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Thursday, 13 July 2017



A fisherman walks on the beach in Sittway, Rakhine State on 2 March. Reporters arrived in Rakhine yesterday. **FILE PHOTO: REUTERS**

Journalists arrive in Rakhine

No restrictions on reporting, government pledges

Myanmar and foreign journalists representing international media organisations arrived in Rakhine State yesterday, with a pledge from the government to not impose any restrictions on the reporters visiting the troubled areas that have been the site of violence since October.

Journalists from AFP, Nikkei, VOA, Kyodo News, Xinhua, AP, Frontier, CNA, TV Asahi, RFA, ABC, BBC, NHK, Reuters, MITV and MNA were included

in this third press trip to Rakhine State.

Independent media groups visited Maungdaw from 19 to 22 December 2016 and from 28 March to 1 April 2017.

The 18 Myanmar nationals and foreigners who arrived yesterday will stay in Rakhine State from 12 to 16 July. They received a government escort to the northern areas of Buthidaung and Maungdaw.

“There are no restrictions

regarding the areas that you can report from,” said U Theet Swe, a director at the Ministry of Information’s News and Periodicals Enterprise.

“We didn’t arrange any ‘for show’ places for news reporting,” he said.

Last year, Myanmar’s army performed numerous “clearance operations” in the area after violent attackers fought border patrol posts near the Bangladesh border, killing nine

police officers.

Some 75,000 people fled across the nearby border to Bangladesh, according to the United Nations, which has documented allegations of gang rape, torture, arson and killings by security forces.

The government has denied most of the allegations, and has denied entry to a UN fact-finding mission tasked with looking into the allegations.

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သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Pyithu Hluttaw

No farming on land for Yadanarbon IT centre

Kyaw Thu Htet

U KYAW LIN, Deputy Minister for Construction, said yesterday there are no plans to allow local peasants in Pyin Oo Lwin to farm on unused land confiscated for the Yadanarbon Silicon Project.

The statement was made by U Kyaw Lwin in response to a question at yesterday's Pyithu Hluttaw session by Dr U Aung Khin of Pyin Oo Lwin constituency.

"There is not any plan to reclaim 9,893 acres of farming land confiscated for Yadanarbon Silicon Project into farming land, and they will be implemented in order to produce the best results for the country, under the master plan", the Deputy Minister

said. "The Yadanarbon neo-town plan was launched with the intention of developing the social lives and emergence of a hub of internationally standardized IT. In 2008 and 2009, a total of 100,000 acres of land were confiscated for Yadanarbon neo-town plan and handed over to the department of urbanisation and housing development. Of them, 107 acres were handed over to the Correctional Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs to be used as 24 mile-rock-producing-land, with 662 acres targeted as Yadanarbon neo-town plan by Mandalay City Development Committee."

The Deputy Minister added, "Yadanarbon neo-town plan will be implemented in 3 phases. Phase 1 has 2,200 acres of land

and it will include software drawing factories, factory complex, greening land and servicing areas, ICT Main Complex, housing estate for staff, day nursery, stadium, restaurants and southern housing project.

Phase 2 has 2,919 acres of land and it will include a civilian zone, administrative zone, servicing zone, economic zone, SMEs industrial zone, industrial and agro-based economic zone. Phase 3 has 4,774 acres of land, and it will include low-cost housing estate, fair-cost housing estate, high-cost housing estate, hotel zone, international standard stadium, crop plantation zone, servicing zone, administrative zone, departmental offices and golf club.



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint. PHOTO: MNA

Scrutiny must be carried out as to whether land can be reclaimed as urban development, or not. Necessity of regional cabinet and local needs must be taken into consideration.

Project area is so much so that it will be difficult to implement them at the same time, hence the need to implement the project step by step." —Myanmar News Agency ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

Waterways, sewage drains to be installed in Magway

Aung Ye Thwin,
Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

A PROPOSAL has been submitted for the construction of various waterways and roads in Magway Region, an area where many roads are not paved, according to U Hla Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

The Deputy Minister made the statement yesterday at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting in response to a question from U Win Maung from Magway constituency (6), who asked about the government's plan in helping road transportation for the 2,649 villagers in Salin Township, Magway.

U Hla Kyaw said a proposal has been submitted that could be included in the 2017-2018 budget plan of the region's Rural Development Department.

The proposal included costs for constructing a 2-mile concrete road, a 2-mile asphalt road, an 8-mile gravel road, a 3-mile laterite road, 14 concrete bridges, 31 culverts and 34 waterways. The total cost of construction is estimated to be Ks3.667 billion.

The Deputy Minister said it will cost an estimate of Ks 380.5 million to convert the dirt roads connecting Nga Hlaing Thwin, Kin Poon Chone, Kwe Oo and Kyaukdan villages in Salin Township. The Deputy Minister said

the Ks128.5 million needed for the construction of the bridges and waterways in Magway is not included in the current budget plan of the Region's Rural Development Department, but he is negotiating with the regional government to acquire Ks45 million for use in the construction.

The Deputy Minister also responded to a query from Daw Htut May from Rakhine Constituency (11), saying the proposal for upgrading the clay road in Myebon Township and building embankment walls along it has been included in the 2017-2018 Union Budget Plan. The total cost for the proposal amounts to Ks2.95 billion, with Ks115 million



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

allotted for this financial year.

A report on the workings of the Committee for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation development was read during

yesterday's Hluttaw meeting, and Hluttaw representatives interested in discussing the report registered their names for the next meeting. ■



UN delegation led by Ms. Yanghee Lee met Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and officials of Rakhine State Government yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

UN delegation arrives at Sittway and Maungtaw

Myint Maung Soe, Aung
Kyaw Oo

MS. YANGHEE LEE, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar and party arrived at Sittway from Kyaukpyu by air yesterday morning.

The UN delegation met Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and officials of Rakhine State Government at the meeting room of State Government Office at about 10:00 am. During their

meeting, they discussed matters relating to Kyaukpyu Special Economic zone, meeting with farmers in Kyaukpyu, transference of IDP camps, development and peace and stability in Buthidaung and Maungtaw, and present situation of the area and restoration works on damages caused by cyclone Mora which struck Myanmar at the end of May 2017.

The UN delegation left Buthidaung on boat after meeting with six town elders at the

State General Administration Department in Sittway. At evening meeting with responsible officials at Maungtaw District General Administration Department, they discussed concerning with destroyed conditions after cyclone Mora, aids for the victims of disaster paid by the government and International Non-Governmental Organisation (INGO), regional states, permission to enter in region and implementation of peace and stability in region. ■



The meaning of independence

Independence does not mean an undisciplined way of life. Independence strictly dictates that we live a disciplined life. Independence can survive only with discipline. After we achieve independence, the people need to observe discipline more strictly.

(Excerpt from Bogyoke Aung San's speech broadcast on radio on 5th April 1947)

Private Sector Development Committee meeting

VICE President U Myint Swe, who is also Chairman of the Private Sector Development Committee, said yesterday at the 4th regular meeting that development of the private sector was vital because it made up 90 per cent of the nation's economy.

"Only when the private sector is improved will the nation develop and the livelihoods of the people will get better as well", U Myint Swe said.

The Government's Private Sector Development Committee held their 4th regular meeting yesterday at the Ministry of Commerce in Nay Pyi Taw. The Government has formed several committees to help develop the private sector, including the Committee for Basic Human Resources Development, Committee for Sourcing of Funds, Committee for Improving the Environment for Law and Regulations, Committee for Improving Trade and Investment and the Committee for Redefining the Role of the State in the Eco-



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses at the 4th regular private sector development committee meeting in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

nomic and Service Sector.

The Vice President said advice given at regular meetings with private business owners totaling 102 points have been sent to concerned ministries, region and state governments and various working committees. The aforementioned parties have taken action on 99 of the points.

According to the World Bank Group's 2017 edition of

Doing Business, indices have been given in 10 business areas and each country has been given rankings.

The Vice President urged ministries and organisations concerned to take responsibility for the 10 business areas and work hard to improve the ranking of the country.

The 10 business areas included in the publication are

starting a business, dealing with construction permits, getting electricity, registering property, getting credit, protecting minority investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts and resolving insolvency.

Afterwards, Secretary of the Committee, Permanent Secretary U Toe Aung Myint, explained the decision-making

process and tasks undertaken by the committee.

This was followed by meeting participants discussing the regulations published in Doing Business 2017 and other topics concerned with their respective sectors. The Vice President ended the meeting by reviewing materials discussed and then gave a closing speech.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Over 300 acres of confiscated farmland returned to owners in Madaya for third time

OVER 300 acres of farmland have been returned to its rightful owners in the presence of Vice President U Henry Van Thio in Mandalay Region for the third time.

Speaking on the occasion which took place in Madaya Township yesterday, U Henry Van Thio expressed his delight at being able to return the confiscated land, pledging quick and correct solutions in returning the confiscated land to farmers.

The land were confiscated from local farmers for the construction project of hospital for people with leprosy.

The Ministry of Health and Sports confiscated nearly 2,000

acres of land from farmers in Madaya township, and it would give up more than 1,300 acres.

The ministry said it would need over 600 acres of land for the construction of a hospital for lepers.

Over 208 acres of land were returned to farmers for the first time in July 2016 and more than 140 acres in March 2017.

More than 800 acres of land would be returned on completion of the scrutiny process.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio said the government was stepping up efforts for assisting farmers to get favourable prices for their crops and reasonable agricultural loans while working for disaster preparedness.

