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Illegal logging and forestry crime contribute to billions in lost tax revenues for the Myanmar government. PHOTO: XINHUA

Enforce timber law: MP

Illegal logging results in billions in lost revenue

A member of parliament urged the Union government to enforce the laws against the illegal trade of timber in Myanmar during yesterday's Pyithu Hluttaw session.

MP U Kyaw Aung Lwin read a statement that said the country's illegal timber trade was a large-scale problem that is rife with corruption.

"Timber trucks have to pass through multiple tollgates.

"Most officials are thought to be on the payroll of the illegal traders because when a vehicle carrying illegal timber is caught, they are able to manipulate the law to show multiple ownerships and reduce the actual number of illegal timber seized in their report", U Kyaw Aung Lwin said.

Village administrators and township-level officials often face pressure to offer protection

to illegal traders, the MP said.

"There have been multiple threats from these illegal timber traders towards officials and others who are working to protect the economic safety of the nation and its people. The premise says that if township-level officials were to effectively comply with the law, the illegal timber trade could be reduced by 70 to 80 per cent", U Kyaw Aung Lwin said.

Globally, illegal logging is the highest-value environmental crime, at \$51 to \$152 billion per year, according to a 2016 report by Interpol and the United Nations Environment Programme. The same report notes that overall, environmental crime is increasing at annual rate of 5 to 7 per cent, which is two or three times the rate of the global economy.

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Bill to amend Telecommunications Law in Amyotha Hluttaw



U Kyaw Myo, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications. **PHOTO: MNA**

Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Thant
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

U Kyaw Myo, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications, submitted to Amyotha Hluttaw a bill to amend the Telecommunications Law at yesterday's meeting held in Ny Pyi Taw.

A draft bill including the remarks and additions of Union Attorney General office was submitted by the Security, Stability

and Rules of Law Committee to the Union government's meeting on 6 July, where it was decided the bill would be submitted to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, said the Deputy Minister.

A report by the committee to amend the Telecommunications Law was then read and explained by U Lal Min Htan of Chin State constituency 10.

The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced that interested Hluttaw representatives

should register their names to discuss the bill. Next, a report by the Bill Committee on a bill amending the guardian and ward law that was confirmed and sent with amendment by Pyithu Hluttaw was read by U Sai Tun Aung of Shan State constituency 2. Enrollment for discussing the bill was announced by the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker.

A report by the Bill Committee on a bill amending the Christian Marriage Act that had

been confirmed and sent with amendment by Pyithu Hluttaw was then read by Daw Kyin Ngike Mann of Chin State constituency 7. In yesterday's meeting, reports by the Bill Committee on a bill amending the special marriage act that had been confirmed and sent with amendment by Pyithu Hluttaw and a bill amending the Myanmar divorce act were explained and read, and announcements to enroll for discussing the bills were also made. ■

Enforce timber law: MP

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In addition to the devastating impact on the environment and biodiversity, illegal logging and forestry crime also contribute to billions in lost tax revenues for governments.

China has long been one of the world's largest importers, consumers and exporters of wood-based products, according to Chatham House, a conservation group."

Between the years 2002 to 2017, one deputy administrator and eight people have been killed and 42 have been injured in Myanmar during investigations into illegal timber trading, said the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

Illegal logging is a significant problem in Myanmar, with poor governance, weak law enforcement and conflict hindering efforts to address the problem.

Union Minister U Ohn Win said his ministry cooperates with Forestry Departments in various states to apprehend illegal timber traders.

There were 15,243 cases in addition to 2,380 cases from the previous year in the 2016-2017

fiscal year and 16,355 of the cases were fully resolved which acquired Ks3.85 billion. There were 16,320 cases in the 2016-2017 fiscal year and 15,166 of the cases were fully resolved which acquired Ks 5.31 billion.

In other action in yesterday's Pyithu Hluttaw meeting, U Hla Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, replied to a question on loans given to members of Myanmar Economic Corporation (MEC) by U Htun Htun from Pwint Phyu Constituency.

The Deputy Minister said loans are given only to members of the corporation. Ten per cent from a loan of Ks100,000 is saved monthly and collected once every six months. Corporation members are charged an interest rate of 18 per cent a year. Members enjoy a benefit of 12 per cent of the savings. MEC administers loans for small and medium enterprises and gives out loans to farmers once every six months depending on the growing season.

Individuals interested in joining the MEC can register at the nearest MEC department and are required to deposit a set amount of money.

Following this, Dr. Pe Myint, Union Minister for Information, and Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw answered questions about including modern poetry as a category in the National Literature Award, drafting a law concerning conduct of literature talks, constructing floodgates in Mibu City and compensation plans for people who lost farmlands when Kapaung embankment broke. The Pyithu Hluttaw then discussed a premise for establishing a separate government TV channel for education and another premise urging government officials to effectively ban illegal mining of gold and amber in Tanaing and Phar Kant townships in Kachin State.

