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UNHCR chief meets villagers in Maungtaw

THE United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Mr. Filippo Grandi met with villagers in Maungtaw Township yesterday, observing the situations in villages.

At the meeting with villagers at the primary school in Aung Zeya Village, Mr Filippo pledged to assist in issues to which the UNHCR can contribute, inviting the voices of the local people.

Local people spoke of the challenges they face making a livelihood for themselves and their families in Maungtaw.

Following the meeting, the UNHCR chief visited Kyikanpyin (West) Village and met with villagers.

The UN delegation left Maungtaw for Yangon in the afternoon. **SEE PAGE-9**



Mr. Filippo Grandi, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, centre, with hands folded, meets with villagers in Maungtaw Township yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



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National Security Advisor visits Dhaka



Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, right, meets with U Thaung Tun, Myanmar's National Security Advisor. **PHOTO: MNA**

At the invitation of Mr. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, National Security Advisor to the Union Government of Myanmar U Thaung Tun visited Dhaka, Bangladesh from Sunday until yesterday. During his stay, he called on H.E. Ms. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh, and met with Mr. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan, Minister of Home Affairs, Maj.-Gen. (Ret) Tarique Ahmed

Siddique, Defence and Security Advisor to the Prime Minister, and Lt.-Gen. Chowdhury Hasan Sarwardy, Commandant of the National Defence College, on separate occasions.

In his meetings, the National Security Advisor apprised the Bangladeshi side of matters pertaining to Myanmar's efforts for peace, reconciliation and economic development; and promotion of relations with all countries, particularly its neighbours. He also touched on promoting ties of friendship

and cooperation between Myanmar and Bangladesh; expediting the signing of the proposed memorandum of understanding at a mutually convenient time; and further strengthening of bilateral cooperation in the fight against terrorism and narcotic drugs.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Home Affairs and the Defence and Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh also expressed their views

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw hears estimates vs. actual tax collection figures

Myo Myint, Aye Aye Thant
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw considered bills amending the Special Goods Tax Law and the Myanmar Coastal and Inland Water Transport License Law yesterday. The legislative body also considered a criminal extradition bill.

Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win also described tax collection activities for the second half of FY2016-2017. He estimated that Ks6.5 trillion in taxes was collected in FY2016-2017.

The Deputy Minister said that the initial estimate of outstanding tax in the second half of the financial year was estimated to be Ks4.37 trillion, but in fact, the government ended up collecting more than that in the latter half of the financial year: Ks4.57 trillion.

The Internal Revenue Department (IRD) estimated commercial tax for the second half of FY2016-2017 would be Ks1.27 trillion – instead Ks1.34 trillion



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

was collected due to more tax revenue being collected from state-owned enterprises compared to previous periods. Taxes were also collected for services provided by government owned enterprises in FY 2014-2015 and FY 2015-2016, said the Deputy Minister.

Department of Trade expected import license fees for

the second half of FY2016-2017 to be Ks2.1 billion, but Ks 3.9 billion was collected.

IRD expected to collect taxes from the Aung Bar Lay lottery in the second half of the financial year of Ks23 billion, but only Ks23 billion was collected.

Road Administration Department License vehicle and driver fees was expected to

be Ks130 billion for second six months, instead Ks170 billion was collected.

IRD collected Ks 636 billion for special goods fees, while Ks507 billion was expected.

Customs Department collected Ks 258 billion for customs duty while the estimated amount was Ks 253 billion. The Fisheries Department collected taxes

worth Ks2.1 billion, while the estimated tax was Ks630 million.

The Mining Department collected taxes worth Ks20 billion; the estimate was Ks10 billion.

Posts and Telecommunications Department collected communication service taxes of Ks350 billion instead of an estimated Ks91 billion.

IRD collected stamp duties of Ks31 billion instead of Ks34 billion.

IRD collected Ks 1.5 trillion in income taxes instead of an estimated Ks1.67 trillion.

The Forest Department collected Ks 2.4 billion in forestry taxes instead of Ks5.1 billion. Ministry of Electricity and Energy collected oil and extraction taxes of Ks228 billion instead of Ks 363 billion.

A report on status of tax collection for second six months of FY 2016-2017 by the Joint Public Accounts Committee concluded that tax collection had increased over all but that the ratio of tax revenue to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was too low. ■

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Central Committee for Development Programme discusses development fund

Central Committee for Development Programme of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held its meeting 1/2017 on the parliament's development fund yesterday afternoon in Zabuthiri meeting hall in Hluttaw compound.

The meeting was chaired by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and was attended by Hluttaw deputy speakers, chairmen, deputy chairmen and secretaries of joint bill committee and joint public accounts committee, invited representatives and officials of Hluttaw offices.

Central Committee chairman and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than said Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw, states and regions Hluttaw representatives need to par-

ticipate deeply to successfully implement the responsibilities, aim of the development programme and forming the central committee. Works need to be up to standard and systematically conducted to be auditable and benefit the constituents and the constituency.

Central Committee Vice Chairman and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint said township development implementing groups should submit and conduct works according to the relevant law, procedures and as per instruction of the Central Committee in a timely and systematic way. Township wise programmes are to be assessed and submitted according to priority and township development programme implementing group

members need to discuss and decide in a general meeting to implement the programme for the benefit of the constituents and the constituency. By systematically conducting and managing the development programme, trust of the constituents will be obtained and support the regional development. The works should be conducted according to the relevant laws and rules until the aim is achieved. Discipline is included in a democracy process and it is important for representatives to do things with discipline. The participants of the meeting also discussed matters need to be done in relation to work experience and amending the laws and rules related to development fund. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint holds talks with Technical Cooperation Programme Manager of IPU Ms. Norah Babic in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Speaker U Win Myint receives IPU's Technical Cooperation Programme Manager

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint received Ms. Norah Babic, Technical Cooperation Programme Manager of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and party at the Pyithu Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to

assistance provided for Hluttaw development, programmes on increasing quality and participating actively in IPU programmes. Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw Office were present at the meeting. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Thura U Shwe Mann meets the representative group of WFD

Thura U Shwe Mann, Chairman of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission received the representative group of

WFD (Westminster Foundation for Democracy), a United Kingdom non-departmental public body at 10am yesterday at the Hluttaw building (I-11)

in Nay Pyi Taw. The performance and procedures of Hluttaw commission were friendly discussed during the meeting. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Unity in its real essence

Unity must have a common interest, a common sense of working together and a common objective, for the independence of the whole country and the interests of the whole populace. Unity must work for the people so that they can enjoy shared well-being and shared cause in working together. It is not enough just to say that we want to be united. Labour must be shared, and interests must be shared. Our objective must be the same. Only this kind of effort is worth calling "Unity".

(Excerpt from the speech addressed by Bogyoke Aung San at the AFPFL Conference on 23rd January 1946)



Gov't to speed up water management

The National-level Water Resource Committee chaired by Vice President U Henry Van Thio held its second meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, alerting ministries to speed up the cooperation and coordination for water management of the country.

The meeting focused on the committee's future works including rainwater storage, drafting water laws, measures for reducing floods and water scarcity, conservation of the environment and forests in watershed areas and seeking ways for fighting pollution in the rivers.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio has called for taking urgent steps for improvement of environmental conservation, putting the conservation of Inle Lake in Shan State and watershed areas of dams under the spotlight in the 2017-2018 Financial Year.



Vice President U Henry Van Thio addresses at the second meeting of the National-level Water Resource Committee in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

"In the 2017-2018 Financial Year, sustainable development of Inle Lake and the environment need to be improved and works on conservation of watershed ar-

reas of dams and forest plantation in watershed areas are urgently needed to achieve success," said U Henry Van Thio.

He also stressed the need to

find ways for fighting pollution of the Ayeyawady River.

In his capacity as the chairman of the committee, which will host the third Asia-Pacific

Water Conference, U Henry Van Thio also urged the ministries concerned to work together for prevention of flooding and water scarcity and development of the water sector in the country.

"Ministries concerned are obliged to assist the National-level Water Resource Committee in its future works for reducing floods, drafting a water bill, controlling water pollution," said the Vice President.

Myanmar is currently drawing up the work plan for improvement of infrastructure and capacity related with water management as part of efforts for getting financial assistance from China under the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation programme, said U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for Transport and Communications.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Thailand delays new labour law after exodus

Thailand's junta yesterday delayed parts of a new labour law aimed at regulating the foreign workforce after the decree sparked panic and prompted more than 60,000 foreign workers, including thousands from Myanmar, to flee the country.

The military government, which has ruled since a 2014 coup, has invoked Article 44, a security order that gives it power to push through policy, to delay the law that imposes heavy fines on employers and employees who do not have work permits, a senior official said.

The original decree was issued in part to tackle human trafficking concerns raised by the international community, Deputy Prime Minister Wissanu Krea-ngam told reporters.

"The government had to

issue this law because we are being watched by the foreign community in terms of... human trafficking. If we don't issue this law they will not buy our goods. So we have to do it," Wissanu said.

The U.S. State Department last month left Thailand on a Tier 2 Watchlist, just above the lowest ranking of Tier 3, in its annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report because it did not do enough to tackle human smuggling and trafficking.

Wissanu said the government would delay implementation of four sections of the law for six months.

He did not elaborate but the labour ministry said it would suspend parts of the law until January in order to give both workers and their employers more time to get their work permits.

Thailand is a destination for many migrant workers from poorer neighbouring countries, including Myanmar and Cambodia.

Official estimates put the number of foreign workers at 3 million but rights groups say the real figure is far higher.

Many work in Thailand without legal documents, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation by brokers and sometimes traffickers.

Myanmar said that on Monday that it received more than 5,000 workers returning from Thailand across their border.

"Most of the workers went directly back to their home towns. We help them with the transport," said Aung Htay Win, a Myanmar labour ministry official.

Migrants are predominately

employed in low-skilled jobs in Thailand's multi-billion dollar fishing sector, in agriculture, construction, manufacturing and as domestic workers.