According to officials, the land was originally seized by the Ministry of Industry-1 in 1977 and was later passed on to the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Following the ceremony, the Vice President visited the Mandalay General Hospital and was briefed on liver transplant operations being done by Professor Dr Shein Aye (Liver Specialist).

It has been learnt that this hospital saw the first successful liver transplant.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio also visited Monywa and inspected measures for preventing overflow of water from the Chindwin River which is now above its danger level.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Vice President U Henry Van Thio presents the farmland work permit card to local farmer in Madaya township yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Kawthoung- Bokpyin Pyidaungsu road temporarily blocked due to landslide



Firefighters and officials working to remove the 150 feet-high mound formed by landslide.

PHOTO: IPRD

Landslides caused by torrential rain destroyed roads in Kawthoung-Bokpyin Pyidaungsu Road at milepost four near Shwe Pyi Soe village-track on 12 July, according to a re-

porter from the Township Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) yesterday. A 150-feet-high and 100-feet-wide mound of earth dislodged from a hillside and blocked the

road.

Authorities used heavy machinery to clear the debris and reopen the roads. No one was injured in the accident. — Township IPRD ■

Visits to Shwedagon increased this June

Shwedagon Pagoda, Myanmar's most famous pilgrimage site, was visited in June by 32,694 foreign travellers, an increase of 3,273 compared to the same period of 2016, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

In May 2017, the pagoda had 36,674 tourists, according to the Pagoda Board of Trustees.

"The number of the tourists usually decreases in mon-

soon season. But the number of the tourists have increased this June 2017 compared to the same period of the last year," said a Pagoda Board of Trustees representative.

The Pagoda Board of Trustees collected entrance fees of Ks261 million, plus US\$176 in foreign currency and donations worth \$5,092 in June 2017. Most of the tourists who visited the Shwedagon Pagoda were from Thailand,

China, the United States, Japan and South Korea.

About 29,421 tourists visited the Shwedagon Pagoda in June 2016. Pagoda authorities collected entrance fees worth Ks235 million and \$24 in foreign currency. They received donations worth \$4,865. The Shwedagon Pagoda is also visited mostly by Thailand, South Korea, China, Japan and America in June 2016.— GNLM ■

Yaba pills, heroin seized

An anti-narcotics squad from southern Mandalay District searched a train between the Yinmabin railway station and the Phayangazu railway station in Thazi Township on Tuesday and discovered 2,993 yaba pills, 5.1 grams of heroin, six kilos of marijuana, two handsets and Ks125,000 from passengers Thura Kyaw and Ma Win Mar Htwe. Another anti-narcotics squad from Mandalay stopped and searched a motorcycle driven by Htay Aung and Sai Soe Naung aboard at the corner

Ma Win Mar Htwe and Thura Kyaw with drugs. **PHOTO: MPF**

of 60th street and Seinpan street, Myothit Ward 4 in Chanmyathazi Township on the same day and seized 1,323 yaba pills and two handsets.

Similarly, an anti-narcotics squad from Muse searched a motorcycle driven by Eik Kyan

together with Ma Yun Taung on board on Kutkai-Kaungkha road in Kutkai Township and found 1,950 yaba pills. Police filed charges against them under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanmar Police Force ■

NEWS BRIEFS

Heavy rain causes landslides in Chin State

Heavy rain caused landslides in the Tiddim township in Chin State on 11 July, according to a reporter from the Township Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) yesterday.

Houses, water pipes and paddy fields were damaged in the Tiddim township.

According to the IPRD reporter, the heavy rain destroyed houses in Kattae village and Varvone village, and about 17 acres of paddy field from seven households in Lineloe village. A 45-foot-long water pipe was also damaged.

Authorities are planning to provide assistance to the landslide victims.—Township IPRD ■

Children's art competition to be held in Myanmar

A children's art competition, entitled "Golden City in your eyes", will be held in Myanmar from 10 to 30 July, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

The art competition is organized by the Golden City Housing Project Community. The organizers are inviting submissions from children under 12 years old.

The children will be judged on their ideas for an imaginary Golden City community development project.

"Creativity is an important element of health and happiness", said Mr. Alex Lee, the vice chairman of Golden City. "We hold the Golden City in Your Eyes competition to promote creativity, thoughtfulness and diversity of perspective in children".

The children will send their artworks to the Golden City Show Gallery. Ten finalists will be short-listed by the judges and winners will be chosen between 1 and 20 August.

Final winners will be chosen by online likes on a dedicated Facebook page and by company judges.

First prize winners will be awarded US\$1,000, second prize winners \$600 and third prize will be awarded \$300.— GNLM ■

CBM sets dollar FX rate to Ks1,366

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) set the US dollar exchange rate at Ks1,366 on 12 July in keeping with the increasing rate on currency exchange market.

The rate was Ks1,364 on 11 July. The US exchange rate on 12 July is Ks1,367 on currency exchange market. US exchange rates from 1-19 June ranged between Ks1,350-1,357 to the dollar. The rate increased to

Ks1,361 on 20 June. The exchange returned to its lower rate at the end of June when it slipped back down to Ks1,354. By 10 July, the rate had risen again to Ks1,360.

The US dollar index (DXY) has declined since mid-May 2017 and is currently around 95.

The highest US dollar exchange rate in June was Ks1,361 and the lowest rate was Ks1,350. — Htet Myat ■

Myanmar's avocados attract interest from foreign investors

MYANMAR avocados are attracting more interest from foreign investors due to its attractive taste and fragrance, according to a report in the City News yesterday.

Myanmar's best avocados are grown in Chin and Shan states

and exported to Cambodia, Hong Kong, Thailand and China.

The price of a tonne of avocados ranges between Ks1.5 and 1.9 million in the export market.

Myanmar is a leading grower of avocado in ASEAN. — City News ■

Myanmar melons favoured by Chinese Market

Watermelon and muskmelon export to China this financial year is projected to comprise 600,000 tonnes, according to the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association.

About 200 to 300 lorries carrying watermelon enter Muse market on a daily basis during melon season. A ton of watermelon costs 3,500-4,000 yuan whereas the price of a ton of musk melon

costs 2,000-3,000 yuan. Watermelon and muskmelon made up 80 per cent of income earned from fruits and vegetables export, according to the Commerce Ministry.

The market is heavily dependent on the Chinese market.

Watermelon and muskmelon are mostly cultivated in Shan State, Mandalay and Sagaing regions. The next crop is scheduled for planting in September. — Mon Mon ■



A farmer works in a watermelon farm in Nay Pyi Taw.
PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Rubber export in June decreases by 4,240 tonnes

RUBBER exports to China via Muse, Chinshwehaw, Lweje and Tachilek ports in June were low compared to previous month.

About 6,914 tonnes of rubber exports worth US\$8.66 million were exported in June, which is 4,240 tonnes less than May exports, according to the Commerce Ministry. Rubber exports shipped

from Myanmar's seaports also went down, with 2,080 tons of exports in June, a 766-tonnes decline compared to May. More than 11,150 tonnes of rubber were exported in May. Rubber export prices have seen increases of \$50 per ton for "ribbed smoked sheet" (RSS) rubber and over \$100 per ton for "Myanmar standard rubber" (MSR),

according to the Myanmar Rubber Producers Association.

Rubber prices per ton this week are estimated at \$1,600-1,700 for RSS 1, \$1,550-1,650 for RSS 2, \$1,500-1,600 for RSS 3, \$1,450-1,550 for RSS 4 and \$1,400-1,500 for RSS 5, \$1,950-2,050 for MSR 3L, \$1,600-1,700 for MSR 10, \$1,450-1,550 for MSR 20,

\$1,350-1,450 for MSR 50 and \$1,250-1,350 for Crepe Rubber. Total of 1,490 tons of various rubber estimated at \$1 million were exported through land points of entry between 24 and 30 June while over 520 tonnes of rubber were exported by ocean routes to China, Malaysia, India, Japan and South Korea from 25 June to 1 July. — Mon Mon ■

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Journalists arrive in Rakhine

FROM PAGE-1

The government has not allowed independent journalists and human rights monitors from going to the area in the far north of the state for the past nine months for their own security.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has said a UN fact-finding mission would only heighten tension in the region. Myanmar officials say a domestic investigation, led by Vice President U Myint Swe and a commission headed by former UN chief Kofi Annan - are the appropriate ways to address problems in Rakhine State. Annan recommended in March that authorities "provide full and regular access

for domestic and international media to all areas affected by recent violence".

Reporters on the visit to the northern areas would be provided security by Myanmar's paramilitary Border Guard Police force, U Thet Swe said.

Although access would not be restricted, he said, reporters should stay close to officials during visits to villages for their own security. A detailed itinerary for the five-day trip was provided to reporters yesterday. U Thet Swe said, the plan was "not fixed" and would be subject to changes due to the weather and security concerns. He invited reporters to suggest additional places they

want to visit. Reporters will be taken to the village of Tin May, where security forces killed two suspected militants and arrested one after they detonated a bomb on Sunday, according to an announcement from the State Counsellor's office. While Myanmar has denied entry to a UN fact-finding mission, a UN special rapporteur on human rights, Ms. Yanghee Lee, is visiting Rakhine State this week.