This was followed by Hluttaw representatives discussing reports by the Committee for Transportation, Communication and Construction and the Committee for Industrial Development. The Pyithu Hluttaw announced receiving the amended Bill for Canal Constuctions sent by the Amyotha Hluttaw and MPs interested in discussing this can register their names.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Dr Win Myat Aye receives cash donation from the Bangladesh Ambassador to Myanmar. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister for SWRR accepts donation for storm shelters in Rakhine State, meets with UNICEF

A ceremony was held yesterday afternoon at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement meeting hall where Bangladesh donated US\$530,000 to construct storm shelters in Rakhine State.

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye accepted the donation and presented a document of honour to the Bangladesh ambassador to Myanmar.

In his speech of appreciation, the Union Minister said Myanmar is a country where storm shelters and life-saving high grounds are a necessity.

After Cyclone Nargis in 2008, 93 storm shelters were

built in Rakhine State and 25 were under construction while an additional 30 were in the pipeline, of which 4 will be built by the donation from Bangladesh.

Through this donation, not only will storm shelters be built, but mutual understanding will increase, said the Union Minister.

Afterward, the Union Minister met with a UNICEF delegation led by Child Protection Chief Mr. Aaron Greenberg in the ministry's Maykhalar hall. During the meeting, children's rights, adoption, exploitation of children and the status of amending the orphanage covenant were discussed.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Joint Coordination Committee on Hluttaw Development meets German delegation

Joint Coordination Committee on Hluttaw Development (JCC) met with a German delegation from Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) yesterday afternoon in Zabuthiri Building, Hluttaw compound where JCC Chairman and Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker

U T Khun Myat gave a speech of greeting.

At the meeting Hanns Seidel Foundation explained about future works with Myanmar hluttaw and meeting attendees discussed and confirmed the works. The meeting was at-

tended by JCC members, HSF Myanmar Country Representative Mr. Achim Munz and Mr. Henriette Kuehn, German Upper and Lower House experts Dr. Jochen Guekes and Dr. Sandra Michel.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Fight for freedom in theory as well as in practice

It would be consistent and proper for us to join the war for democratic freedom, only if we would likewise be assured that democratic freedom will occur in theory as well as in practice.

(Excerpt from the speech made by Bogoyoke Aung San at the meeting of East and West Association held on 29 August, 1945, at the City Hall of Yangon)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Office of the President Order 17/2017

5th Waning of Waso, 1379 ME
13 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 Kyaw Kyaw, Chin State Security and Border Affairs Minister and Colonel Soe Moe Aung, Shan State 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 State Security and Border Affairs Ministers.

(1) Colonel Han Win Aung	Chin State Government
(2) Colonel Naing Win Aung	Shan State Government

Sd/ Htin Kyaw
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar



A group of independent local and foreign journalists visit a village in Buthidaung, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

Independent journalists visit in Buthidaung

A group of independent local and foreign journalists reached Buthidaung, Rakhine State on their way to Sittway, yesterday. A number of journalists went to Taungbazar village by boat from Buthidaung Township and visited neighboring villages.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Vice President U Henry Van Thio delivers the address at the ceremony to return seized land to farmers in Taze. **PHOTO: MNA**

Government returns seized land to farmers in Sagaing Region

The Union Government returned 738.99 acres of confiscated land to 239 farmers in Taze township, Sagaing Region in the presence of Vice President U Henry Van Thio.

The land is a part of 2,526 acres which have been returned to the Union Government, out of 3,726 acres which were used for a project of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

Speaking on the occasion in Taze, Shwebo District, yesterday, Vice President U Henry Van Thio expressed thanks to the Sagaing Region Government and committees concerned for their efforts for returning the land to the rightful owners.

The second event came about 14 months after a similar event in which more than 3,790 acres of land were returned to

228 farmers in Kantbalu Township, Sagaing Region, in March.

At the ceremony, Sagaing Region Chief Minister Dr Myint Naing, Sagaing Region Hluttaw's Speaker U Than, MPs and officials of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation presented farming rights certificates to the farmers.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Exports increase in Maungtau Border Trade Zone

By Myint Maung Soe &
Aung Kyaw Oo

Border trade in Maungtau, Rakhine State reached US\$1.75 million during the first three months of FY2017-2018, according to official statistics of the Maungtau Border Trade Zone.

Maungtau Border Trade Zone's imports from Bangla-



Workers carrying sack of rice in Maungtau Township. **PHOTO: MNA**

desh were banned after alleged insurgents killed nine Myanmar security troops in Rakhine.

While Bangladesh imports ceased, exports continued and in

June they were valued at an estimated \$881,000. Fish, rice, forest products and finished industrial goods are Myanmar's main export products to Bangladesh. ■

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Eastern Naval Command of India

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party who were in India were invited to a dinner hosted by Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Eastern Naval Command Vice Admiral HCS Bisht on 12 July.

Earlier in the day member of the Tatmadaw delegation Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services visited the Navy Wife Welfare Association (NWWA) of Eastern Naval Command and made a cash donation to a school for handicapped children ran by the NWWA.

Yesterday morning, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party toured the Navy training school in Visakhapatnam and met with Myanmar Tatmadaw (Navy) officers and troops attending the school.

