researchers are calling GoldenEye or Petya, began its spread on Tuesday in Ukraine. It infected machines of visitors to a local news site and computers downloading tainted updates of a popular tax accounting package, according to national police and cyber experts.

It shut down a cargo

booking system at Danish shipping giant A.P. Moller-Maersk (MAERSKb.CO), causing congestion at some of the 76 ports around the world run by its APM Terminals subsidiary.

Maersk said late on Wednesday that the system was back online: “Booking confirmation will take a little longer than usual but we are delighted to carry your cargo,” it said via Twitter.—Reuters ■

Invitation of Expression of Interest (EOI) for long-term lease in Nay Pyi Taw Cement Factory under Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, Nay Pyi Taw

Nay Pyi Taw Cement Factory under Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee is intended to cooperate with Local or Foreign companies as long-term lease.

As a first step, Companies who interested in that cooperation are required to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) not later than 4 :00pm (Myanmar Standard Time) on (1.9.2017) to Chairman, Tender Committee, City Hall, Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of The Union of Myanmar.

Interested Companies can inquiry and take over the EOI form and other indications at procurement section, sub office of cement factory, City Hall, Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, Nay Pyi Taw, commencing from (4.7.2017) by presenting document of company profile.

Document of company profile

- Valid Certificate of Incorporation
- Record and Regulation of Company
- Name of Foreign Technology Partner

(For more information: Please Contact : 067- 432312, 09-5110331)

Tender Committee
Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV THANLWIN STAR VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV THANLWIN STAR VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING
LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV DZ QINGDAO VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DZ QINGDAO VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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.

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‘Hamilton’ creator issues musical riposte to immigration debate

LOS ANGELES — “Hamilton” creator Lin-Manuel Miranda on Wednesday released what he called a “musical counterweight” to the US political debate on immigration, inspired by one of the best-known lines from his award-winning, racially diverse Broadway musical.

The video “Immigrants (We Get the Job Done)” portrays refugees and immigrants from around the world in camps, garment sweatshops, fruit-picking fields and crowded trains. It is accompanied by a new song, set to rap lyrics, about their struggles, setbacks and contributions to society.

The line “Immigrants, we get the job done” brings rousing applause on Broadway, where “Hamilton” has been playing to sold-out audiences for two years. The hip-hop infused mu-



Lin-Manuel Miranda performs at the 89th Academy Awards ceremony at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles, California, US on 26 February, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

sical uses a racially diverse cast that includes African-American and Latino actors to tell the story of how penniless immigrant Alexander Hamilton rose to become the right hand man of

General George Washington.

Miranda, a Pulitzer Prize and Tony award winner of Puerto Rican descent, said the video was intended as a riposte to a crackdown on illegal immigrants by President Donald Trump’s administration and his bid to ban travel to the United States by people from six predominantly Muslim states.

“This election cycle has brought xenophobia and vilification of immigrants back to the forefront of US politics.

This is a musical counterweight,” Miranda wrote in a commentary on the music community website Genius.com.

The video begins with scenes of immigrants huddled around a radio where a speaker is saying, “It’s really astonishing that in a country founded by immigrants, immigrant has

somehow become a bad word.”

The rappers, including British “Rogue One” actor Riz Ahmed, sing verses in English and Spanish, with a chorus of “Look how far I come, Immigrants, we get the job done.”

“Hamilton” won 11 Tony awards in 2016 and has productions already or about to open in San Francisco, Chicago, Los Angeles and London.

The Broadway cast caused a stir when it addressed newly elected US Vice President Mike Pence from the stage when he attended a performance days after the November 2016 election, expressing alarm over the possible loss of protection of diversity rights. Pence said he was not offended, but Trump called the cast “very rude” and deemed the show “highly overrated.”—Reuters ■

Halle Berry, Michelle Rodriguez speak out on diversity and Hollywood

LOS ANGELES — Halle Berry, the only black woman to ever win a best actress Oscar, said her 2002 win turned out to be meaningless, and “Fast and Furious” star Michelle Rodriguez warned she may quit the action movie franchise unless filmmakers “show some love for women.”

Their comments proved a reality check for women in Hollywood on Wednesday even as the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences said it invited 298 more women to join its ranks in a bid to improve diversity at the organization behind the Oscars.

Berry in 2002 won the best actress Oscar for “Monster’s Ball” becoming the first black woman to do so. Fifteen years on, she remains the only woman of color to get the honor.

“Wow, that moment really meant nothing. It meant nothing. I thought it meant something, but I think it meant nothing,” she told Teen Vogue editor Elaine Welteroth in a video interview at the Cannes Lion festival released late Tuesday. Berry said she reached that troubling conclusion in 2016 when all 20 of the Oscar acting nominees were white, sparking the #OscarsSoWhite backlash.