Although she is not expected to visit the northern areas near the border with Bangladesh, she is due to meet some of the people displaced in violence since 2012. — Simon Lewis, Reuters and Myanmar News Agency ■



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is seen in his goodwill visit in India. **PHOTO: MNA**

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets Post-Graduate Trainees in India

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, now in India on a goodwill visit at the invitation of Admiral Sunil Lanba, Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee, the Republic of India left Ahmedabad military airport for Pune, arriving at the airport at 10:30 am LST. At the Pune, the Senior General met with Myanmar post-graduate trainees, giving words of encouragement and providing foodstuffs to the students.

The C-in-C of Defence Services and members left the airport by helicopters for Ahmednagar, with Maj General Neeraj Kapur, principal of Armoured

Corps Centre and School and responsible officials greeting the Senior General at the airport. Then at the meeting room of the Armoured Corps Centre and School, the principal explained to the Senior General history of the school, school set-up and teaching conditions, with questioned by C-in-C of Defence Services as to what he wanted to know.

The Senior General and party visited Submarine Auxiliaries Department and inspected planes and helicopters being used by India Navy, being explained by responsible officials, it was learnt. —Myanmar News Agency ■

20 to 35 million textbooks to be printed for 2018-2019 academic year

The Printing and Publishing Department of the Ministry of Information is planning to publish 20 to 35 million school textbooks for the 2018-2019 Academic Year.

The statement by Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint came at the first coordination meeting of the school textbooks printing and publishing committee at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. At the meeting, Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister for Education, discussed the need for textbooks in basic education primary, middle and high schools for the whole country and time frame for the printing.

The Printing and Publishing Department is mainly printing the order placed by the Ministry of Education and has published the books for 21 years up to the



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint addresses the meeting on printing school textbooks. **PHOTO: MNA**

2013-2014 Academic Year. The department will print high-quality textbooks so that students can have durable books for their education, said Dr. Pe Myint. The Director-General of Printing and Publishing Department discussed the benefits of upgrading

the quality of the textbooks and Permanent Secretary and Deputy Chairman of school textbooks Printing and Distribution Committee U Myo Myint Maung and committee's members clarified the processes for the printing. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Global Study on Intrinsic Motivation in Developing Countries Continued

As regards the ceremony issuing the strategy on reformation of staff in Myanmar, Global Study on Intrinsic Motivation in Developing Countries, was continued at the Myanmar International Convention Center (2) in Nay Pyi Taw, with a view to upgrading confidence, concepts and spirits of staff in developing countries, yesterday. In the first phase of the ceremony, Dr Knight Jel Gold senior consultant of UNDP Global Center for Public Service Excellence discussed the topic of advantages acquired through the

global study on intrinsic motivation, with Dr Zika Vandarwar of Singapore, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Affairs discussing the topic of pilot study on public service staff in Pakistan and Kazakhstan, findings and acquired lessons.

In the second phase of the ceremony, discussion were made by 4 groups, in which research methods, academic perfection, making adjustments of actual event, intrinsic motivation in developing countries and matters to be included in global study, Sey-

chelles Republic's management on public affairs and experiences encountered in transforming public sector, negotiation with public servicemen of Singapore Republic, in labour sector and Moldova Republic's public affairs management and experiences of transformation in public sector.

Afterward ceremony marking the conclusion of knowledge sharing forum was held, with dignified persons from various organisations making addresses respectively. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Office of the President Order 16/2017

4th Waning of Waso, 1379 ME
12 July, 2017

Appointment of Security and Border Affairs Ministers

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 262 (a) (2), (b) (e) (f), article 264 (c) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 19 (c), section 82 (c) of Union Government Law and Section 8 (a) sub-section (2), (b) (f) (g), Section 56 (a) of Region or State Government Law, Colonel Aung Lwin, Kayin State Security and Border Affairs Minister and Colonel Tin Aung Tun, Yangon Region Security and Border Affairs Minister, have been returned to unit to perform the original military duties and replaced with the following persons whose names have been submitted by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) are hereby appointed as Region/ State Security and Border Affairs Ministers.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| (1) Colonel Myo Min Naung | Kayin State Government |
| (2) Colonel Aung Soe Moe | Yangon Region Government |

Sd/ Htin Kyaw
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

THE 100 school-construction project in Rakhine State under the aid programme of Bridge Asia Japan (BAJ) will be completed in coming August, according to yesterday's report of an official in BAJ office based in Maungdaw.

“In Rakhine, BAJ is also planning to construct other

“We got funds from the Nippon Foundation in Japan which supported us to build schools in Rakhine,” he said.

There are totally five BAJ offices in Myanmar. One is in Yangon for management, one is in Sittway for 100 schools project of the Nippon Foundation, another one is in Hpa-an for training of education courses, other is in Magway for water supplement, and the last one is in Maungdaw for schools building and vocational training.—Myint Maung Soe, Aung Kyaw Oo ■



Construction of the Basic Education High School (Myothit) completed recently. **PHOTO: THAKKA**

While security forces are patrolling in Yathedaung Township, one suspect, Marmout Noru was arrested in Chin village of Yathedaung Township

and detained in Nyaungchaung police station. Similarly, security forces also arrested one suspect, Swe Haut Juharat living in Maungnama Taung village of Maungtau Township at 9am of 11 July as he was suspected for 30 June murder of Marmaray. He is being interrogated in Pyin Phyu police station.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Security forces searched the house of Kardayhu Saung on the morning of 10 July as they

Security forces found six pieces of (12sq ft) green colour waterproof clothing covers and three pieces of (18ft x 12ft) blue color waterproof clothing covers and investigated the suspect,

Police have investigated and filed a lawsuit against the suspect at the Taungbat police station.—Myanmar News Agency ■

[illegible]

We are all responsible for our future!

By Khin Maung Oo

There is a well-known Myanmar saying, “No one but we ourselves shape our future.” All beings—undergo the process of change; living things in the plant kingdom also go through the process of change. However, the former ones need to strive harder for their survival. During our striving for our aim or goal, we have to face success or failure, gain or loss, approval or disapproval, applause or censure. In other words, these are results which come out of our efforts. Depending upon our results, we have to feel pleasure or pain, happiness or sorrow, encouragement or discouragement and euphoria or depression.

Outcomes which result from our performances affect us—the persons concerned and their related ones. We feel happy and proud of our success. Contrariwise, we feel sad and depressed sometimes, tending to blame others for our failure. Nonsensical it is! In fact, we fail to recognize the actual truth of our daily, or rather all-time performances or activities. We are thinking that we earn our living or make money for the sake of our families only. As citizens associating with communities or societies, we always take part in communal activities by giving voluntary labor or by contributing donations such as money or other necessary things, like when it comes to helping victims of natural disasters. Then, can it be said to be for the wellbeing of the people what we are earning?

We feel happy and proud of our success. Contrariwise, we feel sad and depressed, sometimes tending to blame others for our failure. Nonsensical it is!

Now we are marching towards a modern Democratic Federal Union under the leadership of our elected government. As known by all, the previous government left many problems and numerous unfinished tasks in many economic sectors. A heavy workload was waiting to be taken care of. Of them, many of these problems have been solved. We should know that it would take us much time to deal with these in a short period of time. These will never ever disappear by just a chanting a magical mantra. We know that the present government is implementing many projects for the people and our younger generation. In fact, we are all responsible to join in these activities ourselves, instead of blaming or finding faults with the government. We are not dutiful just by electing our trusted representatives to form a government. We should monitor their activities closely and watch over them and give them proper feedback and good suggestions. It wholly depends upon us to bring about success or failure. As the saying goes “No one but we ourselves shape our future.” ■

Nothing Will Make Us Forget You!

Thabyay

Long as you ceased to exist. . . .

People still recounting your story

With admiration, remembrance and grief

Sorrowfully, I was reciting some of a passage from the poem titled “To our Bogoyoke Aung San,” composed by the poet Sayar Min Yu Wai.

As against Myanmar saying, “Time will erase our remembrance to the deceased,” we will never ever forget the person we should not drive out of our memories. He is none other than our national leader-cum-Myanmar Independence’s Architect, Bogoyoke Aung San. Though he was gone, his name is still alive in our minds.

Since his childhood, Maung Htein Lin (a) Maung Aung San was simple and straightforward, never in the habit of telling a lie. Starting from the adulthood as a university student, he devoted himself for the sake of the Independence of the country. Throughout the career in politics, he gained public love, admiration, respect and trust as Thakin Aung San, Bogoyoke Aung San, National Leader, Architect of Myanmar Independence.

We were blessed with such a person endowed with wholesome basics of a saintly being, viz., enormous amounts of Bogoyoke Aung San’s virtues—simplicity and arduous effort, straightforwardness, solemnity, patience, lack of craving and living on frugality, hatred of superficial pretence, being free from taking opportunity, love of the truth, ways of speaking out bluntly what is right, prompt response to everything wrong, spirit of readiness to sacrifice, strong patriotism, being ready and willing to perform in the interest of the country and its people. These virtues made us remember him till now.

Ko Aung San aged 17 who passed his matriculation with distinctions in Myanmar and Pali languages from the National High School in Yenanchaung, joined the Yangon University in 1932. The young boy sacrificed his life to liberate Myanmar and the whole populace from the colonial rule. During his stay as a hostel student at the university, he had to use wooden luggage only, unlike iron luggage used by the then university students. His wooden luggage is still being shown in the room where Bogoyoke stayed once as a Bago hostel student, until now.

Here I would like to express some paragraphs about “Natmauk, the small town,” written by Ko Aung San, himself, who loved the literature.