In the afternoon, the



Indian navy officers explaining about the school to Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. **PHOTO: MNA**

Senior General and party left Visakhapatnam by Indian military plane and arrived to New Delhi in the evening where

they were welcomed by Myanmar ambassador to India U Maung Wai and wife and Rear Admiral Dhiren Vig, Assistant

Chief of Naval Staff (Foreign Cooperation and Intelligence), Indian Navy. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Three murder suspects arrested in Buthidaung

THREE suspected of involvement in the 3 July murder of two villagers by a gang of about 10 men in Yin Ma Chaung Taung (South) village, Buthidaung were arrested early this week.

After conducting an investi-

gation, security forces arrested Swe Yauk Duraman and Haroon on Sunday and Abdul Yaw Zaw Yin Mar on Tuesday on suspicion of involvement in the 3 July murder case. All were from Yin Ma Chaung Taung (South) vil-

lage. A case against the three suspects was opened in the Taung Bazar Police Station and the police are continuing the investigation to apprehend the remaining murderers. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Highway robbery on Yangon-Mandalay road

U Ba Gyan and Ko Naing Win were driving back from Meiktila to Yangon when their car broke down between mile post 176/4 and 176/5 on Yangon-Manda-

lay road and were then robbed by three persons with swords yesterday morning at 5 a.m. The robbers fled with Ks 5 million, 3 ticals (16.32 gm/tical)

of gold, and an iphone. A case was opened later in the day at Thagaya highway police station to apprehend the robbers. —Than Oo (Laymyetna) ■

Suspects of stabbing and bike stealing arrested

Five men were arrested in Myitkyina, Kachin State who are suspected of stabbing a man and stealing his motorbike.

On Tuesday, U Maran Gwanlar, of Yuzana Quarter, Myitkyina was stabbed and robbed of his motorbike by unknown young men, after he stopped to throw away rubbish in a designated place at about 11:30 pm.

Security forces under the supervision of the head of the Kachin State Police Force

searched for the robbers and arrested three men in a beer station, namely Aung Kyaw Win, 18, Min Zaw Oo, 18 and Aung Pyay, 17, all residents of Alekone ward, Myitkyina.

According to their confession, a group of five including Pauk Sa, 18, and Moe Min Latt, 20, were at a park in Yuzana ward when one man came to throw away rubbish. Moe Min Latt threw a stone at the man, who responded with abusive

words before driving away, according to the confession. The group chased the man and caught him, at which point Aung Pyay stabbed U Maran Gwanlar with a dagger, absconding with the motorbike.

Local police forces found the remaining two, arresting them and finding daggers that may have been used in the crime along with the stolen motorbike. Legal actions have been taken against the five men. —MPF ■

Herbal medicine shops struggle to keep their trade alive

Herbal medicine sellers in Myanmar are struggling to keep their profession alive and to pass on traditional medicinal knowledge to the next generation, according to a report of Myawady newspaper yesterday.

"Only family-owned businesses can survive in this field. Herbal medicine shops are now rare in Yangon," according to Daw Kyi Lay, a Myanmar official material shopkeeper in Yangon.

Hledan market now has only two herbal medicine shops, but it had five shops in the past.

Traditional medicine suppliers said Myanmar herbal remedies are natural, beneficial to health and rarely have harmful side effects.

Many people go to herbal medicine shops for cooking spices.—GNLM ■

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း "Sunday Special" အချပ်စီ (၁) မျက်နှာပါဝင်သော The Global New Light of Myanmar နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကို အောက်ပါမြို့များတွင် ဖုန်းနံပါတ်ဖြင့် ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါပြီ။

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Philippine defence chief calls retaking Marawi challenge

MANILA — Philippine Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said on Thursday that retaking the remaining part of the southern Philippine city of Marawi still under the control of militants is “proving to be a challenge” to government security forces.

“Admittedly, retaking the very last positions of the Maute-ISIS who are still in Marawi is proving to be a challenge,” Lorenzana said in a statement, referring to the Maute group extremists.

“We have to operate with due consideration for the safety of the civilians who are still trapped in the area against enemies who know rules, who use hostages as human shields and children as frontline fighters,” he added.

However, Lorenzana stressed that the government’s resolve to end the 52-day conflict has not wavered.

“In fact, we are now more determined than ever to finally eliminate these terrorists,



Philippine Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana. PHOTO: REUTERS

and we will not stop until evil is vanquished, not only in Marawi City, but also in the whole of Mindanao,” he said.

The ongoing conflict, which broke out when militants attacked the city on 23 May, has so far claimed the lives of 529 people, including 92 soldiers

and policemen, 392 extremists and 45 civilians.

Lorenzana said he was saddened by the deaths of two soldiers who were accidentally killed in a military airstrike in Marawi on Wednesday. Ten soldiers were also killed in an airstrike on 31 May.

At least 18 soldiers were also wounded in the two bombing accidents.

“What happened yesterday and last month, when several of our marines inadvertently perished because of a wayward ordnance dropped from an aircraft, reflect the harsh nature of urban warfare where soldiers operate in tight spaces and in close proximity to the enemy,” Lorenzana said.

Lorenzana said the Armed Forces of the Philippines is now “reviewing and re-calibrating its existing doctrines in order for the troops to adapt and respond to this evolving type of war.”