“I was profoundly hurt by that, and saddened by that,” Berry said, adding that it had prompted her to want to start directing



Actress Halle Berry arrives during the 89th Academy Awards Oscars Red Carpet Arrivals in Hollywood, California, US, on 26 February 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

and producing to make more opportunities for actors of colour. Elsewhere, Rodriguez, who plays Vin Diesel’s love interest in five of the eight “Fast and Furious” box office hits, suggested she was prepared to quit her role as tough street racer Letty Ortiz over the portrayal of women.

“F8 (the 8th film) is out digitally today,” she wrote on her Instagram account on Tuesday above a montage of photos from the film. “I hope they decide to show some love to the women of the franchise on the next one or I just might have to say goodbye to

a loved franchise,” she continued.

It’s not the first time Rodriguez has spoken out.

In an interview in May with Entertainment Weekly, she said women in action films should have “more female camaraderie, (and have) women do things independently outside of what the boys are doing - now that is truly the voice of female independence.” The “Fast and Furious” franchise has taken in more than \$5 billion at the box office worldwide since 2001 and two more films are planned for release in 2019 and 2021.—Reuters ■

Amitabh Bachchan, Aamir, Priyanka invited to join the Oscar Academy

LOS ANGELES — Indian stars Amitabh Bachchan, Aamir Khan, Priyanka Chopra, Aishwarya Rai, filmmakers Goutam Ghose and Buddhadeb Dasgupta are among the 774 people, who have been invited to join the Academy and vote in the Oscars.

According to The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences website, the 2017 invitees come from 57 countries, with the list comprising 39 per cent female and 30 per cent people of colour.

Bollywood superstar Salman Khan, Irrfan Khan, Deepika Padukone, “Monsoon Wedding” costume designer Arjun Bhasin, writer Sooni Taraporevala and documentary filmmaker Anand Patwardhan are among other invitees from India.

“We’re proud to invite our newest class to the Academy.

The entire motion picture community is what we make of it,” Cheryl Boone Isaacs, Academy President, said in a statement.

“It’s up to all of us to

ensure that new faces and voices are seen and heard, and to take a shot on the next generation the way someone took a shot on each of us.”

Indian-origin visual effects director Mohit Kallianpur, behind animated films like “Frozen” and “Tangled”, is also on the list.

Elle Fanning is the youngest invitee at 19, while Betty White at 95 is the oldest.

The list of actors also includes Israeli actress and “Wonder Woman” star Gal Gadot, comedian Amy Poehler, “Mr. Robot” actor Rami Malek, “Rogue One” actor Riz Ahmed, Kristen Stewart, Chris Hemsworth and Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson. The directors on the list are Barry Jenkins, Jordan Peele, Kim Ki-Duk, Theodore Melfi, David Ayer, Emmanuelle Bercot, Fatih Akin, Derek Cianfrance, Patricia Cardoso, Garth Davis, Lav Diaz, Tom Ford, Anna Hui, Takashi Miike, and Guy Ritchie, among others.

—PTI ■

Japan studying ways to use cruise ships for Olympic accommodation

TOKYO — The Japanese government is exploring ways to use cruise ships in order to cope with accommodation shortages expected during the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, government officials said Thursday.

Ministries and other central government offices involved in accommodation issues for the games joined hands with municipalities

and cruise ship operators to begin assessing the feasibility of the "hotel ship" idea in a task force meeting held on Thursday. High on the agenda are legal issues related to port calls and use of cruise ships as accommodation facilities for a fairly long period of time, the officials said, adding other topics being discussed in detail include customs duties on meals to be served

in restaurants inside ships. Accommodation shortages during the 24 July - 9 August Olympics and the 25 August - 6 September Paralympics have emerged as a major headache for both the public and private sectors, with the government aiming to boost the number of foreign visitors to 40 million in 2020.

According to officials with knowledge of accommodation issues during

recent Olympics, cruise ships were used during the 2014 Winter Games in Sochi and 2016 Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro. An official at the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism says Tokyo and Yokohama ports, which are capable of handling large-scale luxury cruise ships, are inevitably among top candidates for the "hotel ship" plan.—Kyodo News ■

Ellis Island celebrates immigrant roots of American hot dog

NEW YORK — When Americans think of summer, a few standbys come to mind: Baseball games, fireworks shows and hot dogs. Like many American families, the humble hot dog can trace its roots to New York's Ellis Island, where an exhibit called "Hot Out of the Melting Pot: A History of the Hot Dog in America" is set to run through July at the National Museum of Immigration.