“In Myanmar, there existed a village in the arid zone called Myay Latt (meant for central region of the country), Magway jurisdiction, now in Yenangyoung District, or rather on the half way of Pyinmana-Kyaukpadaung rail-track, where agricultural produce such as sesame, bean and sesame oil are being traded as a business depot.

In the immediate vicinity of the railway station, there were a few lines of dwelling abodes built by the Myanma Railways and brokerage shops. In the surrounding fields of sesame and groundnut can be seen. Some 400 yards in the north-west from the railway station, there is a small village by the name of Khabaung Gone (a) Nagvarhtoo formed with 100 households or so, situated nearby the “Thae Chaung” of about half mile in diameter.

On the western part of “Thae Chaung,” “Yinn Chaung—in its real name” farming lands and some plantations can be found. Beyond them, there is a village of about 200 houses on the hillock-like open space, protected by an embankment in the east. To the north, not far from there another village comprising of over 100 households is located. Of these villages, the village situated on the western part of the above-said “Thae Chaung” abounds with grand houses and stalls, clerks, TOs “Township Officers,” pleaders and merchants. The village is named “Natmauk” or “Taung Ywa.”

Nothing was peculiar at the time of my birth, but just after the toddling period I was said to have started showing extraordinary manners. According to my elders, I did not fit in the norm. When I was young, I was late in speaking so much so that my parents were afraid I would have grown up dumb. Very often, I was illness-prone. I liked eating too much, being greatly fond of having beef and fish. Occasionally, my mom used to go to the market with me on her hip. At one time, I grabbed at uncooked beef to eat, according to my mother. Nobody would have known I belonged to an uncivilized tribe in my previous existence, still wanting to live in uncivilized manners so far.

I never acculturate to pretentious cultures. These are crooked in my eyes. At that time, a desire occurred to me to differentiate the civilized people from me, the uncivilized one. The latter is rough/violent and aggressive, but he is straight, solemn, free and healthy. I greatly like the wording, “I ride on my horseback, it does not matter to which place it will carry me.” I assume that it is a very pleasant existence, in my opinion.

As a human being living in Myanmar, I would rather live freely in an uncivilized state than live dependently in a civilized state, more than hundred times. I want to express emphatically that I would like to live on green and broadly stretched wild grass, by shouting freely and whacking with an open palm over the crook of the elbow of the other arm folded across my chest.

This was a short piece of writing by Bogoyoke as a young boy.

Soon after the advent of the Second World War, in Myanmar the desire to acquire Home-Rule and the desire to gain Independence are fighting against with each other. Wonderfully enough, the then 24-year-old Thakin Aung San, general secretary of “Doh Bamar Asiayone” managed to form “Bamar Htwet Yat Gai” meant Organization for Burma’s Independence, writing down future plans at a sitting, by claiming that “Difficulty for British will lead to Burma’s Advantage.”

At the AFPPL Preparatory Conference held at 27th September 1946, Bogoyoke Aung San disclosed that democracy is the most suitable system for the country to exercise after gaining Independence, hence the determination to build up the democratic nation, as follows:

“After gaining Burma’s Independence, if the whole populace wants to build up a state, we are required to set up a democratic state, the very basic of all. In fact, democracy is the source, from which socialism and communism are derived. Both of them are not pure democracy, searching for doctrines on democracy on the assumption that democracy must be endowed with virtues not only in politics but also in economy.”

“Only if the government is the one elected by the people and it brings about the benefits of the people, will it be the true democracy, with others the false ones.”

Bogoyoke Aung San prioritizes national solidarity to gain Full Independence without hilly regions excluded. On 11 February, 1947, Bogoyoke Aung San addressed at the dinner party with Sawbwas/ Shan Chiefs of former times, “If we want our country to be prosperous, we can enjoy benefits only if we will make concerted effort in every way. Failing that, it will not be fruitful. Combined efforts will be beneficial. Only if we actually implement, can benefits be achieved.” Afterwards, historic Panglong Agreement was inked successfully, by holding Panglong Conference.

Here is some of the speech addressed by Bogoyoke Aung San broadcast on radio at 7:40 pm on 1st January 1947, just prior to departure to England by Bogoyoke Aung San and his delegation.



“We need to try our best for us not to meet the event, as if a husky fully-grown male elephant finding it difficult to get out at the last phase of its tail reaching the exit. We need to take care and it is necessary for the whole people to be united and disciplined, without being harmed by others. We are required to move on to our destination, without losing the sight of our goal.”

In January, 1947 Bogoyoke Aung San went to England, accompanied by Thakin Mya, U Tin Htut and U Saw, making preliminary discussions as Pre-Independence. In addition, it was proclaimed that “Independence must be gained within one year,” at the general parliamentary elections held at in April 1947.

Here is also excerpt from the speech addressed at the dinner party given in honor of him at the City Hall on 28th February 1947.

“In performing political duties, especially a leader is to be broad-minded more than his followers. If he is in the dilemma, being confused as to whose saying would be true, he is not a leader. A leader must dare to say or explain what he believes, must be ready to sacrifice if needed. A person without self-confidence will never trust fellow citizens. As for me, I believe myself and you all.”

At the mass meeting held at the Maha Bandoola Park in front of the Yangon City Hall on 13th July 1947, activities and performances carried out for Myanmar Independence and matters to be implemented further were presented to the public. Some of the addresses finally made by Bogoyoke Aung San are here for our people to note down.

“If you want Independence, you need to abide by discipline which deserves Independence, and you must build up a situation

by which Independence can be gained.”

“I hereby want to say that you urgently need to work hard, to keep disciplines and to abandon you evil and old habits and your blankety-blank behaviors, if you would like to savor the taste of Independence.”

While making concerted effort for gaining Independence, Bogoyoke Aung San and patriots were assassinated by a group of evil villains at 10:37 am on 19th July, 1947. The fallen patriots were Bogoyoke Aung San, Thakin Mya, Deedoke U Ba Cho, Sayar-gyi U Razak, U Ba Win, Mahn Ba Khaing, Maipon Sawbwa Sao San Tun, secretary U Ohn Maung and Yebaw Ko Htwe—altogether nine. That assassination caused a great mournful Martyrs’ Day for the whole nation.

It will reach exactly 70 years that Bogoyoke Aung San and martyrs disappeared from our sight. Why we still remember Bogoyoke Aung San. Obviously enough, Bogoyoke played the most important role among all those who made efforts for liberating the country from colonial rule. He is a national architect of Union of Myanmar. Simultaneously, he is the Father of Tatmadaw who built Myanmar Tatmadaw. And, he is the leader who signed the Panglong Agreement that is the foundation of National Solidarity. Bogoyoke’s speeches are still true until now.

Hence, he must be said to be the kind of rarity in the world. Throughout his life, he did as he said and he said as he did. Starting from his salad days when he studied his academic learning, till his demise, his only objective is to gain Myanmar Independence from the hands of the British. As regards the truth, there was no one he cared. He was the one daring to say and perform what he considered to be true. He never did anything by giving promises what he could not take responsibility. He

never told indirectly, always in the habit of saying bluntly according to his assumption and belief. He could tolerate suffering from difficulties, hunger and hardships. He frequently forgot everything including sleeping and taking meal when he was absorbed in working.

He never retreated from any difficulties.

For these virtues, not only Myanmar People but also British Ministers and Generals including Prime Minister Atlee could not help praising him. It was learnt that Nehru, Indian Prime Minister regarded Bogoyoke Aung San he greatly admired and respected to be an ideal Independence hero of the whole India Continent.

For this, the whole nation felt great sorrow for Bogoyoke Aung San’s death, weeping mournfully. Bogoyoke’s assassination can be said to be the loss for Myanmar as well as for the world.

After the death of Bogoyoke Aung San who performed the wellbeing of the country, his virtues overwhelmed hearts of the whole nation and its people. His name will exist in the world eternally.

Myanmar dictionary defines Arzani, “Martyr” as the person who is well convinced of what is right or wrong and who is well endowed with the spirit of readiness to sacrifice for people’s sake.

To sum it up, on this mournful Martyrs’ Day, we are to pay respect and emulate their spirits and marvelous deeds, by contemplating their gratitude.

Monsoon rain is falling continually. Though he disappeared from our sight, Bogoyoke Aung San will eternally exist in our hearts as the national political monarch. Our sorrow and remembrance about our Bogoyoke Aung San and Martyrs will never end.—Translated by Khin Maung Oo (Tada-U) ■

Lavrov says wild that Trump Jr blamed for meeting Russian lawyer

BRUSSELS — Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Wednesday it was preposterous that US President Donald Trump's eldest son was blamed for meeting a Russian lawyer who emails suggest might have had damaging information about Hillary Clinton last year.

Hitting back against accusations of Russian meddling in the 2016 US elections, Lavrov asked to be shown "at least one fact" proving Moscow tried to interfere with the democratic process.

"I learned with surprise that a Russian lawyer, a woman, is being blamed and Trump's son is being blamed for meeting. For me, this is wild," Lavrov told a joint news conference with his Belgian counterpart in Brussels.

"Because when any person speaks to a lawyer, what problem or threat could there be? I didn't know about this, I learned about it from television."

The emails released by



Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov poses with Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel ahead of a meeting in Brussels, Belgium on 12 July, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Donald Trump Jr on Tuesday are seen by Trump critics as the most concrete evidence yet that Trump campaign officials

welcomed Russian help to win the election.