Businesses have complained that the new regulations have caused a shortage of workers in the construction and fishing sectors.

Property development and construction, which have had a stellar performance in an otherwise sluggish Thai economy, have also felt the brunt of the departures.

"We lost 75 per cent of our workers overnight," an executive at a Bangkok construction firm, who declined to be identified, told Reuters.

In the fishing port of Mahachai, south of Bangkok and home to many migrants from

Myanmar, workers and business people said they were worried.

A Myanmar worker who identified himself as Kway, 36, said he had a work permit but his wife and young child did not have proper papers.

"I sent my wife and child back to Myanmar because I am not sure what will happen to them," he said.

Other residents said they feared the economic impact.

"The fishing businesses needs a large labour force and it is work that no Thai wants to do, so I don't know why the government has introduced this new legislation," said Ton, 46, a shrimp vendor.

"Many people are afraid to come out of their homes," said the manager of a grocery shop.— Reuters ■

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Ayeyawady region gov't seeking micro-grid investment

By May Thet Hnin

AYEYAWADY region government will invite investment to create a micro electrical generation and grid system to supply 52 village-tracts in Ayeyawady region, said U Win Htay, the minister for Ayeyawady Region Electrical Power, Energy, Industry and Transport at a meeting which was held at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) on 3 July.

"We are trying to supply

electricity to the rural areas. But we haven't decided yet on the details concerning the rules and regulations and other financial issues. Therefore, we have held a workshop," said the minister.

The micro-power plant will be established as a pilot project between two townships.

A total of 52 village-tracts from 26 townships will receive electricity under the plan, including undeveloped village-tracts omitted from the National Electrification Plan,

he added.

"The kind of electrical generation depends on the characteristics of local areas, said U Win Htay. "For example, areas which are near the beach are suitable to generate wind and solar power. Pyapon and Kyaukse which have many paddy husks can produce bio gas. So, the producing of electricity will be different depending on the areas."

The minister said he expects the project to take one to two years to generate 1.5

megawatts.

Ayeyawady Region needs the 97 megawatt per day. With industrial businesses increasing in numbers and activity, electricity needs are increasing 15 per cent per year.

U Zaw Min Win, the chairman of the UMFCCI, said that when implementation of the electric power generation project is completed, the electric power supply will be sufficient for all the villages, industry zones and businesses in Ayeyawady Region. ■

Fees for foreigners at travel destinations may lower hotel occupancy in Mandalay

ADMISSION fees for foreigners visiting cultural heritage sites in Mandalay may impact hotel businesses, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday.

Mandalay region government has planned to increase the admission fees to Ks30,000 for foreigners, according to Shan Ethnic Affairs Minister U Sai Kyaw Zaw.

"Currently, the admission fees for the cultural zone are Ks 10,000 in Mandalay and Ks 20,000 in Bagan. In 2015, the hotel businesses received only a few visitors. If the admission fees are increased, their hotel businesses will be affected," said U Myint Aung, the chairman of Mandalay Hotel Zone.

In 2015, there were only 170 hotels in Mandalay. The number of hotels has increased to 187 hotels with over 1,200 rooms last year.



Mya Nan San Kyaw Golden Palace, one of the tourists attractions in Mandalay. **PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE**

The number of hotels is more than a match for the number of visitors. Therefore, some of the hotels were shut down.

Although the hotels are selling their rooms with a discount, the hotels are not fully occupied. Some of hotel oper-

ators have rented their hotels for Ks60 million per month and some businessmen have sold out their hotels. —GNLM ■

Diabetes affects one in five Yangonites

ONE in five people in Yangon Region is living with diabetes, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

The number of reported cases of diabetes in the Yangon Region is higher than that of national average.

Diabetes is caused by a combination of genetic and die-

tary factors including fast food, sweetened food and fat-contained food.

Diabetes is a metabolic disorder which affects the body's regulation of insulin. People who are inactive and obese are also at greater risk of developing the disease.

"Ill health is directly con-

cerned with the foods people eat. Therefore, the diabetes patients need to eat less fat, eat fruits and vegetables, eat sugar free food and foods of high nutritional value," said an official from the Ministry of Health and Sports.

According to WHO, maintaining normal body weight,

doing regular physical exercises and eating a healthy diet can reduce the risk of suffering from diabetes.

Leading causes of death in Myanmar include diabetes, atherosclerosis, cancer and hypertension.

Diabetes is considered a "lifestyle disease." —GNLM ■



Workers sort fish at Nyaung Tan Jetty in Yangon. PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAH

Myanmar fisheries exports down, prawn farming under strain

MYANMAR's weekly fisheries exports to China declined by 200 tonnes 17-23 June compared to the previous week.

A total of 686 tonnes of fisheries products, estimated to be worth US\$1 million, were exported to China from 17 to 23 June via Muse's 105th mile trade zone, according to a Myanmar Commerce Ministry report issued yesterday.

Fisheries exports from 1 April to 23 June this fiscal year earned more than \$118 million which showed a slight increase

of \$6 million against same period of last fiscal year.

Last financial year the fisheries sector earned nearly \$600 million, according to statistics released by the Commerce Ministry.

Erratic weather in the past years adversely affected fisheries production. Ocean fishing also appears to be experiencing a lull.

Myanmar's fish and prawn industries have been striving to adopt new cultivation techniques to prevent disease, in-

crease growth rates and clean the farming lakes.

Both saltwater and freshwater prawn farmers are facing difficulties. Of 27 freshwater hatcheries, only four remain active due the challenge of setting appropriate conditions for breeding.

Currently Myanmar's prawn industry is under serious strain, with only 40,000 tonnes of being produced each year and the local market now relying on Thai imports.—Ko Htet ■

UMFCCI to conduct business survey

THE UNION of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) will conduct a survey of Myanmar's businesses development with assistance from foreign partners, according to a statement by U Zaw Min Win, the President of UMFCCI in yesterday's Myawady Daily news.

The survey will focus on the growth and decline of Myanmar's businesses and how to improve the economic climate.

United States Agency International Development (USAID) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) will assist UMFCCI to carry out the survey

which is also being supported by the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

"We will form a team including economic experts for survey," said U Zaw Min Win. "The plan will start this month." —GNLM ■

Global gold market volatility drives down local prices

Declining global gold prices reduced local prices to under Ks900,000 per tical (0.578 ounce) of pure gold on 3 July. The gold price remained around Ks889,000 per tical on 4 July.

The global gold price per ounce was US\$1,266 on 1 June

and then slipped to \$1,242 on 30 June. The price continued to decline, with a price of \$1,235 on 3 July and \$1,222 on 4 July.

Global gold prices started fluctuating dramatically in April. Between the highest and lowest prices in the global gold

market is a discrepancy of \$40 to 80 per ounce, a sign of economic volatility. Pure gold price in the domestic market sold for between Ks894,000 per tical and Ks911,800 in April. In May gold prices ranged from Ks891,000 to Ks910,000.—Mon Mon ■

Myanmar's refined fuel consumption growth to outdo Asian peers — BMI Research

MYANMAR's refined fuel consumption growth is set to outperform the rest of Asia from 2017 to 2026 due to factors including strong economic growth, a rapid rise in car ownership and a surge in aviation traffic, says BMI Research

Already the sixth-largest net fuel importer in Asia, My-

anmar's imports are expected to grow to over 345,000 barrels per day (bpd) by 2026 from an estimated 212,000 bpd in 2017 - BMI Research

Singapore is currently the dominant supplier of fuel to Myanmar but India is also showing keen interest in Myanmar, the note says.—Reuters ■

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Oway digitizes Myanmar's taxi market

By May Thet Hnin

THE Global New Light of Myanmar Daily spoke with U Nay Aung, founder and chief executive officer of Oway Ride, one of a number of mobile application-based transportation service company in Myanmar whose competitors include international taxi firms like Uber and Grab.

Q: May I know how you got the idea to start Oway Ride and why you chose this kind of business?

A: We started Oway Ride, an online travel booking and on-demand ride service, a year ago, aiming to fulfill the needs of urban car fare market in Yangon. City residents face daily the inconvenience of hailing street taxis including arbitrary taxi rates, poorly trained drivers and long service delays even though the city has a large number of taxis. This is why we developed Oway Ride.

Q: Please tell us about Oway Ride?

A: Oway Ride is a taxi application. Users need to download the application which enables users to book rides online. The app then displays nearby available taxis on a map and lets users confirm their pickup and drop-off locations rapidly. This is the initial stage of our on-demand service, with plans to expand our service in the future.

Q: Does the company train its drivers? How do you choose eligible drivers? What benefits does the company provide for drivers?

A: We mainly review drivers' records before the selection process. We then test the condition of their cars. Applicants must take a driving test administered by the company. We provide selected drivers with communication equipment, including mobile devices with a GPS system to track



U Nay Aung, founder and chief executive officer of Oway Ride, one of a number of mobile application-based transportation service company in Myanmar. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

their locations. Thanks to these devices, we can easily track the performance of individual drivers on a daily basis and manage the payment process between the driver and the company. Based on drivers' performance, the company offers incentives to them to work harder. We are also planning to use a rating system in the future to let customers share positive and negative feedback. The system shows how drivers serve their customers. Actions will be taken against drivers who receive fewer than three stars, three times. The company will sever its relationship with drivers who receive a subpar rating. This system will also provide bonuses to drivers who get good ratings.

Q: What percentage cut does the company take from the total fare cost of a ride from driver? Does the company allow its drivers to connect with other companies?

A: We only take 10 per cent from drivers' total fare. This is less than our competitors. We give bonuses to drivers for each route they drive on our system. We do not allow our drivers to work with other companies but it is difficult to monitor them.

A minority of taxi drivers work with two or three companies and move one company to another after getting incentives from the first company. We need to control these cases to a certain degree.

Q: How does Oway Ride offer dispatch service to customer in time?