Meantime, Lorenzana appealed to the country to continue to trust the military and the police. “As a country let us be united in fighting the evil of forces,” he said.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has voiced hope that the conflict will end in 10 or 15 days, but many doubt if

this prediction can be met given Lorenzana’s assessment.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) reported that troops have recovered the remains of six people believed to be civilians executed by the militants in Marawi.

AFP spokesman Brig Gen Restituto Padilla said that troops have so far cleared 107 buildings occupied by the terrorists. About 600 more buildings are still subject to the ongoing clearing operations, he said.

“At the rate we’re going, we will need about 12 days or less to clear the rest of the buildings,” Padilla said.

He said the Philippine military and police authorities were finalizing whether or not to recommend an extension or lifting of the 60-day martial law that Duterte imposed on the entire Mindanao on 23 May, hours after the Maute group militants laid siege to Marawi.—Xinhua ■

South Korea: No proof cash to Kaesong went to N Korea arms programmes

SEOUL — There was no evidence that North Korea had diverted wages paid to its workers by South Korean companies operating in now-suspended industrial park on their border to its weapons programmes, a South Korean official said on Thursday.

The assertion by the official in President Moon Jae-in’s government was a reversal of the contention by the previous government that most of the cash that flowed into the jointly run Kaesong project was diverted to North Korea’s military.

South Korea suspended the operations at the industrial park, just on the North Korean side of their common border, where South Korean factories employed North Korean workers, last year after the North launched a rocket that put an object into orbit.

At the time, South Korea said it would no longer allow

the funds paid at Kaesong to be used in the North’s missile and nuclear programmes.

“The previous government said repeatedly that Kaesong wages were diverted by the North but I can say the government does not have any basis for this,” the senior government official told reporters on the condition of anonymity.

The liberal Moon came to power in May winning a snap election called after the removal of his predecessor, Park Geun-hye, whose conservative government implemented a hardline policy against the North.

Park was forced from power this year over a corruption scandal and is now on trial.

Moon was elected in May on a plan to engage in talks with North Korea.

He had pledged to reopen joint commercial projects with the North, including Kaesong,

but has modified that position by saying there must first be progress on suspending North Korea’s nuclear programme.

About 120 South Korean companies paid about double the \$70 a month minimum wage in North Korea for each of the 55,000 workers hired in Kaesong.

The project resulted from the first inter-Korean summit meeting in 2000, when leaders of the two Koreas pledged reconciliation and cooperation.

But by last year, it was the last remaining symbol of that effort amid deteriorating cross-border ties.

Park’s conservative government said 70 per cent of the US dollars paid as wages and fees at Kaesong was channelled to the North’s ruling party.

It said various sources had confirmed the flow of money but it did not specify who they were—Reuters ■

AIIB gets second triple-A credit rating

BEIJING — The Fitch Ratings announced on Thursday that it has assigned the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) its highest possible rating and a stable outlook.

Fitch provided the AIIB with a long-term issuer default rating of AAA and a short-term issuer default rating of F1+, based on the bank’s “existing and expected intrinsic strengths.”

This was the AIIB’s second top-notch credit rating in two weeks. Previously, Moody’s Investors Service assigned the AIIB a long-term foreign currency issuer rating of AAA and a short-term foreign currency issuer rating of Prime-1 with a stable outlook.

Fitch said the AIIB has been endowed with a substantial capital base that will support its projected rapid expansion in lending, while its exposure to risk being mitigated by a comprehensive set of

policies and high quality governance.

The bank enjoys “an excellent level of liquidity” and should benefit from easy access to capital markets, Fitch said.

“Risks are expected to remain low,” Fitch said, expecting the average rating of the loan portfolio to be around ‘BB’ over the 10-year forecast period.

AIIB treasurer Soren Elbech has said obtaining a rating will pave the way for the bank to issue bonds, but “it will take several months before we are ready.”

The Beijing-based AIIB was officially established in December 2015. It prioritizes investment in energy, power generation, transportation, rural infrastructure, environmental protection and logistics in Asia.

The bank now has 80 members or prospective members.—Xinhua ■

China trade with sanctions-struck N Korea up 10.5 pct in first half

BEIJING — China's trade with isolated North Korea rose more than 10 per cent in the January-June period from a year earlier, a Chinese official said on Thursday, amid pressure from the United States for Beijing to pressurise its troublesome neighbour.

Last week US President Donald Trump denounced China's trade with North Korea, saying it had grown almost 40 per cent in the first quarter, and cast doubt on whether Beijing was helping to counter the threat from North Korea.

China has repeatedly said it is fully enforcing United Nations sanctions on nuclear-armed North Korea and there is nothing wrong with what it terms "normal" trade with Pyongyang, referring to areas not covered by sanctions.

Chinese customs spokesman Huang Songping told a briefing on China's overall trade figures that total trade with North Korea expanded by 10.5 per cent to \$2.55 billion in the first six months of the year.

While China's imports from North Korea dropped 13.2 per cent to \$880 million in the period from January to June, exports to North Korea rose 29.1 per cent to \$1.67 billion, he said.

The exports were largely driven by textile products and other traditional labour-intensive goods not included on the United Nations embargo list, Huang added.

"As neighbours, China and North Korea maintain normal business and trade exchange



A Chinese flag is seen in front of the Friendship bridge over the Yalu River connecting the North Korean town of Sinuiju and Dandong in China's Liaoning Province on 1 April, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

es," he said, adding that goods for ordinary people and those used for humanitarian reasons are not subject to sanctions.