But Lavrov dismissed the media interest in the email

release, saying: "It's amazing that serious people are making a mountain out of a molehill." —Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

US decision on Kaspersky Lab software is politicized — Kremlin

MOSCOW — A decision by the Trump administration to remove Moscow-based Kaspersky Lab from two lists of approved vendors used by US government agencies to purchase technology equipment is a "politicized decision," the Kremlin said on Wednesday.

"This is a purely commercial company which provides commercial services," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told a conference call with reporters. "We regret such a decision."

"Russia as a state will continue spare no effort to defend the interests of our companies abroad." —Reuters ■

Germany tells China: Let dissident Liu go abroad for treatment

BERLIN — Germany urged China on Wednesday to allow Nobel Peace Prize-winning dissident Liu Xiaobo to leave the country to receive medical treatment abroad after the hospital treating him said his condition was critical. "We appeal to the Chinese authorities to give priority to the humanitarian aspects of this case and to allow him .. to leave very quickly," government spokesman Steffen Seibert said at a news conference, adding Germany was deeply concerned by reports of Liu's deteriorating condition. — Reuters ■

Turkey sent some 200 cargo planes to Qatar since dispute began — minister

ANKARA — Turkey has sent 197 cargo planes, 16 trucks and one ship to Qatar to meet its daily needs since a dispute broke out last month between Qatar and other Gulf states, Turkish Economy Minister Nihat Zeybekci said on Wednesday. At a meeting with Zeybekci in the Turkish capital Ankara, Qatar's economy minister, Ahmed bin Jassim al-Thani, said Doha's sea and air trade was continuing without disruption despite sanctions. — Reuters ■

Top US diplomat begins tough Gulf talks on easing Qatar row

JEDDAH, (Saudi Arabia) — US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson began talks with four Arab states on Wednesday in efforts to ease a boycott of Qatar after the countries labelled a US-Qatar terrorism financing accord an inadequate response to their concerns.

Any resolution of the dispute must address all the key issues for Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt, including Doha's undermining of regional stability, a senior UAE official said ahead of the talks in Saudi Arabia. His comments shed light on Tillerson's uphill challenge. The four countries imposed sanctions on Qatar on 5 June, accusing it of financing extremist groups and allying with the Gulf Arab states' arch-foe Iran. Doha denies those accusations. The four states and Qatar are all US allies.

Tillerson arrived in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah where he met ministers from the four nations to seek an end to the worst dispute among Gulf Arab states since the formation of their Gulf Cooperation Council regional body in 1981. Kuwait, which is

mediating in the dispute and not boycotting Qatar, also sent an envoy.

Tillerson also met Saudi King Salman and they discussed regional developments, especially efforts to combat terrorism and its financing, the Saudi state news agency SPA said.

On Tuesday, shortly after Tillerson signed a memorandum of understanding in Doha on combating the funding of terrorism, the four countries issued a statement labelling it as inadequate. They also reinstated 13 wide-ranging demands they had originally submitted to Qatar, the world's biggest producer of liquefied natural gas, but had later said were void. The demands include curbing relations with Iran, closing the widely watched Al Jazeera TV channel, closing a Turkish military base in Qatar and handing over all designated terrorists on its territory.

The crisis goes beyond the financing of terrorism, said Jean-Marc Rickli, a risk analyst at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, pointing to Gulf fears about the role of Iran, internal instability and the regional influence

of the Muslim Brotherhood as well as competition for regional leadership.

"Whatever the outcome is, one of the two sides will lose face and losing face in the Arab world is something important. The consequences for the future will be negative for at least one camp or the other." The four boycotting states said in a joint statement on Tuesday they appreciated US efforts in fighting terrorism.

"... (But) such a step is not enough and they will closely monitor the seriousness of Qatar in combating all forms of funding, supporting and fostering of terrorism," the statement said, according to the UAE state news agency WAM. Anwar Gargash, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, said the dispute was rooted in an absence of trust and that any solution must address the four states' grievances.

"Diplomacy must address Qatar's support for extremism and terrorism and undermining regional stability. A temporary solution is not a wise one," he wrote on Twitter overnight.

The United States worries the crisis could affect its military

and counter-terrorism operations and increase the regional influence of Iran, which has been supporting Qatar by allowing it to use air and sea links through its territory.

Qatar hosts Udeid Air Base, the largest US military facility in the Middle East, from which US-led coalition aircraft stage sorties against Islamic State in Syria and Iraq. Some Gulf Arab media took a critical stance towards Tillerson ahead of his visit to Jeddah.

"What makes Wednesday's meeting in Jeddah difficult is that Tillerson has, since the beginning of the crisis, appeared to be taking the Qatari side," a commentary published in Saudi-owned Asharq al-Awsat and Arab News newspapers said on Wednesday.

"Tillerson cannot impose reconciliation, but he could reduce the distance between the parties in the diplomatic rift — all of which are his allies — rather than taking the side of one against the other," wrote columnist Abdulrahman al-Rashed, the former general manager of the Saudi-owned al-Arabiya channel. —Reuters ■

Iraq strikes Islamic State in Mosul days after declaring victory

MOSUL — Iraqi forces clashed with Islamic State fighters holding out in Mosul's Old City on Wednesday, more than 36 hours after Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi declared victory over the militants in the de facto Iraqi capital of their self-declared caliphate.

Abadi's announcement marked the biggest defeat for the hardline Sunni group since its lightning sweep through northern Iraq three years ago, but pockets of Mosul remain insecure and the city has been heavily damaged by nearly nine months of gruelling urban combat.

About 900,000 people have fled the fighting, with more than a third in camps outside the city and the rest living with family and friends in other neighbourhoods. Activity has quickly returned to much of Mosul and work to repair damaged homes and infrastructure is already underway.

But Iraqi forces exchanged gunfire with the militants in their final redoubt just before midnight and into the morning, two residents living just across the Tigris River from the area told



Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi (R) attends an event to announce victory over Islamic State in Mosul, Iraq on 10 July, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Reuters.

Army helicopters strafed the Old City and blasts sent plumes of smoke into the air, though it was unclear if they were controlled explosions or bombs set off by Islamic State, the residents said by phone.

"We still live in an atmos-

phere of war despite the victory announcement two days ago," said Fahd Ghanim, 45.

An Iraqi military official attributed the activity to "clearing operations".

"There are Daesh (fighters) hiding in different places," he said, using an acronym for

Islamic State. "They disappear here and pop up there then we target them."

He declined to estimate the number of militants or civilians in the area, but the top US general in Iraq said on Tuesday that as many as a couple of hundred fighters could still be in Mosul.

"There are bypassed hold-outs. We haven't cleared every building in this city the size of Philadelphia. That's going to have to be done, and there are also hidden IEDs (improvised explosive devices)," Lieutenant General Stephen Townsend told reporters.

"There are still going to be losses from the Iraqi security forces as they continue to secure Mosul."

South of the city, reinforcements arrived to help Iraqi forces push out Islamic State militants armed with machine guns and mortars from Imam Gharbi village. The militants have taken control of 75 per cent of the village.

The militants' assault on Imam Gharbi, launched last week, is the kind of strike Islamic State is expected to deploy now as US-backed Iraqi forces regain control over cities the group captured during its shock 2014 offensive.

A separate attack on a border guard convoy in western Anbar, near the Syrian border, killed two soldiers and wounded four on Tuesday, military sources said.—Reuters ■

Philippine air strike on rebels kills 2 soldiers, injures several

MANILA — A Philippine government air strike aimed at Islamist rebels mistakenly killed two soldiers on Wednesday, the military said, the second such deadly accident in a bloody campaign to oust the militants from a southern city.

The accident happened when a plane bombing rebel positions in the city of Marawi missed its target and knocked down buildings on to the soldiers, a military spokesman, Lieuten-

ant Colonel Jo-Ar Herrera, said in a statement.

"Large debris from heavily reinforced buildings accidentally hit two of our personnel," Herrera said. "We are saddened by this unfortunate incident."

He said 11 soldiers sustained minor shrapnel wounds and were recuperating in the hospital.

An air strike on Islamist rebels killed 11 government troops in May.

Militants linked to Islamic

State seized Marawi on 23 May and have been resisting daily assaults by government forces using aircraft and artillery.

President Rodrigo Duterte said on Tuesday he needed 15 more days to defeat the militants.

More than 500 people have been killed, including 389 militants, 90 members of the security forces, and 39 civilians, since the fighting erupted. About 260,000 residents have been displaced.—Reuters ■

Number of fatal terrorist attacks in western Europe increasing, data show

LONDON — The number of terrorist attacks resulting in fatalities in western Europe increased in 2016, despite an overall drop in the number of incidents taking place, according to data released by the Global Terrorism Database.

The data shows that there were 30 such attacks resulting in fatalities in western Europe in 2016 and 23 in 2015. This compares with two attacks across the region resulting in fatalities in 2014 and five in 2013.

In addition, terrorist attacks have become more deadly, with 26.5 people on average being killed in 2015 and 2016, up from an average of four a year in the preceding three years.

The deadliest incident recorded in western Europe was the series of coordinated

attacks on Paris in November 2015 that resulted in the deaths of 130 people and was claimed by Islamic State.

Experts said ISIS, responsible for seven of the 10 deadliest attacks since 2012, was increasingly encouraging the use of knives and vehicles over firearms and explosives by their followers.

"It's very different to the al Qaeda threat, which was obsessed with mass casualties, bringing down airliners", Dr Sajjan Gohel, International Security Director with the Asia-Pacific Foundation think tank told Reuters.