A: When customers sign onto our service through the application, the system automatically calculates distance and traffic between customers and a nearby taxi car. The app will send a text message to customer, describing the travel time to pick up the customer. Customers can also book a journey with Oway Ride from the app. The company will send nearby available driver to the customer 30 minutes before the appointment time.

Q: How does the company get customer loyalty?

A: The main point is taxi fares, rates and charges. Reducing taxi fares for our customers below the current market price is one of our incentives. We offer Ks2,000 each to customers for their first three short trips. We have responsibilities for our service. Customers may enjoy safe and secure service while riding in

a cab with a good air conditioning system. The company will refund charges to customers if a cab breaks down. Top-up promotions are also available and customers can easily top up at shopping malls and earn points toward bonuses. We offer round-the-clock service to commuters who can also book through our call center. The app is designed to help customer access information about the service.

Q: How to fix fare for cub customers?

A: The government does not enforce an official taxi rate, however, we found the market rate by conducting a survey. Our taxi fare is cheaper than the market rate. We collect Ks260 per kilometer while the market rate reaches Ks300. We increase fees when the travel time exceeds expected time due to traffic congestion. These fees go to driver. Sometimes, our taxi fare reaches market rate due to travel time. Normally, we mitigate the fare as much as we can.

Q: How many taxis work with Oway Ride? How many customers have downloaded the application?

A: We operate this service with a fleet of 5,000 taxi cars in Yangon alone. The service will be launched in Mandalay very soon, with the company planning to offer not only taxi cub service but also bike taxis. The service will be extended in big cities including Yangon, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Bagan and Mawlamyine. The number of people who downloaded the app has reached about 200,000.

Q: How do you increase market penetration?

A: We will continue to conduct informational campaigns, introducing our user-friendly application with easy-to-use features to help both young and old people use it easily. The app is

designed to be self-explanatory and can be used in both English and Myanmar languages. It was a very challenging to install Myanmar language in the app. We also advertise our service through our website and Facebook page.

Q: What are the biggest challenges faced by the company since its establishment?

A: It is difficult to start an ecosystem as a technology-related company. We trained drivers how to use the app and we also had to explain to customers how things worked. Attracting customers to use the app-based transportation service is a major challenge we are facing. We invest millions of dollar in the business. We also face market competition.

Q: At the present time, international companies including Uber and Grab are coming in the market. How do you prepare to compete with them?

A: There is more competitions in the market. Normally, a country has two or three competitors. America has two app-based transportation businesses while Indonesia has three competitors in the market. China had two service providers but only one business survived as this is a volume business and needs a huge investment. I think this kind of business will consolidate after six months or one year. We need to take a time to observe it. For the time being, we are putting forth concerted efforts to introduce the app to general public, trying to set a cheaper price for users as well as to increase drivers' income by improving productivity. We plan to provide other extended services based on the application in the future, considering what kinds of vehicles are more suitable for residents in the target cities. In some areas, bike taxis are more appropriate than cabs.—Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin ■

Japan's Acecook opens instant noodle factory in Myanmar

Japanese food manufacturer Acecook Co. on Tuesday held an opening ceremony for its new factory in Myanmar, becoming the first Japanese instant noodle maker to produce locally in the Southeast Asian country.

The \$20 million factory is located in the Japanese government-backed Thilawa Special

Economic Zone on the outskirts of the country's commercial capital Yangon.

In a speech he delivered at the ceremony, Acecook President Hiroshi Muraoka expressed high hopes for the new facility, which will allow a switchover from imports to local production.

"I wish Myanmar people

enjoy safe and tasty noodles produced under strict quality management with Japanese state-of-the-art technology," he added. Osaka Prefecture-based Acecook has been marketing its instant noodle brands in Myanmar since 2014, importing them from the company's facilities in Vietnam, which it entered over

20 years ago.

The new factory, which started operating on a trial basis in late April, can roll out up to 300 million noodle packs annually. Initially, it will produce six different instant noodle products under three different brands, company officials said.

The instant noodles are

currently being distributed to 26 towns and cities across Myanmar, with a plan to double the network by the end of this year, they said.

Locals in Myanmar regularly consume instant noodles but the market is currently dominated by local brands and those from neighboring Thailand.—Kyodo News ■

For peace, refrain from extremes: Rector Sayadaw

If you want peace — both peace of mind and peace in our society — you need to view everything with a just and unbiased outlook, and refrain from holding extreme views.

That is to say, you should tread the middle path, neither too hard nor too soft. If someone is too soft, he will be too easily influenced by other. On the other hand, if he is too harsh, he will bring hate and wrath upon himself and other people.

Rightful judgement and assessment toward every situation, astuteness in associating with others, doing according to what

one says and keeping promises may lead you to the acquisition of the ability to organise others.

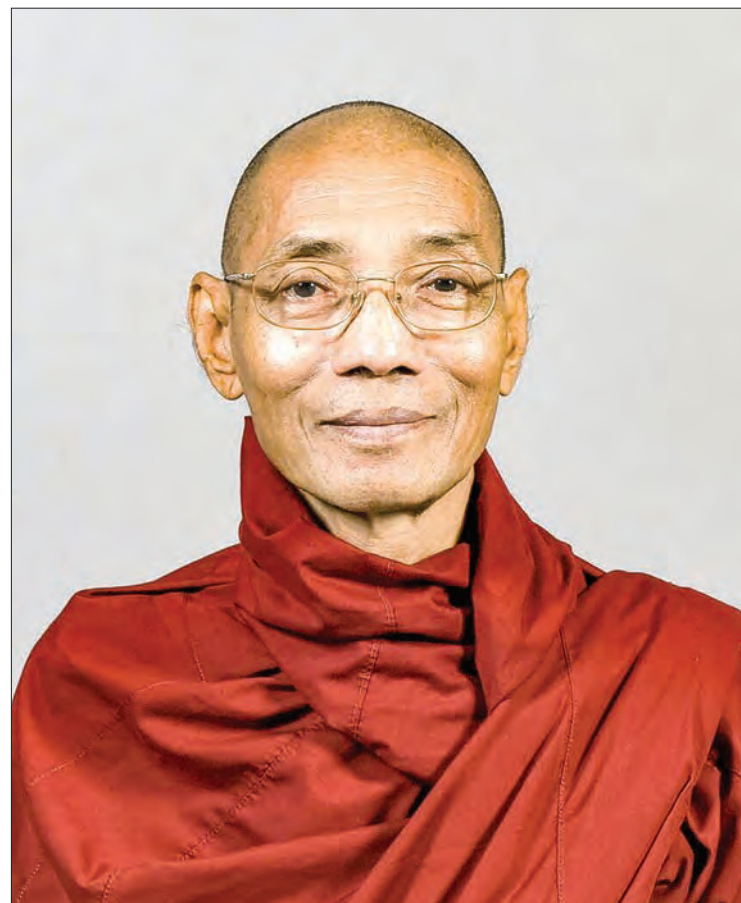
So as to be able to build up a united human society, speaking and writing are of great power. But influential speaking and writing come with responsibilities such as:

- You are required to speak and write what is right.
- Only if what you are to say is beneficial for most and be of great use to the unity of the society should it be said or written.

- You must speak out only after careful consideration as to whether it is appropriate or not.
- In speaking or writing well, it must be done with loving kindness, especially abstaining from hatred.

May every individual desirous of serving the interests of the country and the people, perform your respective duties by paying great respects to our Buddha's teachings.

*Rector Sayadaw
Dr Bhaddanta Nandamar-larbivamsa*



Cash donations to victims of Y-8 plane crash

Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation patron Daw Ni Ni Win donated Ks 5 million to the victims of crashed Y-8 Tatmadaw transport plane at the Ministry of Defence in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Similarly, on behalf of officers who graduated from Officer Training School intake-83, U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, Director



Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win accepts cash donation from officers from Officer Training School intake-83. **PHOTO: MNA**

of Amyotha Hluttaw Office and party, donated Ks. 1 million cash assistance for victims of the crashed plane.

Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win accepted the donations. — Myanmar News Agency ■

One missing after fire on passenger boat

A 22-year-old man is missing after a passenger boat on the way from Monywa to Mautkataw caught fire between Medin Village and Sapho Gyi on Chindwin River yesterday noon, according to local authorities.

There were 48 passengers on the Myint Myat Thu-2 passenger boat. All of the passengers except for the missing man,



Villagers trying to extinguish the fire on the boat. **PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN (MONYWA)**

named Ko Chit Ko Naing, safely reached the river bank.

Upon investigation, the fire was found to have started from the back of the vessel and destroyed half of the boat.

Arrangements were being made for the passengers to continue their journey while authorities and local people searched for the missing man. — Myo Win Tun (Monywa) ■

PRESS RELEASE

Appointment of Ambassador agreed

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr. Asfaw Dingamo Kame as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, with residence in New Delhi.

Mr. Asfaw Dingamo Kame was born on 26th August 1961. He obtained Master's Degree in Mining Geology Engineering from Higher Institute of Mining and Metallurgic of Moa, Cuba in 1985. From 2005 to 2010, he served as Minister of Water Resources at Federal level. He also served as Advisory to the Director-General and as Deputy Director-General of Ethiopian Sugar Corporation from 2010 to 2014. From 2014 to 2016, he was Director-General of Ethiopian Oil and Natural Gas Development Enterprise. He has been serving as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Thailand since 2016.

He speaks Sidamigna, Amharic, English, Spanish and Portuguese languages. He is married.—Ministry of Foreign Affairs ■

Daw Ei Ei Khin Aye appointed as Ambassador of Myanmar to Indonesia

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Daw Ei Ei Khin Aye, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the

United Nations in New York, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Indonesia. —Ministry of Foreign Affairs ■

There should be a clear set of priorities on how to increase education spending

By Dr Tha Sein

JUST as education has become more like a business, higher prices have something to do with a better quality of education in the minds of too many parents. Most parents don't want to compromise on education, but learning is virtually impossible without money.