Overall trade growth with North Korea slowed in June, compared with previous second-quarter months.

Trade in dollar terms with North Korea rose about 12 per cent in June from a month earlier to \$499 million, according to Reuters calculations based on previously released data.

The calculations do not reflect revisions to earlier figures that may not have been announced.

In May, trade with North Korea gained 14.5 per cent from April to \$443.5 million, previously released customs data show.

Numbers showing an increase are not evidence that China is failing to enforce UN resolutions, with imports from North Korea falling every month since March, Huang

added.

China suspended imports of North Korean coal in February, while imports of iron ore accord with relevant UN resolutions, he said.

"China customs have all along fully, accurately, conscientiously and strictly enforced relevant Security Council resolutions."

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said UN resolutions did not cover iron and iron ore for civilian purposes, warning against confusion over UN sanctions being viewed as comprehensive sanctions on North Korea.

"For China to maintain normal economic relations with North Korea does not violate UN resolutions," he told a daily news briefing.

Adding to the potential for further US-China trade friction, China had a \$25.4-billion trade surplus with the United

States in June, up from \$22.0 billion in May, customs data showed. The surplus with the United States was China's largest since October 2015.

While China has been angered by North Korea's repeated nuclear and missile tests, it also blames the United States and South Korea for worsening tension with their military exercises and not doing enough to get talks back on track, as Beijing has proposed.

Though Trump took a more conciliatory tone on the North Korea issue and China's role at a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Saturday, Beijing has begun taking a harder rhetorical line with Washington in the past few days.

China's Foreign Ministry this week urged a halt to what it called the "China responsibility theory" on North Korea, saying all parties needed to pull their weight.

Trade between China and North Korea has declined in both 2015 and 2016, a senior government-backed academic said in a front-page comment in the overseas edition of the official People's Daily on Wednesday.

"Certain countries have no right to make wanton criticisms of China," wrote Su Xiaohui of the Foreign Ministry think-tank, the China Institute of International Studies.

An "unexpected" jump in first-quarter trade between China and North Korea masked a declining trend, the state-run Global Times newspaper said last week.—Reuters ■

Two including Japanese nabbed in S Korea for gold smuggling

SEOUL — A 24-year-old Japanese man and a 49-year-old South Korean man were arrested recently on suspicion of smuggling 70 kilograms of gold bars worth 3.5 billion won (about \$3 million) into South Korea, customs authorities said on Thursday.

The Incheon-based customs agency said it is investigating the possibility that the Japanese man, whose name was not disclosed, had a number of accomplices.

According to the office, the two men, who belong to a gold smuggling ring based in Hong Kong, are suspected of bringing the gold into the country over six trips made in March and April.

The men would conceal the gold bars by taping them to their bodies, according to local media.

The men would travel to South Korea via Japan, not known as a smuggling route, in a bid to evade suspicion, it added.

The Japanese man, who was reportedly in charge of the smuggling aspect, allegedly instructed his accomplices to act "naturally like tourists" at the airport.

The gold was delivered to a South Korean man at a hotel in Seoul's Myeongdong district popular with tourists.—Kyodo News ■

Indonesia seizes one ton of crystal methamphetamine

JAKARTA — Indonesian police, in cooperation with Taiwanese police, seized on Thursday one ton of crystal methamphetamine being smuggled into the country from China, the police said.

The amount was the largest seizure of the drug ever in Southeast Asia, and the biggest in Indonesia since 840 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine was seized in 2015, Jakarta police spokesman Prabowo Argo Yu-

wono said. That 2015 haul also involved drug smuggled from China.

The drugs seized on Thursday had an estimated street value of 1.5 trillion rupiah (about \$112.5 million), according to police.

Prabowo said two Taiwanese were arrested while a third was shot dead when Indonesian police, acting on a tipoff from Taiwanese police, seized the drugs.

Following a two-month investigation, Indonesian police raided the drug landing operation at the pier of a disused hotel in Serang in Banten province, bordering Jakarta.

Police believe a large inflatable boat seen on the beach had been used to carry the drugs to shore from a ship anchored out at sea.

The crystal methamphetamine, known locally as "sha-

bu-shabu," was found packed into 51 boxes that had already been loaded into two minivans.

"Four Taiwanese were implicated in this case, but only two have been arrested. One was shot to death for trying to attack police and another one is still at large," Prabowo said.

If convicted of drug smuggling, the detainees could be sentenced to death.

The National Narcotics

Agency said recently more than 5 million Indonesians were drug addicts, mostly consuming crystal methamphetamine coming from China, Europe and South America.

It also said 72 international drug cartels were believed to be operating in Indonesia, leading to the country becoming the biggest market in Southeast Asia for crystal methamphetamine.—Kyodo News ■

Four cardinal virtues we must abide by!

By Khin Maung Oo

WE always liken our world to a stage on which myriads of events are being presented in various forms: tragedy, comedy, humor, pathos, panic, etc. Many places are peaceful and pleasant for us to live in. Meanwhile, many places are unpleasant and we would not like to set foot even in our dreams, not to mention living there. In this world, for example, advanced countries are thought to belong to the first group and warring regions are categorized into the second group. In outward appearance, the first thought may be considered to be right. Yet, no one will deny if we say that in those countries we can find violence, terrorist attacks and crimes in abundance.