"What ISIS is trying to do is have a greater volume of attacks, but make it more cost effective and simpler."—Reuters ■

Suicide bombers in northeast Nigeria's Maiduguri kill 17

MAIDUGURI (Nigeria) — Suicide bombers killed 17 people and injured 21 in the northeast Nigerian city of Maiduguri, the police commissioner of Borno state said on Wednesday.

It is the latest in a spate of suicide bomb attacks on the city in the last few weeks. Borno, of which Maiduguri is the capital, is the Nigerian state worst affected by the eight-year-old insurgency by Islamist militant group Boko Haram.

Witnesses said four suicide bombers carried out attacks in the Molai district, which is around 5 kilometres from the city centre, on Tuesday night at around 10:00 pm (2100 GMT). Nobody has claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Damian Chukwu, the Borno state police commissioner said the suicide bombers were among the 17 killed. Boko Haram, which has killed more than 20,000 people and forced some 2.7 million peo-

ple to flee their homes in its bid to create an Islamic state.

The group has been pushed out of most of a swathe of land around the size of Belgium that it controlled in early 2015 by the Nigeria's army and troops from neighbouring countries in the northeast Nigeria.

But insurgents continue to carry out suicide bombings and raids in northeast Nigeria, as well as in Cameroon and Niger.—Reuters ■

Transferring Distributor for Registered Pesticide

Distribution of pesticide Palit, registered by BASF Myanmar Ltd. is transferring from Golden Lion High Tech Co., Ltd. to Aventine Ltd. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board within 7 days.
BASF Myanmar Ltd.
Ph : 01 544041

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE**MV KOTA HASIL VOY. NO ()**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA HASIL VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.7.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE**MV SINAR BATAM VOY. NO (016)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BATAM VOY. NO (016) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.7.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE**MV SINAR BANDA VOY. NO ()**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BANDA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.7.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING
LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

With materials scarce, Cuban designers master recycling chic

HAVANA — Olaff Alejo's salt lamps are eerily beautiful and designed to purify the air.

Yet the Cuban designer must rummage through trash bins and scour the sidewalks of Havana for scraps of wood and obsolete electrical devices to manufacture them.

In Communist-run Cuba, designers of clothes and household goods say the absence of wholesale stores as well as the expense and scarcity of raw materials have forced them to get creative. Many turn to repurposing and recycling the materials at hand.

These pioneers of the island's fledgling private sector say they are turning a competitive disadvantage into an asset, while yielding unique, ecologically-friendly designs.

"It's not easy to get the materials so we have to adapt and improvise a lot," said Alejo, 37, whose lamps contain salt crystals. "Some 50-60 percent is recycled material."

Alejo said he asks carpenters for their leftover scraps and uses the frames of discarded windows and doors in order to make the wooden bases for his lamps. He also salvages the switches, plugs and cables from old electrical devices.

"They are extremely expensive, and there isn't a regular supply in stores," he said, adding his company Luzvi still must import some inputs — like light-



A child tries a school uniform at a recycling store in Havana, Cuba, July 5, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

bulbs with a softer glow than Cuba's starkly white, energy-saving ones.

The new lamps sell for between \$25 and \$50, a relatively hefty sum in a country where the average monthly state salary is around \$30. Lower input costs would enable Alejo to cut prices, he said. The government has allowed more Cubans to set up their own businesses in recent years as part of its plan to update its ailing, Soviet-style economy and cut the bloated state payroll.

The number of Cuba's self-employed more than tripled in six years to above 500,000 by the end of 2016, official data shows.

Some entrepreneurs complain, however, that the government has not followed through on certain reforms. For example, the country's small, private businesses still

do not have access to the wholesale market.

Raw materials are often in short supply and expensive, although Havana puts that down to the half-century-old US trade blockade.

Caridad Limonta, whose family firm Procle sells women's apparel and home goods, said new textiles were costly so she mostly bought clothes or hotel curtains and sheets at state-run, second-hand stores and recycled them.

"I transform trousers for example into bags," said the 60-year-old entrepreneur. "The backs of shirts don't damage as much so I cut them, stick them together and make patchwork quilts."

Limonta said Cubans are not in the habit of throwing things away, and find new uses for them instead. At Procle, shoulder pads become sponges

for the kitchen, while old curtains are reinvented as tablecloths.

While Limonta said she wished it were easier to buy textiles, she also does not want Cuba to adopt the same kind of "fast fashion" prevalent in consumerist economies where clothes are cheap but often disposable, generating trash. In the business district of Vedado, just around the corner from Procle, is the Vintage Bazar, a shop that refurbishes old lamps as well as designs quirky new ones with anything from plumbing pipes to water bottles.

"In other countries you would throw away the lamp and buy a new one," said designer Gretel Serrano, 32, who is currently refurbishing a large batch of lamps for a hotel. "Here people bring them to the shop and we restore them like new."—Reuters ■

Dutch anti-terrorism coordinator examining threat against women's soccer tournament

AMSTERDAM — The Dutch counterterrorism agency NCTV said on Wednesday it was looking into a threat allegedly made by Islamic State militants against the UEFA Women's Euro 2017

soccer tournament due to begin in the Netherlands next week.

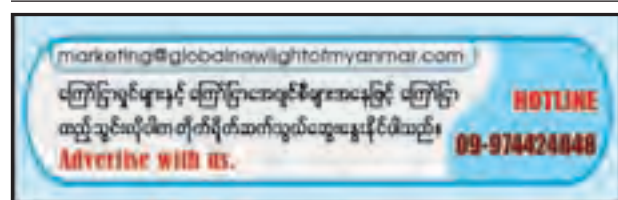
A spokeswoman for the agency said it was taking the threat, made in a chatroom IS sometimes uses to commu-

nicate with supporters, seriously.

The threat called for an attack at football stadium in the City of Utrecht on 19 July, when England plays Scotland.

The NCTV did not

raise its threat level, which currently stands at 4 on a scale of 1-5, signaling there is a substantial chance of an attack but there is no concrete evidence than any attack is imminent.—Reuters ■



Drilling for oil in disputed sea may resume this year — Philippine official

MANILA — Drilling for oil and natural gas on the Reed Bank in the South China Sea may resume before the end of the year, a Philippine energy official said on Wednesday, as the government prepares to offer new blocks to investors in bidding in December.

The Philippines suspended exploration at the Reed Bank, which it calls Recto Bank, in late 2014, as it pursued international arbitration over territorial disputes.

The bank is in waters claimed by China.

Ismael Ocampo, director at the Department of Energy's Resource Development Bureau, told reporters the agency expected the suspension to be lifted in December.

He said a directive from the Department of Foreign Affairs directing the Department of Energy to resume oil and gas exploration in the South China Sea was already in the works. China claims almost the entire South China Sea, where about \$5 trillion worth of sea-borne goods pass every

year. Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Viet Nam and Taiwan also have claims. Exactly a year ago, the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague invalidated China's claim to sovereignty over most of the South China Sea.

The ruling, which China refused to recognise, clarified Philippine sovereign rights in its 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone to access offshore oil and gas fields, including the Reed Bank, 85 nautical miles off its coast.

"We will try to conduct

seismic activities," in the disputed waters, Ocampo said, hopeful that China would not complain and harass crews of survey ships to be deployed.

In 2011, Chinese patrol vessels almost rammed a survey ship at the Reed Bank contracted by a PXP Energy Corp unit.

President Rodrigo Duterte, who took power shortly before the Hague ruled in favour of Manila, has said he would raise the landmark ruling with China eventually, but he first needed to strengthen

relations between the two countries.

Duterte, who has been cool towards old ally the United States, hopes closer ties with China will yield billions of dollars in loans and investment in infrastructure, the backbone of his economic agenda.

PXP Energy Chairman Manuel Pangilinan said in March he was optimistic his company's exploration project at Reed Bank would soon resume, citing the warming ties with China. The Philippines, which relies over-

whelmingly on imports to fuel its fast-growing economy, is under pressure to develop indigenous energy resources. Its main source of natural gas, the Malam-paya field near the disputed waters, is due to run out in less a decade.

PXP's Reed Bank prospect has indicated natural gas yield potential.

More than two dozen oil, gas and coal blocks, including additional areas in disputed waters, may be offered during the December bidding, Ocampo said.—Reuters ■

Germany tightens rules to shield businesses from foreign takeovers

BERLIN — Germany has approved rules to make it easier to block the sale of strategically important companies to investors from outside the European Union, prompted by concerns about China acquiring German expertise by that route.

The new regulations, which come amid fears of rising protectionism hurting world trade, allow the government to block takeovers if there is a risk of important know-how being lost abroad. The rules do not need parliamentary approval.

"We remain one of the most open economies in the world, but we also need to take fair competitive conditions into consideration," Economy Minister Brigitte Zypries said in a statement on Wednesday.

"We owe that to our companies. They often compete with countries whose economies are not as open as ours," she added.

The purchase of German robotics maker Kuka by Chinese com-

pany Midea last year fuelled concerns that China was gaining access to key technologies while shielding its own companies from foreign takeovers.

The new rules set out for the first time the criteria for blocking a deal, specifically jeopardising critical infrastructure, such as hospitals and power grids.

Earlier this year, the German economics ministry withdrew approval for Fujian Grand Chip Investment Fund (FGC) to buy chip equipment maker Aixtron, citing security concerns.

Last month, European Union leaders agreed to consider screening investments by state-owned Chinese firms.