Now, education is developing at a rapid pace with the steady emergence of more private schools which offer a clear path to the world's top universities such as Cambridge, Oxford and Harvard. But enrolling in such a private school comes with a hefty price tag. The high cost of such a private school

is one of the biggest challenges parents face, prompting more families to look to save money by moving their children to classes at more affordable schools.

Although the government maps out its plan for upcoming reforms across Myanmar, the benefits of changes to the education system will take many years to be felt. As good as it sounds, the plan was too ideal to be implemented because of lack of comprehensive research done on the matter.

One of the biggest flaws with the education systems is that policies are not well thought out and when it comes to their implementation, there are serious hurdles that make the fruition

of the initiative extremely difficult.

One such case is that the Higher Education Department had produced a large number of PhD degree holders who are not as qualified as their counterparts who obtained the same degree from abroad.

The only option the HED has is to give up a programme on producing PhD scholars in number, which has been plagued with a series of scandals that have eroded public trust over the years. A large number of scholars have been unemployed since the introduction of the scheme.

Had it been well thought out, the HED would have taken responsibility

and at the same time ensured the expertise of PhD scholars rather than just an increase in their number. While guaranteed jobs are principally wrong, the fact that the Ministry of Education initially implemented this is something that they have to own and solve. If all scholars are not getting jobs, maybe not all of them are capable and there has to be a solution for that.

More importantly, there should be a clear set of priorities on how to increase education spending in order to keep pace with changes and developments without holding opinions dogmatically. Only then will the promotion of higher education be possible. ■

Two Sacred Buddha Statues at Taung Tha Man

By Maung Thar (Archaeology)

AMARAPURA, Taung Tha Man & U Pein Bridge are Myanmar's historical sites, being remarkably well-known among travelers from home and abroad. Situated 11 kilometers (6.8 miles) from the south of Mandalay, Amarapura, which was an old city of Konebaung Era, became a royal city once in the reign of King Bhaon (a) Bodaw Phayar from AD 1783 to AD 1823 & once in the rule of King Thayarwady from AD 1837 to AD 1857, altogether two times.

Beautiful "Taung Tha Man Inn," a vast fishery pond with an area of 231.73 acres which is situated at the south of Amarapura was emphatically composed in the "Kawi Letkhana Dipani" by King Siri Maha Zeyathu that "Nearby Sagaing, water is fine, Taungdwin's Soil Fertile; Yamethin's paddy, Producing high-yield; Fish pond in Taung Tha Man; Meiktila lake is excellent."

Findings discovered while excavating the site between Pagoda of 8 Sacred Triumphs & Maha Gandaryon Monastery nearby Taung Tha Man Inn in the years 1969 & 1970s for archaeological research shows that people inhabited Taung Tha Man area, some 2000 years ago. Fossils of human beings, ancient artefacts such as pots, ornamental beads and weapons made of stones & iron had been found and in 1971-1972, pots produced by manned machines were discovered again. Thenceforth, Taung Tha Man became prominent as an ancient historical research area as well.

U Pein Bridge spanning Taung Tha Man Inn was built with teak in the reign of King Bagan (1846-1853) in 1213 ME. 6-furlong-long U Pein Bridge combining



Amarapura and Mandalay had lasted for over 160 years. The bridge built with 984 teak posts has 1086 posts altogether with the teak posts from Zayats/ Resting Shelters along the bridge included. Out of the ancient pagodas in the vicinity of Taung Tha Man Lake, Taung Mingyi & Kyauktawgyi are the two well-known Buddha Statues in a sitting posture.

Taung Mingyi Buddha Statue

Located at the far west of U Pein Bridge and nearby Taung Tha Man Lake, the pagoda was also named "Hsin Phyu Shin meant for owner of White Elephant)." It was built in 1148 ME (AD 1786) by Taung Mingyi (a) Minhla Kyaw Swar who had ever served as the In-charge of the White Elephant. At the time of its construction, the Statue made of bricks had no roof and walls, so it was named Nay pu khan kodawgyi

meant for "the Statue under the scorching sun," after it.

When Bodaw Phayar (King Bhaon AD 1782-1819) came to the throne, his alter ego "Taung Mingyi" was appointed as the royal treasurer. By taking an opportunity from father's friendship with the king, Maung Shwe Kan, the former's son was too close to royal daughters & concubines from the western part of the palace, hence the warning from the king to Taung Mingyi to reprimand his son.

For fear of being punished by the king due to his son's deed, Taung Mingyi himself was said to have killed his son at the Thayet Hnabin Cemetery. Being saddened by such a sorrowful incident of killing his own son, Taung Mingyi built 4 Buddha Statues in a standing posture in the west of Taung Tha Man Lake. Taung Mingyi built the Taung Mingyi Buddha Statue at

the village of Yardaw, the son's native place near the village of Tagundaing in Amarapura township.

The statue is 46 ft 11 inches in height, with the distance between the edges of its knees 36 ft 6 inches long and the crested headdress 13 ft 1 inch high. The statue was made in the type of meditating.

Long ago, it was believed that danger would cast over the builder if Buddha statues were put in a shelter; so Taung Mingyi statue stood in an open space for long. People said that the shelter had collapsed although it was once put under shelter. Under the aegis of U Yin Galay residing at Chinatown Qr in Amarapura, a raffle was opened to place the statue under the roof. With money earned from the raffle or lottery the statue was managed to be under the shelter successfully, thenceforth the former name gradually and it was famous as Taung Mingyi Statue. Yet, any record was not found as to when it was built.

In "Narrative of the Mission to The Court of Ava in 1855," Henry Yule wrote that a huge Buddha statue which stood tall near Taung Tha Man, Amarapura was looking at Taung Tha Man Lake smilingly, as if statues near the River Nile in Egypt did.

Dalhousie, governor-general of India sent a delegation led by Sir Arthur Ferrer to Amarapura in June, 1855. After the 2nd English-Myanmar war, the British came to Myanmar in 1852 on several reasons—to persuade Myanmar government to accept the conquest and rule of the then Pegu (Bago), to discuss with King Mindon and to investigate military & socio-economic situations in upper Myanmar.

SEE PAGE 9

Two killed in Buthidaung Tsp

TEN UNIDENTIFIED men stabbed two villagers to death at Yinmakyang Taung Village in Buthidaung Township on Monday.

The two victims, identified as Bo Sein Oo, also known as Mamauk Haris, and Shwe Hla, also known as Mamauk Harsaung, from Ngayantchaung Ward were

attacked around 6:30pm. Swayauk Duraman, a cousin of victim Bo Sein Oo, found that the attackers brought the bodies to Yinma Creek. Following the incident, he went to the South Bazar Police Station. The police found the body of Bo Sein Oo with five stab wounds. The body of Shwe Hla

was found with six stab wounds.

In a separate incident, about 15 masked men abducted Adusul One while he was sleeping at his house in Maunghnama Village in Ngayantchaung Village-tract around 1:30am. His whereabouts remain unknown.— Myanmar News Agency ■

National Security Advisor visits Dhaka

FROM PAGE-1

on further strengthening cooperation in the areas of culture and tourism promotion; and pursuing a policy of zero tolerance for terrorism. They also assured the Myanmar side that they will not allow any individual or group to use their territory for subversive activities against any neighbouring country, and that they will not accept separatist movements. They also expressed their desire to expedite the signing of a MoU on the establishment of Border

Liaison Offices (BLO) and a MoU on Security Cooperation at the earliest opportunity.

The Prime Minister of Bangladesh discussed matters relating to the promotion of bilateral relations, cooperation in the energy sector and in the fight against narcotic drugs. She requested the repatriation of so-called residents from Myanmar.

The National Security Advisor informed the Prime Minister that Myanmar was carrying out a national verification process

and stressed the importance of the successful completion of the process. Yesterday morning, the National Security Advisor visited the Embassy of Myanmar in Dhaka and met with the Charge d'affaires, the Military Attaché and staff of the Embassy. He explained Myanmar's efforts for peace and economic development and the outcome of the visit to Dhaka. National Security Advisor U Thauang Tun and party returned to Yangon yesterday.— Myanmar News Agency ■

UNHCR chief meets villagers. . .

FROM PAGE-1

Further south in Sittway, Rakhine State's capital, a man was killed and six were wounded yesterday when they were attacked by a mob of people, officials said.

The attack happened while they were touring around YaungniOo Jetty to buy a boat, according to the Information Committee of the State Counsellor's Office.

The seven men had travelled into Sittway from a camp on the outskirts of the town and they were attacked by several people with bricks .

Before the incident, Maung Nu, also known as Maung Ni Ra Mauk, the victim, and other six men followed a car carrying U Myint Naing and ten other men who were allowed to leave the Darpaing camp to give statements in a criminal case at a court in Sittway. The group returned and went to Sittway No 2 Police Station and asked

the police to provide them with security.

Afterwards, they escorted by a policeman, and had gone to see a boat they were planning to buy from a businessman.

At the boat jetty, an argument developed.

Maung Nu, also known as Maung Ni Ra Mauk, 55, died from wounds inflicted to his head. Six others were injured and hospitalised.

At 6:30pm yesterday, two of the injured were still receiving medical treatment. The remaining four were sent back to the Darpaing camp by security forces.

Police said several arrests have been made in the incident of the fatal stone throwing. At additional security forces have been deployed to ensure that conflict does not spread to other areas, according to the information committee.— GNLM ■

Two Sacred Buddha Statues at Taung Tha Man

FROM PAGE 8

The diplomatic delegation climbed up the Ayeyarwady riverine route from Yangon to Amarapura, bringing a British army officer named "Linnaeus Tripe" and the artist, "Colesworthy Grant to put the trip on record. Amarapura was the first-ever city where the British delegation opened its office. The delegation led by Sir Arthur Ferrer lodged at the diplomatic circuit residency.

Along the trip, Linnaeus Tripe took more than 200 photos, 120 of which were published. Of them, 58 were those photographed in Amarapura including Nay pu khan Kodawgyi/ Statue under the scorching sun. Thus, it became a document of great value. The photographer described in his book that the Statue surrounded by mini-pagodas was 37 ft 6 inches above the throne.