With the advancement of cutting-edge technology, people across the globe are enjoying fruits of modernization, but simultaneously we are

suffering from troubles and dangers, living in fear, worries and hope for peace. We can travel around the world as many times as we want and we can live in crème de la crème luxuries. In the midst of such situations, risks of creating nuclear wars are troubling us all the time, added to natural disasters, which can come to us at any time. Generally speaking, therefore, modern technology can be said to bring about advantages and disadvantages to us. But, it is a sure thing that the above-said technology cannot make our worries and fears cease to exist in our minds, which are caused by modernized lethal weapons—products of modern technology.

“The four cardinal virtues” preached by Gautama Buddha, can eliminate our worries to nothingness. These cardinal virtues—Metta, Karuna, Mudita and Upekkha can give happiness and well-being to all

human and celestial beings who follow it. Our world will surely become a peaceful and pleasant one for us to live, provided that all living beings in this planet will follow the four cardinal virtues. Of the four cardinal virtues, Metta (Loving-kindness) is none other than helping others willingly to bring about benefits for others. If we wish to send Metta to others, we need to send Metta to ourselves first. We have to recite silently in our minds and repeat the thought “May I be happy and well”. Then in the second stage we send the same Metta vibrations to the ones we love. We need to send these Metta vibrations in all directions.

Karuna, the second of the four cardinal virtues is having sympathy and compassion for others. It is like the feeling that we want them to be liberated from sufferings whenever we encounter someone in trouble. The third of the four cardinal virtues

is Mudita which is to have a feeling of sympathetic joy when someone is successful or lucky, without any hints of jealousy. The fourth and last one of the four cardinal virtues is Upekkha (equanimity). That is to say, Upekkha means to have a tranquil mind free from affection or hatred. In its real essence, it means having the ability to feel detached. It means to have the wisdom to understand that certain things happen according to the laws of cause and effect. It is the ability to let go of many things in many situations while keeping a stable and tranquil mind. Physical and verbal wrongdoings will cease to exist in this world only if the four cardinal virtues are practiced and observed by all of us.

Thus, if we cultivate the practice of developing the four cardinal virtues, our country will become a peaceful and pleasant place for us to live, free from wars, violence and crimes. ■

Under July Rain-drops

By Myo Myat Myat Myint Maung

*July rain is dropping on the road.
Gloomy sky reflects Myanmar
people's worries and sadness.
Falling raindrops are Myanmar
populace's tear-drops.*

Aw! It reached exactly 70 years that Architect of Myanmar Independence-cum-National Leader Bogyoke and colleagues were assassinated, on 19th July 2017 to come.

Disgraceful High Treason in Myanmar History

With the conspiracy of traitors of great stupidity in the country, Bogyoke and ministers were assassinated on Saturday 19th July 1947 at the Secretariat Office, while holding the ministerial meeting.

During that treasonable act, our national leader, Bogyoke Aung San and ministers Thakin Mya (minister for finance), Mahn Ba Khaing (minister for labour and industry), U Razak (minister for education), Deedoke U Ba Cho (minister for information), Maipon Sawbwa Sao San Htun (consultant, ministry of hilly regions affair), U Ba Win (Bogyoke's elder brother—minister for Supplies and Commerce), together with U Ohn Maung, (deputy secretary of minister for transport) and Yebaw Ko Htwe, (body guard of U Razak) were assassinated, while

energetically working for Myanmar's Independence without taking a holiday on such a Saturday. It must be said that grief, sorrow, worry and anxiety the whole populace felt over the assassination of the martyrs exceeded those of the bereaved families.

The disgraceful assassination caused an irreplaceable loss for the whole nation. The traitors solved a political problem through terrorist attack. What an enormous volume of loss for the nation it is! Whenever we think about the ugliest scene which took place on 19 July, it made us shed tears from our eyes.

Arzarni/Martyr in its real meaning

Myanmar dictionary defines it as the person who is well convinced of what is true or false, the person who excels others in martial prowess and mental faculty, the one who is ready to sacrifice for the sake of people.

Thus, in commemoration of July 19 in which Bogyoke and Myanmar leaders who served for the country by sacrificing their lives had fallen, Martyrs' Day has been mournfully being held annually across the nation.

In other words, it is designated as the noble holiday in honour of our greatly respected martyrs who sacrificed their lives with genuine “Cetana” for the interest of the nation and nationals.

It will never be endless to say, ex-

press, compose proudly what our great leaders performed. Every performance they did was left as an epoch each in the history.

Creators of History

Dr Than Tun, a well-known historian said that we have learnt so as not to be naïve. Likewise, literary scholars say that it is intended for students to learn to love to teach Myanmar History.

Father of Independence, Bogyoke Aung San as well disclosed a noteworthy idea over learning history as follows:

“The person who learns history must not only to be well convinced of the history but also to create or make history himself.”

Accordingly, our future generations who will make Myanmar History on, will be able to shape better future by trying hard to the best of their calibre at the present after taking lessons from past events so that their history will be better and better.