France, Germany and Italy have backed the idea of allowing the EU to block Chinese investments, partly because European companies are denied similar access in China.

However, some other EU countries, such as Sweden, have said this is heading in the direction

of protectionism.

Under the new German rules, operators of infrastructure companies should be better protected from investors from outside the EU, if needed. In addition, the government will be able to take twice as long — four months — in reviewing deals.

The new rules will take effect once they are published in the Federal Gazette which includes all laws and decrees.

The move comes just days after G20 world leaders agreed to fight protectionism including unfair trade practices at a summit hosted by Chancellor Angela Merkel. The agreement also, however, recognised the role of legitimate trade defence instruments.

British Prime Minister Theresa May has also said she plans to give government power to intervene in the takeover of critical infrastructure by a foreign buyer to enable it to protect national security.—Reuters ■

Russia's Kaspersky Lab denies accusations of engaging in cyber espionage

MOSCOW — Kaspersky Lab has no political connections with any countries around the world and is not involved in cyber spying, the company's press service told TASS.

The Trump administration earlier restricted the use of Kaspersky Lab products by US government agencies amid rumours about the company's links to Russian intelligence agencies in the US mass media.

"Kaspersky Lab is a private company and has no political ties with any countries anywhere in the world. The company has never assisted the governments of any countries in



PHOTO: TASS

carrying out cyber espionage," the press service states.

The company also noted that US officials had repeatedly been offered Kaspersky's cooperation, including the official verification of the software code.

Kaspersky Lab is will-

ing to help any government agencies in their investigation of its activities, as the company is fully convinced that any in-depth study of its work can only confirm that accusations of bias are totally unsubstantiated," the press service emphasized.—Tass ■

Invitation of Tender

Tender Notice for the Supply of Pharmaceutical Drugs, Consumables and Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) Kits

Tenders are invited for provision of Pharmaceutical Drugs and Consumables for World Health Organization's Emergency Relief Response in Myanmar. Interested parties/companies meeting the eligibility requirements below can contact, Tel: 95 1 534300, 534307, 53862~1, 532474~6 from 10 July 2017 to 21 July 2017 (Working hours: 8:30 to 17:00) for collection of the tender documents at World Health Organization, No. 403 (A1), Shwe Taung Kyar Street, Bahan Township, 11201, Yangon. Tenders should be sent and deposited into the Tender Box at above mentioned Address on or before 27 July 2017, 05:00 PM.

The Bidding Documents comprise the following:

- Invitation to Bid
- Instruction to Bidders
- Bidding Form
- Schedule of Requirement
- General Conditions for Goods
- Special Conditions for Contract

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for consideration of its tender, a tenderer should meet the following requirement: The Bidder shall provide documentary evidence to establish to the Purchaser's satisfaction that the Bidder has the financial and technical capability necessary to perform the Contract, meets the qualification criteria specified in the Bid Data Sheet, and has a successful performance history.



PHOTO: PTI

Diana goes up against the Soviets in 'Wonder Woman 2'

LOS ANGELES — "Wonder Woman 2" will be a period piece, with Princess Diana facing off against the Soviet Union during the 1980s.

DC Entertainment President Geoff Johns is currently developing the script of the sequel to "Wonder Woman" with director Patty Jenkins, report-

ed The Wrap.

Chris Pine, who played Steve Trevor in "Wonder Woman," is reportedly optioned by Warner Brothers to appear in the sequel.

"Wonder Woman" that released on 23 June has earned USD 16.9 million worldwide till now.—PTI ■

Clint Eastwood casts real soldier in Paris train attack movie

LOS ANGELES — Veteran actor-filmmaker Clint Eastwood has roped in Anthony Sadler, Alek Skarlatos, and Spencer Stone to play themselves in his next movie, "The 15:17 to Paris." The film will tell the story of the three Americans who stopped a terrorist on a train bound for Paris, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Paul-Mikel Williams, Max Ivutin, Bryce Gheisa, Cole Eichenberger, and William Jennings will play younger versions of the Sadler, Skar-

latos and Stone.

Jenna Fischer, Judy Greer, and Ray Corasani will also join the real-life heroes in the film. The casting move is similar to Eastwood's "Gran Torino," which featured an almost unknown cast outside of Eastwood, who also starred in the movie. The film is based on the book of the same name by Sadler, Skarlatos, Stone and Jeffrey E Stern. Dorothy Blyskal will write the script. Eastwood will produce with Tim Moore, Kristina Rivera and Jessica Meier.—PTI ■



Veteran actor-director Clint Eastwood. PHOTO: REUTERS



Veteran actor-director Clint Eastwood. PHOTO: PTI

Katja Herbers to star in 'Westworld' season 2

LOS ANGELES — "The Leftovers" actress Katja Herbers has been roped in to star in the second season of sci-fi thriller series "Westworld".

In the season two of the HBO series, Herbers will plays Grace, a seasoned guest in Westworld whose latest visit comes at the park's darkest hour, reported Entertainment Weekly.

The 36-year-old actress is the third new series reg-



Katja Herbers. PHOTO: PTI

ular for season two and the first brand-new cast addition.

She joins Talulah Riley and Louis Herthum, both of whom were promoted after recurring in season one.

Created by Jonathan Nolan and Lisa Joy based on the 1973 Michael Crichton movie, "Westworld" is a dark odyssey about the dawn of artificial consciousness and the evolution of sin.

Season two starts production this month, with the series set to make its Comic-Con debut next week in San Diego.—PTI ■

George R R Martin to adapt fantasy novel 'Who Fears Death'

LOS ANGELES — With "Game of Thrones" close to its end, author George R R Martin and HBO have decided on their next collaboration, fantasy novel "Who Fears Death".

Author Nnedi Okorafor announced on Monday that the premium cable network has optioned her 2010 science fiction and fantasy novel with the "Game of Thrones" creator on board to executive produce and adapt the series for the small screen.

"My World Fantasy Award-winning novel 'Who



Author George R R Martin and HBO. PHOTO: PTI

Fears Death' has been optioned by HBO and is now in early development as a TV series with George R R Martin

as executive producer. Note: This did not happen overnight. It's been nearly four years coming," Okorafor wrote on Facebook.

"Who Fears Death" takes place in a fictionalised post-apocalyptic future version of Sudan. It revolves around Onyesonwu (Igbo for "who fears death") who is an Ewu, the child of an Okeke woman who was raped by a Nuru man.

When she reaches maturity, she uses her magical powers in a bid to defeat her sorcerer father Daib.—PTI ■

Steven Spielberg subject of HBO documentary

LOS ANGELES — Steven Spielberg is stepping out from behind the camera to be the subject of a new documentary. HBO's "Spielberg", directed and produced by Emmy-winning documentarian Susan Lacy, will chronicle the illustrious filmmaker's ascent from a "bittersweet childhood" to his historic moviemaking career, reported Entertainment Weekly.

For the project, Lacy filmed 30 hours of interviews with Spielberg, who discussed topics like his long obsession with film, his early works as a TV "wunderkind," his string of

blockbusters and more dramatic works, and his personal and professional relationships. The documentary incorporates clips and behind-the-scenes footage from several of his landmark films, such as "Jaws", "ET: the Extra-Terrestrial", "Jurassic Park", "Schindler's List", "Saving Private Ryan" and a host of others. While Spielberg himself will narrate the film, his friends, family and colleagues provide added insight.

Lacy interviewed more than 80 subjects for the documentary, which ranged from celebrities to directors and producers, alongside



industry insiders.

J J Abrams, Francis Ford Coppola, George Lucas and Martin Scorsese are among the directors who were interviewed for the film. Several actors Spielberg has directed also appear, including Tom Hanks, Harrison Ford, Daniel Day-Lewis and Leonard DiCaprio, along with many others.—PTI ■

Bought for 100 euros, World War Two Enigma machine sells for 45,000

BUCHAREST — Someone in Romania thought he'd made a fair amount of money when he sold an old typewriter for 100 euros at a flea market. He was wrong. The "typewriter" was, in fact, a German Wehrmacht Enigma I, a World War Two cipher machine, and the collector who bought it put it up for sale at the Bucharest auction house Artmark with a starting price of 9,000 euros (\$10,300) (www.artmark.ro). On Tuesday, Artmark sold it to an online bidder for 45,000 euros.

"The collector bought it from a flea market. He's a cryptography professor and ... he knew very well what he was buying," Cristian Gavrilă, the collectible consignment manager at Artmark, told Reuters.

Romania was an ally of Nazi Germany until 1944, when it switched sides to the allies. Historians say it may host many other cryptographic machines not yet discovered.

Last month, Christie's New York Books set a world



An Enigma cipher machine is on display at an auction house in Bucharest, Romania on 11 July, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

auction record of \$547,500 with its sale of a "four-rotor Enigma cipher machine, 1944," to an online bidder. (here)

The Enigma was used to encode and decode messages sent by the various branches of the Nazi military, but the British mathematician Alan Turing and his team at Britain's war-time codebreaking center, Bletchley Park, cracked the codes. By some estimates, their work shortened the war by two years. —Reuters ■

Google Earth to let users post stories, photos in coming years

RIO DE JANEIRO — Alphabet Inc (GOOGL.O) wants users to post millions of stories, video and photos on its Google Earth platform in the next few years, the program chief said on Tuesday at a launch event in Brazil for content focused on showcasing the Amazon rainforest.