Due to the quake which struck in ME 1200, Taung Mingyi Statue collapsed. In 1212 ME, U Hmone, the owner of saw-mill residing in Myinn Yone Qr of Amarapura asked for permission from King Bagan to have the Taung Mingyi pagoda renovated, finishing it in ME1214 when King Mindon went to throne. Many donors donated gold for renovation of the pagoda.

As time went past, the Statue was covered with bushes as there had been no

one to care for it. In ME 1250, Shwe Hlan Sayar Phoo living at Theingyizay Mikesu Ywathit (East) in Amarapura cleared the vicinity of the pagoda, to hold the offering ceremony of "Soondawgyi." Thenceforth Taun Mingyi pagoda festival had been being held in the month of "Tabaung" annually until now.

The signboard erected in the terrace of the statue reads—the height of the throne is 7 cubits, its length from rear to front 33 ft & from south to north 47 ft. It was also described that its ear-holes were big enough for a man to enter.

Maha Sekkya Siha Kyauktawgyi Statue

Maha Sekkya Siha Kyauktawgyi known as Taung Tha Man Statue is located at the end of U Pein Bridge in the east of Taung Tha Man, 3 miles far from Amarapura. To distinguish it from Maha Sekkya Muni Marajain situated at the foot of Mandalay Hillock, it was called Amarapura Kyauktawgyi (a) Taung Tha Man Kyauktawgyi. Its donor was King Bagan.

According to "Maha Sekkya Ransi Kyauktawgyi" stone inscription erected in the north-east of the statue, the Stone Statue was carried along the Ayeyarwady river from the town "Nga Sintgu", entering Taung Tha Man via the two pagodas,

Shwe Kyet Yet & Shwe Kyet Kya. In the chronicle of Konebaung dynasty described in Myanmar Dates, it was described that the great raft carrying the statue onboard was dragged by the steamer and it was placed in the brick-building on 6th waning of Waso, ME 1211 (AD 10th July, 1849) to be worshipped by the people. The great chronicle of Konebaung Dynasty wrote it in detail.

Kyauktawgyi Statue was the one in a sitting posture, in which 12 gold Buddha images 358 silver images were enshrined as sacred relics, according to Myanmar Encyclopedia.

The temple in which Kyauktawgyi Buddha Statue resided was built in the type of Bagan Arnandar Pagoda, at the 4 entrance gates donations of King Bagan in Amarapura, Innwa, Okkalar, Shwetaung, Pyi, Kukham, Sagaing and Bagan were painted with murals written in index. Varieties of colorful pictures—gods, Vijja, planets and stars, elephants, horse, buffalo, cows, people in the place, regatta, ships and boats, troupe of orchestra were drawn up. Colored murals and ink inscriptions on stucco of Amarapura Era are being found to have been conserved in original style inside Kyauktawgyi Statue.

The Buddha's Sacred Footprint in the prayer hall before the statue was orig-

inally situated in the ruined brick building measuring 20 cubits from east to south and 10 cubits from south to north, located at the north of the wall, later transferred to the present place. At the back of the prayer hall were 88 statues of Arhats built.

A practice of worshipping Buddha Statues cast in gold, silver, bronze, wood and stone is a cultural heritage on religion for Buddhists in Myanmar, in their homes and in religious edifices such as pagodas, stupas and monasteries, in artistic styles.

Taung Mingyi Buddha Statue made of bricks & Maha Sekkya Siha Kyauktawgyi Buddha Stone Statue, which were the works of sculptures made in Kone Baung Era are situated on opposite sides of Amarapura Taung Tha Man Inn. Both were the well-proportioned ancient statues which reflected historical images, hence the need to be conserved as long-lasting Myanmar cultural heritage.

Translated by Khin Maung Oo (Tada-U)

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2. Taung Min Gyi Pagoda Journal
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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

Trump hamstrung at home as he seeks closer ties with Moscow

WASHINGTON — During his presidential campaign, Republican Donald Trump praised Russian President Vladimir Putin as a “strong leader” with whom he’d like to reset tense US-Russian relations.

But as Trump heads to his first face-to-face meeting as president with Putin on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Germany on 7-8 July, he is under pressure at home to take a tough line with the Kremlin.

Allegations of Russian meddling in last year’s US elections have alarmed both Republican and Democratic lawmakers, who are pushing to extend tough sanctions placed on Russia following its 2014 annexation of Crimea, a peninsula belonging to Ukraine.

Lawmakers including Cory Gardner, a Republican senator from Colorado, are also concerned Russia has prolonged the civil war in Syria by backing its President Bashar al-Assad, a strongman whose forces have used chemical weapons against insurgents and civilians. The chaos has fueled instability in the region and a flood of migrants to Europe.

“President (Trump) needs to make it clear that the continued aggression by Russia around the globe ... is unacceptable, and that they will be held accountable,” said Gardner, who was among six lawmakers invited by the White House last month to discuss foreign policy with Trump over dinner.

Meanwhile, the appointment of a special counsel who is investigating potential links between the Russian government and members of the Trump campaign has weakened the president’s ability to maneuver with Russia, foreign policy experts say. The US intelligence community has concluded Russia sponsored hacking of Democratic Party groups last year to benefit Trump over his Democrat challenger Hillary Clinton. Russia has denied those allegations while Trump has repeatedly dismissed the idea of any coordination between his campaign and Russia as a “witch hunt.”



US President Donald Trump waves at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, US, upon his return to Washington after a weekend at the Trump National Golf Club in Bedminster, New Jersey on 3 July, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Still, just the optics of Trump meeting with Putin, a former KGB agent, are fraught with risk, foreign policy experts say.

“If (Trump) smiles, if he wraps his arm around Putin, if he says ‘I’m honoured to meet you, we’re going to find a way forward,’ ... I think Congress is going to react extremely negatively to that,” said Julie Smith, a former national security aide in the Obama administration.

Trump has signaled an interest in cooperating with Russia to defeat Islamic State in Syria and to reduce nuclear stockpiles.

The White House has been mum on what Trump would be willing to give Russia in exchange for that help. But there has been speculation he could ratchet down sanctions, or even return two Russian diplomatic compounds in Maryland and Long Island. President Barack Obama seized those facilities and expelled 35 Russian diplomats just before he left office as punishment for the election hacks.

While some administration officials, including Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, also support engagement, others, such as Vice President Mike Pence and US ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley, have taken a hawkish line on Russia. The

lack of a unified strategy has left US allies anxious. And it has lowered expectations for American leadership to help resolve crises in Syria and Ukraine, where Russian cooperation would be critical. “Trump is like a horse with his front legs tied,” said a German diplomat, who spoke to Reuters on condition of anonymity. “He can’t make any big leaps forward on Russia. If he tried people would immediately suspect it was all part of some big conspiracy.”

Trump’s administration is still reviewing its Russia policy, a process that may not be wrapped up for a couple of months, a US official said.

Speaking with reporters last week about Trump’s upcoming meeting with Putin, White House national security adviser HR McMaster said his boss would like “the United States and the entire West to develop a more constructive relationship with Russia. But he’s also made clear that we will do what is necessary to confront Russia’s destabilizing behavior.”

Trump is just the latest president to grapple with the complicated US-Russia dynamic.

George W Bush and Obama sought to improve the US relationship with Russia early

in their administrations only to see relations deteriorate later.

Among the concerns for this president is Trump’s apparent lack of interest in policy details and his tendency to wing it with foreign leaders. McMaster told reporters that Trump has “no specific agenda” for his meeting with Putin and that topics would consist of “whatever the president wants to talk about.”

Michael McFaul, who was US ambassador to Russia under Obama, said he feared Trump might be headed to the meeting without clear objectives.

“I hope that he would think about first: what is our objective in Ukraine? What is our objective in Syria? And secondarily, how do I go about achieving that in my meeting with Putin?” McFaul said. Other Washington veterans say Trump won’t be able to make meaningful progress with Russia on anything until he confronts Putin about the suspected election meddling.

“(Trump) really has to raise the Russian election hacking last year, and has to say something like, ‘Vladimir, don’t do this again. There will be consequences,’” said Steve Pifer, a long-time State Department official focused on US-Russia relations. —Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

China calls for calm and restraint after North Korea launches missile

BEIJING — China called on Tuesday for calm and restraint after North Korea launched a ballistic missile and US President Donald Trump said perhaps China would “put a heavy move” on North Korea to “end this nonsense”.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said UN Security Council resolutions had clear rules on North Korea’s missile launches and China opposed it going against those rules. He was speaking at a daily news briefing.

North Korea said it had successfully test-launched an intercontinental ballistic missile on a steep trajectory. An expert said, if fired at a conventional trajectory, the missile could possibly hit the US state of Alaska. —Reuters ■

Japan’s Cabinet OKs personnel changes at Foreign Ministry

TOKYO — Japan’s Cabinet endorsed personnel changes at the Foreign Ministry on Tuesday, including the appointment of Deputy Vice Minister Kazuyuki Yamazaki as deputy foreign minister for economic affairs.

Yamazaki, 56, will replace Keiichi Katakami, who will retire from the ministry, effective on 14 July.

The government also appointed Akira Yamada as ambassador to Brazil, effective Tuesday. —Kyodo News ■

Kremlin: Putin-Trump meeting agreed for 7 July in Hamburg — agencies

MOSCOW — A meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and his US counterpart Donald Trump will take place on the sidelines of a G20 summit in Hamburg on 7 July, Russian news agencies quoted Kremlin foreign policy aide Yuri Ushakov as saying on Tuesday.

“(It’s been) agreed for the seventh,” RIA news agency quoted him as saying. —Reuters ■

Turkey's opposition leader launches court challenge as he marches to Istanbul

ISTANBUL — Turkey's main opposition leader launched a European court appeal on Tuesday over an April vote that granted President Tayyip Erdogan sweeping powers, stepping up his challenge to the government as he led a 425 km (265 mile) protest march.