Why we remember and admire for ever

I happened to ponder which kinds of marvelous performances our martyrs did, to shape the future of the country to the extent that the whole nationals in the union will never ever forget.

Our country is a nation in which various kinds of ethnic people collectively reside. In such a country, friendship and

national solidarity plays a vital role for peace and stability.

As regards the importance of national solidarity, Bogyoke stressed it in his speech addressed at the city hall, Yangon on 31st October 1942, under the reign of the Japanese.

“It is of great importance and necessity to safeguard the Independence and the Sovereignty of a country eternally.”

The time when Bogyoke addressed that speech was the period when we did not have the hope for Independence yet. And we did not even dream a dream of signing up the Panglong Agreement, the symbol of national solidarity. By seeing it, we can conclude that Bogyoke had a politically broad-minded vision. What a wonder it is!

Bogyoke was never satisfied with bare saying. He always proved his wish true by implementing it.

During stay under colonial and fascist rule for more than 100 years, there occurred doubts and hatred among national ethnics due to the policy—divide and rule they exercised. Now these hatred and doubts were driven out. Independence—the national cause was achieved through Panglong Agreement, the symbol of solidarity of the whole nationals. It is the fruit of genuine patriotism and concerted efforts of our martyrs.

SEE PAGE-9

Ms. Yanghee Lee and party visit relief camps in Sittway

The UN delegation led by Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar Ms. Yanghee Lee arrived to Sittway yesterday at 10:00 am after departing from Buthidaung on boat.

Ms. Yanghee Lee and party met with Muslims at a madrasa in Aung Mingalar ward, Sittway. In the afternoon, the UN delegation toured That Kal Pyin Relief Camp in Sittway and met with Muslims in the camp.

Afterwards, the UN delegation left for Yangon by air. In Yangon, they went to Myanmar Press Council and met with officials. Ms. Yanghee Lee's questions on performance of the media council, difficulties faced



Ms Yanghee Lee and delegation arrive Sittway Airport. PHOTO: MNA

by media personnel and cases against media personnel were answered by Myanmar Press Council Vice Chairman 1 U Aung Hla Tun, Vice Chairman 2 Dr.

Myo Thant Tin and secretary U Thiha Saw. This is the third meeting between Ms. Yanghee Lee and Myanmar Press Council. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Two men with knives arrested in Maungtaw

Security forces arrested two men holding knives in Maungtaw Township on 12 July, according to a report by Myanmar Police Force yesterday. While security

forces were patrolling a road near Shwe Zar Ale village, Maungtaw Township at 8:20 pm on Wednesday, El Fam and El Karan were found to be in possession of

knives and were arrested.

The two remain under investigation at the Pyinpyu police station.—Myanmar News Agency ■

PRESS RELEASE

Diplomatic Relations Established between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Republic of Seychelles

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Republic of Seychelles, desirous of establishing friendly ties and cooperation guided by the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of International Law in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, have established diplomatic relations at the level of Ambassadors, with effect from 12 July 2017.

The Joint Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations was signed by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations and the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Seychelles to the United Nations in New York on 12 July 2017. The Republic of Seychelles is the 121st country with which Myanmar has established diplomatic relations. Ministry of Foreign Affairs ■

U Tha Aung Nyun presents Credentials to President of Fiji

U Tha Aung Nyun, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Fiji, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konusi Konrote, CF, OF(Mil), MC, SBSt.J, MSD, OMRI, NOC, President of the Republic of Fiji on 11 July 2017, in Suva.—Ministry of Foreign Affairs ■

Under July Rain-drops

FROM PAGE-8

The then imagined Myanmar

What Bogyoke Aung San and our leaders hoped for is to create a happy, strong and modernized country in free and new Myanmar which will come out of national solidarity.

Modern political doctrines Bogyoke formed in his mind over 70 years ago are still new and are being implemented until now.

In making effort for national solidarity at the present time, ways of finding solutions of political issues through negotiation by taking lessons from the past experiences and means of peaceful solution by working for a common cause, after setting aside differences were being seen.

Nowadays, plans are being made to lessen the gap of progress between our national ethnic people, to improve transport and socio-economic sectors, as much as possible. It is like "an elephant in a

living room" to have implemented policies expected for by Bogyoke and martyrs.

It wholly depends upon strong enthusiasm of national brethren, all participation, leaders' broadmindedness and firm determination to serve in the interest of the nation and nationals.

Ways, means and Discipline

As regards discipline, we have many guidance mottos: "Only if discipline is to be kept, will we improve." "Discipline is Man's Value," and so on. Yet, people love what Bogyoke said bluntly, like when they read and smile when they smile.

"If you want Independence, you keep disciplines and unity which will bring about independence, and you build up yourselves. After that, you need to abide by discipline in working. I hereby want to say that you are required to change what needs to be changed, to change your blankety-blank habits."

Bogyoke's speeches were as if highlighting us desirous of getting democratic

rights that we need to keep discipline which deservedly will bring about democracy.

We should shape our country, Myanmar

Myanmar nationals managed to stand tall with their own traditions and culture. We originally possessed the good habits of safeguarding our races, religions and our own language. We have patriotism, nationalism in us. And we have natural talents each.