The "Voyager" tool allows internet surfers to take interactive tours of exotic destinations on Google Earth led by the likes of primatologist Jane Goodall, with photos, information and maps. However, regular users will be able to create their own unedited content for private or public use within two to three years, Google Earth Director Rebecca Moore told Reuters.

"The story of your family history, the story of your favorite hiking trip – it could be anything. It doesn't have to be profound," she said at the event in Sao Paulo.

Moore took the stage at an event in Sao Paulo to unveil the "I am the Amazon" project, which has mapped 11 sites to document the relationship between the rainforest and its people, touching on topics like food, water and cultural origins. To tell the stories of communities such as the Yanomami people, Cinta Larga and the Boa Vista Quilombola, Google and partners used tools like 3D cameras to accompany satellite images with videos and text. Moore did not reveal the budget for the project but she ruled out the idea of advertising on the platform and said it is not Google's intention to turn a profit from the venture.

"Google Earth is our gift to the world," she told Reuters. "In terms of budget, Google has nice revenue from advertising, and not everything Google does has to make money." —Reuters ■



Brazilian indigenous people and representatives from Google talk about the project 'I'm Amazon by Google' during the presentation of new Google Earth project in Sao Paulo, Brazil on 11 July, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Hungarian hospital helps injured birds back into the skies

BUDAPEST — A unique veterinary hospital in eastern Hungary is saving the lives of wild birds, including many who sustain severe injuries during their long migratory journey to Africa to escape the harsh winters of northern Europe.

Located in the Hortobágy National Park, a World Heritage site on the Great Hungarian Plain, the hospital treats, among others, protected birds like cranes, storks and eagles that have flown into power lines, breaking their legs or wings, or have been poisoned or hit by vehicles on highways.

The wide open spaces of the National Park have preserved their traditional pastoral use, with herds of gray cattle grazing in the pastures and wetlands, a perfect place for a stopover for hundreds of thousands of migratory birds each year. Doctors at the hospital have been saving the lives of these protected birds since 1999, by giving them prosthetic legs and fixing their wings, with around 40 percent of them eventually returning to the wild after a full recovery. —Reuters ■



Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(13-7-2017 07:00am - 14-7-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News	10:54	Am	Sticky Shan Snack
07:26	Am	Swan Hein Cave			
07:45	Am	Lacquerware Technology College			
08:03	Am	News			
08:26	Am	U Kyaw Thu: From Artist to Philanthropist (Part-II)			
08:44	Am	The Recycle Art: Tyre			
09:03	Am	News			
09:27	Am	Myanmar's Traditions and Culture			
		Myanmar's Secret Beautifier			
09:51	Am	Culture Shows: Composer Ma Mya Lay			
10:03	Am	News			
10:25	Am	MOYINGYI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY			
10:43	Am	Myanmar Weaving			

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Travelogue: A Tour in Korea (Part-3)
07:38	Pm	Changes
07:53	Pm	TECH School
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar Sculpture-Work of Art
08:42	Pm	A Chance to Change Their Future

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

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

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

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



Programme Schedule

(13-7-2017, Thursday)

6:00 Am	◆ Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw	2:00 Pm	◆ Drama Series
7:00 Am	◆ Breakfast News	3:00 Pm	◆ Teleplay
7:35 Am	◆ A Nattamyin Nateban Tayartaw	4:35 Pm	◆ Documentary
8:35 Am	◆ Documentary	5:05 Pm	◆ NHK Programme " All About Rice (Making Rice Cake)
9:30 Am	◆ Beautiful ASEAN	5:30 Pm	◆ Socio Economic Scenes
9:35 Am	◆ ASEAN Spotlight (18) (A) Violence Women Against (Thailand) (B) Skill Labour (Vietnam)	6:20 Pm	◆ Football Magazine
10:30 Am	◆ MRTV Worker's Programme	6:35 Pm	◆ Current Affairs
11:00 Am	◆ Documentary	7:15 Pm	◆ TV Deama Series
11:35 Am	◆ Reasl Story Real Movie	7:50 Pm	◆ Documentary
12:30 Am	◆ TV Drama Series	8:00 Pm	◆ News/ International News/ Weather Report
1:00 Pm	◆ Myanmar Movie (Part-1)	8:35 Pm	◆ Documentary (Rakhine State)

Myanmar U-22 to play exhibition match with Malaysia today

In preparation for the 29th SEA Games, Myanmar U-22 national football team will play a test match with host Malaysia tonight. Myanmar's Coach Gerd Friedrich has chosen 22 star players for the game and some young and new players were also included.

"We will gain many experiences from this match as Malaysia is one of the best

opponents for Myanmar and the match will become a good example for the SEA Games", said Coach Gerd Friedrich.

After the match, Myanmar teams will arrive back home on 14 July and have to play along with Australia, Singapore and Brunei in the U-23 ASIAN qualifier, Group F, from 19 to 23 July in Thuwanna Stadium in Yangon.—Shine Htet Zaw ■

Controversial loss unlikely to push Pacquiao into retirement

MANILA — Manny Pacquiao has hinted he will continue his boxing career despite having lost to Australia's Jeff Horn earlier this month via a controversial decision that angered fans and prompted the World Boxing Organization to review the Brisbane fight. Horn stunned Pacquiao with an unanimous 12-round decision on 2 July that gave the former schoolteacher the WBO welterweight title.

There had been talk the 38-year-old Pacquiao might retire, but the eight-division world champion said on Wednesday his passion for the sport was still strong.

"I love this sport and until the passion is gone, I will continue to fight for God, my family, my fans and my country," Pacquiao said on his Twitter feed.

A rematch was written into the contract for the initial fight in the event Pacquiao lost and the pair are expected to face each other again later this year.

Pacquiao's defeat sparked fury among his fans, who labelled the 117-111, 115-113 and 115-113 scoring as a "hometown decision", and the Philippines Games and Amusements Board sent a letter to the WBO asking for a "thorough review" of the fight.—Reuters ■

Myanmar women's football team leaves for Japan

In preparation for the 29th South East Asian (SEA) Games, Myanmar women's national football team is leaving for Niigata, Japan today to play test matches with Japanese women's famous clubs from 16 to 23 July. The Myanmar women's team requested for exhibition matches with China or any of ASEAN's national football team but due to various inconveniences the matches could not be planned.

Myanmar has trained well in Yangon to play with four of Japan's famous clubs including Albirex Niigata Women's team.

The Myanmar team will be headed by Coach Roger Ryan. Myanmar will play with Niigata Women's team on 16 July, Kokitai



Myanmar women's national football team seen before an international match. **PHOTO: MFF**

Selection team on 19 July, Niigata University of Health and Welfare Women's team on 20

July and U-18 Alberix Niigata Women's team on 23 July respectively.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Mayweather, McGregor press tour kicks off with a war of words

LOS ANGELES — Undefeated boxer Floyd Mayweather and mixed martial arts champion Conor McGregor traded barbs during a lively press conference in Los Angeles on Tuesday, delighting a rowdy crowd ahead of their 26 August fight in Las Vegas.

The media conference was the first in a four-day international tour promoting the bout.

The contrasts between the two was immediately apparent as McGregor, wearing a navy pinstriped suit and tie, danced

around the stage smiling while Mayweather, wearing a track suit with American flag details, looked on stonefaced.

As is expected in the bout, McGregor was the aggressor, wasting no time bringing up reports that Mayweather earlier this month asked the IRS for more time to pay his 2015 tax bill.

"He's in a track suit," McGregor told the crowd of more than 11,000 people, who largely cheered the Irishman and booed the American. "He can't even af-

ford a suit anymore."

Later when Mayweather, whose nickname is "Money" and who frequently uses cash as a prop, pulled out a \$100 million cheque on stage, McGregor told him to "give it to the taxman". When asked about the tax issue, Mayweather said his attorneys were working on it and did not worry him. "I just showed you all a \$100 million cheque that I haven't even cashed yet, so we ain't tripping on that," he told reporters.—Reuters ■

Venus Williams of the US waves as she celebrates winning her quarter final match against Latvia's Jelena Ostapenko in London, Britain on 11 July, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**



Venus rises again to stop Ostapenko in her tracks

LONDON — Venus Williams handed out another lesson to one of Wimbledon's young upstarts when she beat Jelena Ostapenko 6-3, 7-5 on Tuesday to become the oldest women's semi-finalist for 23 years.

The five-times champion, who turned 37 last month, tamed the big-hitting Latvian with a rock-solid performance under the Centre Court roof,

winning with something to spare.

Williams, who had already disposed of a 21-year-old and two teenagers en route to her 38th grand slam quarter-final, barely flinched against the 20-year-old French Open champion whose magnificent 11-match winning run in majors came to an end.

The American, who must scroll back to the 2008 Wimbledon for her seventh, and most recent, grand slam singles title, broke Ostapenko's serve in the second game and was untroubled in taking the opener in 29 minutes.

She sealed it when her 13th-seeded opponent swished at thin air on an attempted forehand service return.

Ostapenko was subdued as

Williams secured an early break in the second set, although she got a helping hand back into the match when Williams double-faulted to drop serve.

That had the effect of lighting the Ostapenko fuse and she began to look threatening as she held serve to love with an ace to move 4-3 ahead on a gloomy Centre Court.

Williams had to serve to stay in the second set at 4-5 and was relieved to see an Ostapenko return land narrowly wide at 30-30 before squaring the set.

Ostapenko felt the pressure in the next game when a hurried forehand into the net gave Williams the break and the veteran needed no second invitation, holding serve to love to claim victory.—Reuters ■