Erdogan accuses the protesters, marching from Ankara to Istanbul, of "acting together with terrorist groups", referring to Kurdish militants and followers of a US-based cleric who Ankara says was behind last year's coup.

Kemal Kilicdaroglu, head of the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP), hit back on Tuesday, defending his "justice march" and accusing the government of creating a one-party state in the wake of the failed putsch on 15 July.

On the 20th day of his march, triggered by the jailing of a CHP deputy on spying charges, Kilicdaroglu signed an appeal to the European Court of Human Rights against the election board's decision to accept un-



Supporters of Turkey's main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu walk with a giant Turkish flag on the 19th day of a protest, dubbed "justice march", against the detention of the party's lawmaker Enis Berberoglu, near Izmit, Turkey on 3 July, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

stamped ballots in the 16 April referendum.

"Turkey has rapidly turned into a (one-)party state. Pretty much all state institutions have become branches of a political

party," he told reporters. "This is causing profound harm to our democratic, parliamentary system."

Kilicdaroglu, 68, wearing a white shirt and a baseball cap

with the word 'justice' printed on it, then set out on the latest leg of the march from the city of Izmit, around 100 km (60 miles) along the coast to the east of central Istanbul.

The protest has gained momentum as it passes through northwest Turkey's countryside and representatives of the pro-Kurdish HDP, parliament's third largest party, joined the march on Monday near the jail of its former co-leader Figen Yuksekdag.

There are deep divisions among opposition parties but Yuksekdag, stripped of her parliamentary status in February, issued a statement from her cell on Monday calling for them to put those differences aside.

"We must set up the shattered scales of justice again and fight for this together," she wrote, saying justice had hit "rock bottom" with the jailing of 11 HDP lawmakers and around 100 mayors.

The party rejects charges of ties to the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militant group, designated a terrorist group by Ankara and its Western allies, which launched an insurgency in 1984 in which more than 40,000 people have been killed.—Reuters ■

UAE says still awaiting Qatar response to Arab demands

ABU DHABI — United Arab Emirates foreign minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahayan said on Tuesday that Arab countries boycotting Qatar over its alleged support for terrorism were still awaiting a response to their demands via mediator Kuwait.

Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain and Egypt are pressing Qatar to shut its Al Jazeera news TV station and scale back relations with Iran, Saudi Arabia's arch-rival in the Gulf region, part of 13 demands they want Doha to fulfill to end the crisis.

Qatar has said it delivered a response to mediator Kuwait, which will be discussed by the four countries at a meeting in Cairo on Wednesday after their deadline for Doha to accept the demands expires late on Tuesday.

"We are still waiting for the response from our brothers in Kuwait regarding the response that they received from Qatar

and once we examine it among ourselves we will take the decision of course," Sheikh Abdullah said at a news conference with his German counterpart in Abu Dhabi.

Officials from the UAE and Saudi Arabia have suggested that further sanctions, including the possibility of kicking out Qatar from the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council, could be imposed if Doha failed to heed the demands.

Asked about any further sanctions, Sheikh Abdullah advised caution.

"I think it is premature to talk about the extra sanctions and steps and procedures to be taken by these countries," he said.

"This depends on what we will hear from our brothers in Kuwait and the dialogue and conversations among ourselves and the examination of these responses."—Reuters ■

"You destroy, we rebuild": a builder's life in war-torn Syria

BEIRUT — When builder Abu Salem repairs a shell hole in a house in rebel-held southern Syria, he knows it might not be the last job he does on the structure.

"There is a chance the buildings will be hit again," he told Reuters. "But in the short term people should be able to take refuge in their homes."

Abu Salem heads a group of 12 construction workers who rebuild and patch up buildings damaged by barrel bombs, air strikes and shelling in and around Syria's Deraa city.

With no access to modern tools, and materials made expensive by the war, Abu Salem's men break up buildings, mix concrete and carry loads by hand. Despite the difficulties, they have kept their sense of humour.

Three months ago a video circulated widely on Syrian social media showing masked

men kneeling in formation, brandishing staffs and rising to shouts of "God is Great".

At first glance it looks like a typical example of the beligerent propaganda footage often posted by armed groups in the Syrian conflict. But it isn't what it seems.

"In the name of God, I am Abu Salem al-Muameed and I announce the formation of a Concrete Pouring Brigade in the free areas!" Salem shouts into the camera in an unmistakable parody of fired-up rebel leaders fighting President Bashar al-Assad.

"If you destroy, by God we will rebuild!" he cries as his men wave pickaxes and shovels and then descend into laughter.

After the You Destroy and We Rebuild Brigade's video appeared, people began stopping Abu Salem in the street.

"They said: you are the

best brigade formed since the start of the Syrian crisis," he told Reuters by phone.

Syria's war has destroyed the national economy and fractured the country into a patchwork of areas of control which bisect trading routes, raising prices and causing local shortages of vital commodities.

But money can sometimes talk louder than political loyalty, and across Syria goods still find their way across front lines, with heavy bribes and taxes paid at checkpoints.

Abu Salem lives in a rebel-held area but sources his building materials from government-controlled zones.

Cement secured from Damascus may cost about 30,000 Syrian pounds a tonne at source, he said, but arrives in Deraa at a price of 50,000 to 55,000 pounds after passing through all the checkpoints.—Reuters ■



The Russian designs for the advanced warships and vessels presented at the International Naval Show were of special interest to several dozen foreign delegations. **PHOTO: TASS**

Russian shipbuilder emphasizes Navy upgrading warships, not engaging in new arms race

ST PETERSBURG — Planned upgrades of warships rather than heading into an arms race is the priority for the Russian Navy and today's military industry, Igor Ponomaryov, Vice President of Russia's United Shipbuilding Corporation (USC) overseeing naval construction issues, told reporters.

"I do not think that some kind of arms race is happening. Routine efforts are underway to upgrade the naval fleet, inherited from the Soviet era, whose life cycle has ended. We

will replace it with new models, new weapons and fresh armament concepts," he said.

According to Ponomaryov, Russian shipbuilders have ironed out efforts on commissioning the lead ships under the latest projects.

"We are completing work on practically all lead ships this year. That was the most difficult period when new weapons were being designed. I believe this year we will wrap up the tests of the advanced frigate Admiral Gorshkov, and

it will join the Russian Navy," he said.

Ponomaryov noted that the Russian designs for the advanced warships and vessels presented at the International Naval Show were of special interest to several dozen foreign delegations.

Russian Defence Minister Sergey Shoigu earlier told the ministry's board meeting that the Russian Navy had been replenished with 24 warships and logistics vessels and two submarines.—Tass ■

British Conservative lawmaker pleads not guilty to election fraud charges

LONDON — A lawmaker from British Prime Minister Theresa May's minority ruling Conservative Party, pleaded not guilty on Tuesday to charges of making false declarations over his spending in a 2015 election.

Craig MacKinlay, who beat leading Brexit figure Nigel Farage in the parliamentary election for the South Thanet in southeastern England in 2015, is accused of making false claims about his spending during the campaign.

Despite the ongoing case against him, he won the seat again in this year's June election.

May's Conservatives lost their majority in that ballot and remain in power only through an agreement with 10 Northern Ireland MPs. If MacKinlay were to lose his court case, there would be pressure for a by-election.

MacKinlay's election agent Nathan Gray and aide Marion Little, who also face charges over the expenses, also pleaded not guilty in a London court.

Farage, the former head of Britain's UK Independence

Party (UKIP), came second in South Thanet in 2015, polling 16,026 votes with MacKinlay taking 18,838 votes.

MacKinlay retained the seat in June with an increased majority of more than 6,000 votes as support for UKIP collapsed with Farage, who played a key role in securing Britain's vote to leave the European Union last year, no longer the party's candidate.

In May, prosecutors ruled out bringing more widespread criminal charges over allegations of expenses fraud by the Conservatives during the 2015 campaign.

The Crown Prosecution Service had considered information from 14 police forces across the country about whether the party had broken spending limits, which are governed by tight, complex rules, but decided there was insufficient evidence to charge any individuals.

The Electoral Commission, the independent election watchdog, in March fined the Conservatives a record 70,000 pounds (\$91,000) for breaking rules by incorrectly reporting its spending.—Reuters ■

Austria to control Italy border, send armoured vehicles to block migrants — ministry

FRANKFURT — Austria has moved four armoured vehicles close to its border with Italy to guard against migrants and will likely set up controls on a key trade crossing "very soon", defence ministry officials said on Tuesday.

The planned controls will include the busy Alpine Brenner pass, a defence ministry spokesman said — a move that Italy warned last year would break EU rules on free movement.

"I expect border controls will be introduced very soon," Defence Minister Peter Doskozil told daily newspaper Kronenzeitung in an interview published on Tuesday.

Both Italy and Austria are

members of the European Union's Schengen open-border zone, but free movement has been jeopardised by the reimposition of controls at many crossings across the bloc since the surge in migrants seen in 2015/16.

There was no immediate comment from Italy or EU officials.

Doskozil's spokesman said there was no concrete timetable for the new controls. "But we see how the situation in Italy is becoming more acute and we have to be prepared to avoid a situation comparable to summer 2015."

Italy has taken in more than 80,000 refugees and migrants so far this year, most

of whom arrived by boat from Africa, making Italy the main point of entry to Europe.

Austria has already moved heavy equipment to the province of Tyrol, which borders Italy, including four armoured vehicles to block roads, the spokesman said.

"These are not battle tanks. These are armoured vehicles without weapons which could block roads. These were already used during the refugee crisis 201/16 at the Spielfeld border crossing (with Slovenia)."

The army would also be able to send in 750 soldiers within 72 hours to deal with emergencies, the spokesman added.—Reuters ■

Germany expects Russian effort to influence election-interior minister

BERLIN — Germany expects Russia to seek to influence its general election on 24 September, Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said on Tuesday, adding that data stolen in a 2015 hack of the lower house of parliament could surface in the coming weeks.