Twelve million people took their first steps on US soil at that island's immigration processing center from 1892 through 1954, including those who went on to found hot dog makers Hebrew National, Nathan's Famous, Sabrett, Vienna Beef, and Walter's.

"The focus is on the American hot dog, which would not exist if our forefathers had not come over here from Europe," said Scott Ladany, Vienna Beef's vice president of sales and grandson of the company's Hungarian founder. Samuel Ladany and business partner Emil Reichel came through Ellis Island from Hungary in 1893 before introducing the first Vienna Beef hot dog at that year's Chicago World's Fair.

Called wieners, frankfurters, and dachshund sausages in their native countries, hot dogs came with the great wave of European immigrants in the late nineteenth cen-

tury. The American hot dog was born when these immigrants began selling their sausages in buns.

They found eager eaters. Americans are expected to consume some 7 billion hot dogs from Memorial Day in May through Labour Day in early September, according to the National Hot Dog and Sausage Council.

Some of the most enthusiastic — and fastest — hot dog eaters can be found each 4 July at Nathan's Famous hot dog stand in New York's Coney Island. The 101-year-old beachfront shop, started by Polish immigrant Nathan Handwerker four years after he landed at Ellis Island, now hosts an annual hot dog eating contest that draws competitors from around the world. The founders of Sabrett and Hebrew National were Greek, German and Russian immigrants to Ellis Island and also started business in the early 1900s. For Gene-Christian Baca, whose great grandfather Walter founded Walter's Hot Dogs when he came through Ellis Island from Italy in 1919, the exhibit celebrates an important family legacy. "It is an overwhelming feeling," Baca said. "Just to know the history behind it and to know what he went through and that he came here virtually with nothing from Italy as a three-year-old boy."—Reuters ■



Divers decorate dwarf bamboos with reed-shaped wood blocks on which their wishes are written on June 28, 2017, in 15 meters below the surface of the ocean off western Japan town of Kushimoto. The "undersea Vega Festival," which runs through 10 July, has attracted many divers. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Divers celebrate Vega Festival underwater

OSAKA — The underwater Vega Festival is being held off the western Japan prefecture of Wakayama, attracting divers to a site teeming with tropical and subtropical fish.

Visitors to the venue near the town of Kushimoto can make wishes ahead of the 7 July commemoration of star-crossed lovers by putting wooden tags inscribed

with their wishes onto bamboos placed on the seabed some 15 meters below the surface.

The event at the southern tip of Japan's main island has been held since 2013 by a diving association which hopes to promote the rich local sea registered with the Ramsar Convention on wetlands. —Kyodo News ■



Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(30-6-2017 07:00am ~ 1-7-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:27	Am	Unique Pattern Of Myanma Ethnic Group: A Trend Of Chin Traditional Dress
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	The Footprints Inheritance
08:41	Am	Fantastic Orchid Garden From The Flower City
08:50	Am	Myanmar Masterclass: ARTIST SOE HNIN AUNG
09:03	Am	News
09:25	Am	Myanma Pottery

09:50	Am	The Youth & Library
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	The Green Corner (Epi-9) Mixed Media Bottel
10:38	Am	Creative Hands

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:27	Pm	A Trip To The City Of Rakkhita, Rakhine
07:47	Pm	Betel Nut Farmer
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	The Great Po Sein
08:51	Pm	Beach Food Delivery

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



Programme Schedule

(30-6-2017, Friday)

6:00 Am	12:30 Pm
◆ Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw	◆ TV Drama Series
7:00 Am	1:00 Pm
◆ Breakfast News	◆ Myanmar Movie (Part-2)
7:35 Am	2:15 Pm
◆ MRTV Travelogue	◆ TV Drama Series
8:35 Am	3:15 Pm
◆ Current Affairs	◆ TV Drama Series
9:30 Am	5:35 Pm
◆ MRTV Worker's Programme	◆ Weekly Sport Info
10:30 Am	6:20 Pm
◆ Socio Economic Scenes	◆ Wiffuse & Affire of Myanmar Ladies (Part-7)
11:30 Am	7:15 Pm
◆ Analysis For Myanmar Movie	◆ TV Drama Series
	8:00 Pm
	◆ News/ International News/ Weather Report
	9:15 Pm
	◆ TV Drama Series

Myanmar vies to host Youth FIFA World Cup after 2021

Kyaw Zin Lin

MYANMAR will try to be the host country for the Youth FIFA World Cup after 2021 in cooperation with ASEAN countries, according to the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF). U Zaw Zaw, chairman of the MFF, requested permission to host the international tournament from FIFA President Mr. Gianni Infantin at FIFA headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland last month.

“For Myanmar, it is impossible to host Youth FIFA World Cup alone because Myanmar has only four football stadiums of international standards. If we get permission we will cooperate with one of the ASEAN countries to celebrate the U-17 or U-20 FIFA as host and negotiations will be going on”, said U Bhone Naing

Zaw, chief executive of Myanmar National League. With India and South Korea becoming the host countries for the 2017 U-17 and U-20 tournaments, respectively, Myanmar is aiming to be host country for the Youth FIFA World Cup only after 2021. The FIFA World Cup is held every two years.

There are four football stadiums with a 30,000 capacity in Myanmar, namely Mandalay Thiri Football Stadium in Mandalay, Wunna Thiedhi and Zeyya Thiri Football stadiums in Nay Pyi Taw and Thuwunna Football Stadium in Yangon. The Myanmar U-20 football team participated in the 2014 AFC U-19 Championship and qualified for the 2015 FIFA U-20 World Cup and reached the semi-finals. This was the debut of Myanmar in World Cup competition. ■



Myanmar striker Aung Thu manages the ball during a match against New Zealand in the 2015 U-20 World Cup. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Ex-police chiefs charged over 1989 stadium disaster that killed 96

LONDON — Prosecutors on Wednesday announced criminal charges against six people including ex-police chiefs over the 1989 Hillsborough football stadium crush in which 96 fans died, Britain's worst sporting disaster.

The charges related to the deaths and also to an alleged subsequent cover-up by police of their own catastrophic mistakes.

The victims, all Liverpool supporters, died in an overcrowded, fenced-in enclosure at the Hillsborough stadium in Sheffield, northern England, during an FA Cup semi-final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest.

Police at first blamed the tragedy on drunken fans, an explanation that was always rejected by survivors, relatives of the victims and the wider Liverpool community. Families spent decades campaigning for justice for the 96.

“It's about all of these families, 28 years we've had of torture really. It's been hell on earth,” said Margaret Aspinall, a leader of the families' campaign group, whose 18-year-old son James was among the dead.

“This is definitely the start of the end,” she told reporters after the charging decision was announced.

“We all need peace from Hillsborough, but we can never have peace until we've got truth, justice, accountability.”

Sue Hemming, head of the special crime and counter-terrorism division at the Crown Prosecution Service, said there was sufficient evidence to charge six men with criminal offences. The most high-profile among them is former police chief superintendent David Duckenfield, who was in charge of police operations at Hillsborough on the fateful day. He was charged with manslaughter by gross negligence of 95 men, women and children.

“We will allege that David Duckenfield's failures to discharge his personal responsibility were extraordinarily bad and contributed substantially to the deaths of each of those 96 people who so tragically and unnecessarily lost their lives,” said Hemming.—Reuters ■

Myanmar to meet Hong Kong in U-22 KBZ Bank tourney today

ON the second day of the KBZ Bank Cup 2017, the host Myanmar U-22 national football team will play against the Hong Kong U-22 national team tonight at 6 pm.

The Cambodian national team and the Japanese University Club will also compete today at 3 pm, and the winning team will affect the Myanmar team's match points.

Myanmar beat Cambodia by a score of 4-1 and the Japanese University Club defeated the Hong Kong U-22 team with 2-0 result on the first day of the competition.

The Hong Kong team is considered better than the team from Cambodia, which



Myanmar players seen before a match. **PHOTO: SOE NYUNT**

will provide a challenge for Myanmar.

The Myanmar team will be led by head coach Gerd Friedrich in today's match, who

will have to make changes in the lineup because midfielder Zin Phyo Aung is out due to injuries from a previous match. — Shine Htet Zaw ■

Shootout hero Bravo sends Chile into final after 0-0 draw

KAZAN, (Russia) — Chile goalkeeper Claudio Bravo saved three successive penalties to give them a 3-0 shootout win over Portugal after their Confederations Cup semi-final had ended goalless on Wednesday. Bravo stopped Portugal's first three spot kicks from Ricardo Quaresma, Joao Moutinho and Nani while Chile converted their first three to win the clash of South American and European

champions. That meant that Portugal captain Cristiano Ronaldo, who usually goes last in the shootout, did not get to take a kick, as was the case when Portugal lost to Spain on penalties in the Euro 2012 semi-finals.

The result was justice for Chile after they hit the woodwork with two successive shots in the dying seconds of extra time.

Arturo Vidal struck the post

and the rebound fell to Martin Rodriguez who hit the underside of the crossbar with the goal at his mercy. There was controversy shortly before that when Chile winger Alexis Sanchez went down in the box under a Jose Fonte tackle but the referee did not consult the Video Assistant Referees (VARs), even though contact seemed to be made. —Reuters ■