Hans-Georg Maassen, the head of Germany's domestic intelligence agency, said at the same news conference that there were no indications Russia would back any particular party.

"A large volume of data

was taken during the 2015 Bundestag hack," de Maiziere said. "We expect some of that information could emerge in coming weeks."

Maassen said his agency had no reliable evidence that a cyber attack that started in Ukraine last week and spread around the world was carried out by Russia.

Ukraine has blamed Russian security services for the attack, which it said was aimed at destroying important data and spreading panic.—Reuters ■



Philippines army soldiers store seized combat weapons in bags after a news conference, as government troops continue their assault against insurgents from the Maute group in Marawi city, Philippines on 4 July, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Philippine top court upholds martial law in south as fighting drags on

MANILA/MARAWI, Philippines — The Philippine Supreme Court on Tuesday upheld as constitutional President Rodrigo Duterte's imposition of 60 days of military rule on a southern island, a ruling that would reinforce unity in the fight against militancy, his spokesman said.

Duterte placed the southern island of Mindanao under military rule on 23 May, hours after hundreds of pro-Islamic State militants seized control of the predominantly Muslim town of Marawi, which is on the island.

Eleven members of the 15-member court bench ruled the president's order valid. Three agreed with it but wanted to limit the area of martial law and one judge opposed it, said court spokesman

Theodore Te. He did not elaborate.

Six weeks after the imposition of martial law on the island, government forces are still battling the rebels in the town.

Hundreds of people have been killed and alarm has spread across the region about the prospects of Islamic State establishing a Southeast Asian foothold in the troubled south of the predominately Christian Philippines.

"With the Supreme Court decision, the whole government now stands together as one against a common enemy," presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said in a statement. Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said he was hopeful the battle with the militants of the previously little-known Maute

group would be over before the 60-day period of martial law ends, as the Philippines' was getting more help from allies. Two Australian P-3C Orion surveillance planes, manned by joint Australian and Philippine crews, have started flying over Marawi, to pinpoint the locations of the militants, Lorenzana said.

The aircraft will be in the Philippines for two weeks.

On Tuesday morning, clouds of smoke hung over the lakeside town as troops fired on militant positions with artillery and machine guns from helicopters.

Sporadic explosions were heard later in the day.

The army said it had captured another militant stronghold, a century-old college set up by Amer-

icans which the rebel leaders, brothers from the Maute family, had attended.

An army spokesman, Lieutenant-Colonel Jo-Ar Herrera, said troops had also recovered the body of a militant who was believed to be from Singapore, bringing to 11 the number of foreign fighters killed in the battle.

It was not clear why authorities believed the fighter was from Singapore. Herrera only said they had information.

More than 400 people, including 337 militants and 85 members of the security forces, have been killed in the fighting in Marawi. Forty-four civilians had also been killed, either in crossfire or executed by the militants, the military said.—Reuters ■

Bangladesh garment factory blast raises fresh concerns over workers' safety

CHENNAI, India — The death of 10 workers in a boiler explosion at a Bangladesh garment factory is one in a series of deadly mishaps that illustrate the neglect of workplace safety, union leaders said on Tuesday.

Demanding more effective implementation of regulations put in place after the 2013 Rana Plaza disaster that killed more than 1,100 people, workers' unions have called for zero tolerance to such lapses in

safety. "There can be no negotiations on worker safety and no tolerance for such accidents," said Amirul Haque Amin, president of the National Garment Workers Federation, seven of whose members were among the over 50 injured in the factory blast. "After Rana Plaza, the coming together of various stakeholders has brought in better regulation in the industry but casualties in such accidents are still on the higher side."—Reuters ■

Typhoon Nanmadol makes landfall in Nagasaki

TOKYO — Typhoon Nanmadol made landfall in Nagasaki Tuesday morning, the weather agency said, bringing heavy rain to Japan's southwestern regions and causing blackouts and traffic disruptions.

The season's third typhoon, recording winds of up to 151 kilometres per hour, is expected to continue moving toward eastern regions along Pacific coastal areas of the Japanese archipelago, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency.

While the southwestern city of Aso saw over 80 millimetres of rain and Nagasaki some 50 mm, the typhoon also brought wet air to the Hokuriku area facing

the Sea of Japan, causing precipitation of over 60 millimeters in Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture.

Strong wind damaged power lines, leaving a total of 68,500 houses without power in Nagasaki and Kumamoto prefectures. Some train services were disrupted on the southwestern main island of Kyushu.

Precipitation is expected to reach up to 250 mm through midday Wednesday in the western region of Shikoku and 150 mm in the Kanto-Koshin area including Tokyo.

The typhoon is expected to be downgraded to a tropical depression by Wednesday morning off eastern Japan, the agency said.—Kyodo News ■



Photo taken on 4 July, 2017, shows a house damaged by fire in the city of Tome, northeastern Japan. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Bus falls into canal in central Thailand, killing driver, injuring 17

BANGKOK — An inter-provincial bus veered off the road and fell into a canal, killing the driver and injuring 17 passengers in central Thailand on Tuesday.

The bus carrying 28 passengers was heading to Bangkok from northern

Thailand's Nan Province.

When it came to central Thailand's Nakhon Sawan province on Tuesday morning, it ran off the road and fell into a canal, local reports said, adding that all passengers successfully escaped from the bus before it was flooded

while the driver was trapped inside the bus and drowned.

At least 17 passengers got injured and 12 of them were wounded seriously, local media said.

Yot, one of the passengers, told media that the bus had been traveling for

more than 10 hours and most of them were sleeping when the accident happened. Fortunately, passengers managed to break the window by emergency hammers, Yot said. Police said the driver may fall asleep when the accident occurred.—Xinhua ■

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 8th JULY 2017 (FULL-MOON DAY of WASO). Loading Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday feeds.

Tolkien estate, Warner Bros settle 'Hobbit' lawsuit

LOS ANGELES — The estate of JRR Tolkien has settled an \$80 million lawsuit against Warner Bros over the licensing of online games, slot machines and other gambling-related merchandise based on the author's books "The Hobbit" and "The Lord of the Rings."

The settlement by the Tolkien estate and book publisher HarperCollins with the Time Warner Inc unit, New Line Cinema and Saul Zaentz Co, which hold various marketing rights, was disclosed in a court filing on Friday in Los Angeles.

It also resolves counter-claims by Warner Bros and Zaentz. Terms were not disclosed.

"The parties are pleased that they have amicably resolved this matter and look forward to working together in the future," Warner Bros spokesman Paul McGuire said in a statement on Monday.

Bonnie Eskenazi, a lawyer for Tolkien's estate and HarperCollins, which is a unit of News



A man walks along a fence hung with large format hoardings of J R R Tolkien characters from The Hobbit movie in Wellington on 27 November, 2012. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Corp, provided a nearly identical statement.

Tolkien's estate had accused the defendants of violating a 1969 agreement allowing the sale "tangible" merchandise, by associating the books with the "moral-

ly-questionable (and decidedly non-literary) world of online and casino gambling."

It said this "outraged Tolkien's devoted fan base" and irreparably harmed the legacy of the English author, who died in 1973

at the age of 81. The copyright lawsuit was filed in November 2012. Total worldwide grosses exceeded \$2.9 billion for each of the big-screen trilogies for "The Lord of the Rings," released from 2001 to 2003, and "The Hobbit,"

released from 2012 to 2014, according to Box Office Mojo.

The case is Fourth Age Ltd et al v Warner Bros. Digital Distribution et al, US District Court, Central District of California, No 12-09912.—Reuters ■

Dior fashion show celebrates 70 years of traveling spirit

PARIS — French fashion house Christian Dior marked its 70th anniversary on Monday with a show staged outside the Invalides museum in Paris and inspired by its founder's travels around the world.

On a fern-lined catwalk dotted with wooden lions and giraffes, designer Maria Grazia Chiuri presented the brand's Autumn-Winter 2017/18 haute couture collection, revisiting the iconic "Bar" Jacket and gray skirt suits with a 1950s feel.

"Christian Dior traveled across the world since 1947. This time we made the five continents come to Paris," Dior CEO and Chairman Sidney Toledano told Reuters after the show.

Christian Dior is one of the world's biggest and most famous fashion brands, worn by film legends from Grace Kelly and Elizabeth Taylor to more recent stars such as Jennifer Lawrence, Natalie Portman and singer Rihanna.

Chiuri was named as its first female creative director in July 2016 as Dior sought to connect with younger consumers and boost sales hit by the global



Singer Celine Dion poses before Dior fashion house Haute Couture Fall/Winter 2017/2018 show in Paris, France on 3 July, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

luxury spending downturn and growing appetite for smaller and more local brands.

Monday's show presented her second Haute Couture collection for Dior, which she joined from Valentino.

Toledano said his new creative director had attracted and younger clients from Asia, where demand for luxury goods

is picking up, while retaining existing customers.

In France, he said, the election of President Emmanuel Macron is creating "greater confidence" and "an extremely positive spirit".

French consumers splurged on new cars, smartphones and perfumes in May, the month Macron won the presidency. Their

increased willingness to spend bodes well for growth in the second quarter, national statistics institute ISEE said last week.

Like its peers LVMH, Gucci or Hermes, Dior is benefiting from higher spending in Asia and a return of tourists to Europe.

Toledano said sales growth at Christian Dior Haute Couture and Maison Christian Dior as a whole was in the double-digits in the fourth quarter of 2016 and the first quarter of 2017.

To celebrate its 70th anniversary, Christian Dior is also taking over Les Arts Decoratifs museum in Paris for a lavish retrospective from 5 July to 7 January, featuring over 300 dresses from the house founder and the six designers who succeeded him. Christian Dior himself died in 1957, and the fashion house has since been headed by famous names including Yves Saint Laurent and John Galiano. With nearly 200 stores in over 60 countries, Dior had 2016 sales of 1.94 billion euros. Its operating margin rose to 13.1 per cent in 2016 from 12.8 pct in 2015.—Reuters ■

Six more Marvel films are in the works

LONDON — 20th Century Fox has revealed that it has set six new release dates for Marvel films between 2019 and 2021.

Fox has reportedly targeted on 7 June, 2019, 22 November, 2019, 13 March, 2020, 26 June, 2020, 2 October, 2020, and 5 March, 2021 to release its upcoming films, reported Digital Spy.

The studio ? which controls the film rights to "X-Men" and "Fantastic Four" ? has three films in the works for release next year, including "New Mutants", "Deadpool 2" and "X-Men: Dark Phoenix".

The studio is yet to reveal any more details about the forthcoming releases.—PTI ■

OBITUARY

With loving memory to Univ. Prof. Dr. H. C. Mult. Franz Gerstenbrand passed away on the 1st of July 2017 at 20:45 PM in Vienna (Austria). He was a very good friend of Myanmar and my family. My heartfelt sorrow and condolences to the family. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Brig-Gen D. O. Abel (Retired) and family.

Soaring 'Hive' exhibit blends intimate details into its giant scale

WASHINGTON, DC — A 2,700 lightweight cardboard cylinders ranging from several inches to 10 feet (3 metres) in height, painted silver and magenta and stacked in an interlocking fashion. Gang told Reuters that "Hive" is similar to the vaulted structures of cathedrals, designed to hold their own weight.

"We thought this is such a big space, we wanted to go high," she said. "We wanted to make something that had some monumentality but at the same time, inside, a certain intimacy." —Reuters ■

Its three domed chambers are made from



An install team member works on Studio Gang's 'Hive', the latest Summer Block Party interactive installation, at the National Building Museum in Washington, DC, US on 3 July, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

The Scream on cream: Korean barista wows fans with latte art

SEOUL — South Korean barista Lee Kang-bin is taking coffee art to the next level, creating miniature imitations of famous paintings on foamy cups of java at his central Seoul cafe.

With meticulous strokes of tiny brushes and spoons, Lee, 26, recreates the likes of Vincent van Gogh's "The Starry Night" and Edvard Munch's "The Scream" using thick cream stained with food colouring atop a cup of coffee.

The result of the painstaking 15-minute process is a 10,000 won (\$8.71) cup of cold coffee that has won Lee thousands of fans at his cafe and online. "One time I drew 'The Starry Night' and it looked so special as the famous painting placed on top of coffee. After that, lots of people ordered



Creamarts, what South Korean barista Lee Kang-bin calls his latte arts, are seen at his coffee shop in Seoul, South Korea, June 30, 2017. Picture taken on 30 June, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

that coffee," Lee said, as he copied the painting off an image on his smartphone.

"Customers usually ask me to draw their favourite art works," he added. On his Instagram profile where he regularly posts images and videos

of his so-called "creamart," Lee says he has never learned to draw. He started brewing coffee at age 17, during his mandatory military service and enjoyed it so much that he bought a coffee machine and opened his first cafe for fellow soldiers in his camp near the border with North Korea. Customers at his cafe are delighted with Lee's art, which ranges from intricate paintings to cheeky recreations of Disney cartoon characters like Aladdin and Bambi. —Reuters ■

Fox Sports dismisses president of national networks

NEWYORK — Fox Sports fired Jamie Horowitz, its president of national networks, on Monday, according to a memo sent to employees, which provided no reasons for the dismissal but did emphasize the importance of "professional conduct."

Horowitz's departure comes amid allegations of sexual harassment, according to reports by The New York Times and The Los Angeles Times. Reuters could not independently verify those allegations.

Horowitz's attorney, Patricia Glaser, a partner

with Glaser Weil, called Fox's treatment of Horowitz "appalling." "At no point in his tenure was there any mention by his superiors or human resources of any misconduct or an inability to adhere to professional conduct," Glaser said in a statement. "Any slander-

ous accusations to the contrary will be vigorously defended." A spokeswoman for Fox Sports, part of Twenty-First Century Fox Inc (FOXA.O), declined to comment further on Horowitz's departure, which was effective immediately. —Reuters ■

MRTV

Programme Schedule
(5-7-2017, Wednesday)

6:00 Am ♦ Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw	2:10 Am ♦ TV Drama Series
7:00 Am ♦ Breakfast News	3:15 Am ♦ TV Drama Series
7:35 Am ♦ Money Talk Myanmar	4:35 Pm ♦ Documentary
8:35 Am ♦ Documentary	5:10 Pm ♦ Documentary (Judo)
9:10 Am ♦ Solution for Agriculture	6:20 Pm ♦ Football Magazine
9:40 Am ♦ Kyae Pwint Myae Yae Yin Khone Than	6:35 Pm ♦ Real Story Real Movie
10:30 Am ♦ Pyi Thu Ni Ti	7:15 Pm ♦ TV Drama Series
12:30 Am ♦ TV Drama Series	8:00 Pm ♦ News/ International News/ Weather Report
1:00 Am ♦ Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competition (Dramatic Arts)	8:35 Pm ♦ Real to SEA Games
	8:50 Pm ♦ Documentary (Part-1)
	9:25 Pm ♦ TV Drama Series
	♦ Fine Arts - Bosom of Dramatic Performance

mitv

Myanmar International
Programme Schedule

(5-7-2017 07:00am ~ 6-7-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (Ep-1) Mingalar Byuha
07:51	Am	Next Weekend
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Waso or the Buddhist Lent
08:31	Am	Karaweik Palace-A Symbol of Glorious Myanma Culture
08:46	Am	Myanmar Agarwood
09:03	Am	News
09:27	Am	Director: Thiha Kyaw Soe
09:40	Am	Image of The Monks
10:03	Am	News
10:25	Am	Rakhine The Land of Sublime Pagodas

10:56

Am

Dances of Myanmar: Tai Khun or Gon Traditional Dance

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	MOBILE WEEK 2017
07:42	Pm	Conflict & Solution Between Man & Elephant
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Exquisite Myanmar Silk
08:46	Pm	A Simple And Peaceful Life

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

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

New football tournament schedule for 29th SEA Games announces

Nyi Myat Thaw Tar

THE 29th Southeast Asian Games released new football competition schedules for the upcoming 19-30 August tournament scheduled to take place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The original football competition schedule was changed on 1 July after Viet Nam, Laos, Myanmar claimed that Malaysia had manipulated the schedule to favour its own

national team.

The conflict was resolved after various sports organizations, including the ASEAN Football Federation, the Olympic Council of Malaysia and the Football Association of Malaysia, met and negotiated a new schedule.

A total 11 of ASEAN countries will be competing in the men's football competition.

Six women's football teams will also compete. ■

Newcastle sign defender Lejeune from Spanish side Eibar

LONDON — French defender Florian Lejeune has joined Newcastle United on a five-year deal from Spanish club Eibar, the English Premier League side announced on Tuesday.

The 26-year-old centre back is the second off-season signing for the newly promoted side after midfielder Christian Atsu joined them on a four-year deal from Chelsea in May.

"I'm very happy to have signed. Newcastle United is a big club, and I'm very happy to be here," Lejeune was quoted as saying in a statement on Newcastle's website.

"When you have a manager like Rafa Benitez who wants you, you are very happy to come. Since I've been in

touch with the manager, it was an easy decision for me to come here."

Benitez welcomed the arrival of the former France under-20 international, who is joining for a fee of 8.7 million pounds (\$11.26 million), according to British media reports.

"He is a player that has done very well this year in Spain. I have known about him for a while, since he began playing for Villarreal," the Spanish manager said.

"He has progressed a lot as a player in the last few years and I know he will give us something different at the back — he is good with both feet, he's big and he's good in the air also. — Reuters ■



Mexico's Javier Hernandez in action with Germany's Matthias Ginter during the Semi Final of FIFA Confederations Cup Russia 2017 on 29 June, 2017.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Germany's Ginter leaves Dortmund for Gladbach

BERLIN — Germany international Matthias Ginter has agreed to join Borussia Moenchengladbach from Borussia Dortmund, pending a medical later on Tuesday, the Bundesliga clubs said.

Ginter, a 2014 World Cup winner who also won the Confederations Cup with Germany on Sunday, joined Dortmund in 2014 but failed to hold down a regular

starting spot.

With next year's World Cup on the horizon, the 23-year-old is eager for more first-team football to remain in contention for a spot in the squad, opting to miss out on a chance to play in the Champions League with Dortmund.

"Matthias Ginter came to us and asked for a transfer due to the

current competition for a spot in our defence," Dortmund sports director Michael Zorc said.

"We met that request. We thank him for his engagement and wish him all the best." There were no details regarding the length of his contract but German media reported the transfer fee at 17 million euros (14.94 million pounds). — Reuters ■



Switzerland's Roger Federer.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Sunshine and Federer await Wimbledon crowds

LONDON — Bright sunshine and Roger Federer await tennis fans heading to the All England Club for the second day of action at Wimbledon on Tuesday.

After an opening day which saw world number three Stan Wawrinka suffer a surprise defeat at the hands of Russian Daniil Medvedev, the focus turns to his Swiss compatriot and the favorite for the men's title.

The 35-year-old Federer,

hugely popular among regular visitors to the grounds in SW19, faces 84th-ranked Alexandr Dolgoplov of Ukraine as he begins his bid, on Centre Court, for what would be a record eighth Wimbledon singles title.

There was only a short break for rain during the opening day's play and the forecast for Tuesday also looks promising with temperatures expected to reach a pleasant 24 degrees Celsius.

Serbia's Novak Djokovic will be looking to follow Andy Murray and Rafa Nadal into the second round when he takes on Slovak Martin Klizan.

German women's world number one Angelique Kerber gets the action on Centre Court underway when she faces American Irina Falconi, while Czech third-seed Karolina Pliskova will expect to beat Russian Evgeniya Rodina. — Reuters ■