It is our inborn rights for the whole national brethren to contribute our labour for peace, stability and development of the Union—like a dwelling abode.

Now is the time for us to practically implement shaping our country as hoped and imagined by our martyrs. To put it simply, it lagged behind much to have started. We should relay the duty of shaping future for new generations. Especially, we should exert our concerted efforts to bring about prospects of peace in 2017—year of peace.

Resolution on Martyrs' Day

Presently we are performing the task of building up a new nation together with the people with a view to bringing about peace and stability of the nation and developing socio-economic life of the whole populace.

Let us build the national solidarity based on union spirit and establish the democratic country which will result in national benefits with firm determinations that "we must get national solidarity" and "We must be successful in establishing democracy in accord with discipline."

Only if these can be fulfilled, will our leaders—Bogyoke and martyrs be able respond to sending our meritorious deeds to them by saying "Well-done, well-done, well-done," from their present existences, and on the other hand, we can reciprocate their gratitude. July rain is continuing to rain.

Translated by Khin Maung Oo (Tada-U) ■

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

WORLD
BRIEFSParliament has yet
to set date to debate
Britain's EU repeal bill

LONDON — Britain's parliament has yet to set a date to debate the government's legislation to sever ties with the European Union, but the discussion will not be until after the summer recess, the House of Commons said on Thursday.

Earlier, the government published legislation to sever political, financial and legal ties with the European Union, an important step towards Brexit but one which the opposition said it would challenge.—Reuters ■

Turkey to take
measures against
Greek Cypriot oil or
gas exploration—
foreign minister

ANKARA — Turkey will take measures against Greek Cypriot exploration for oil or gas around Cyprus, Turkey's foreign minister said on Thursday, adding that Turkish Cypriots had rights on those reserves.

Turkey's energy and foreign ministries are working together to plan steps against the Greek side's "unilateral" steps, Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said, adding that sending a drilling vessel showed Greek side's "insincerity" about reunification talks that failed last week.—Reuters ■

Russian court jails
man convicted of
killing Putin critic
Nemtsov for 20 years

MOSCOW — A court sentenced a man convicted of murdering Russian opposition leader Boris Nemtsov to 20 years in jail on Thursday and handed terms between 11 and 19 years to four other men convicted of being his accomplices.

The same court last month found the five men guilty of killing Nemtsov in 2015, but the late politician's allies said the investigation had been a cover-up and that the people who had ordered his killing remained at large.—Reuters ■



Britain's Prime Minister
Theresa May. PHOTO:
REUTERS

UK PM May shed a “little
tear” over election failure

LONDON — British Prime Minister Theresa May said she cried a “little tear” when an exit poll revealed she had failed to win an overall majority in a 8 June snap election.

May told BBC radio she felt “devastated” when the results came in, revealing she had lost her parliamentary majority, despite her call on Britons to give her a strong mandate to negotiate Britain's exit from

the European Union.

May said her campaign was not “perfect”, but said she expected that her party would increase its majority.

The prime minister said her husband Philip told her the result of the exit poll and gave her a hug to console her.

“When the result came through it was complete shock,” May said.

“It took a few minutes for

it to sink in what it was telling me.”

May faced calls to quit from inside and outside her ruling Conservative Party after losing its majority in an election she did not need to call and which plunged Britain into the worst political instability for decades.

“When it came to the actual result there were a lot of people within the party who had been very close to the campaign who

were genuinely shocked by the result as it came through,” she said.

May said she had not considered stepping down and declined to say how much longer she would remain in power.

“I still see there is a lot that we need to do, and as prime minister I want to get on with that job of changing people's lives for the better,” she said.—Reuters ■

Kremlin says turbines being installed in Crimea are of Russian origin

MOSCOW — The Kremlin said on Thursday that gas turbines being installed in Crimea were of Russian origin after German engineering firm Siemens said earlier this week that two of its turbines had been delivered there against its wishes and

without its knowledge.

Russia seized the region from Ukraine in 2014 and it is now subject to European sanctions on energy technology.

When asked about the row with Siemens, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told a con-

ference call with reporters:

“We do not have anything to add to what we have said earlier.

Equipment related to the power sector is indeed being installed there (in Crimea). The equipment being installed

there is of Russian origin.”

Siemens has filed a lawsuit against Russian state firm Technopromexport requiring it to return the turbines to their original destination in southern Russia, which is not subject to sanctions.—Reuters ■

Turkish police detain producer of Erdogan film over Gulen links — media

ISTANBUL — Turkish police detained the producer of a film on the life of President Tayyip Erdogan on Thursday, accusing him of ties to the Muslim cleric Ankara says orchestrated last year's attempted coup, state media said.

His arrest came a day after the release on social media of a trailer for a new film by Ali Avci entitled "Awakening", about the failed 15 July putsch. Ceremonies have been arranged for Saturday commemorating the action in which 249 people died.

State-run Anadolu news agency said Avci was accused of membership of the "Gülenist Terror Organization" (FETO), as Turkey refers to the movement of US-based cleric Fethullah Gulen, an ally-turned-foe of Erdogan.

Anti-terror police seized Avci at his Istanbul home and also seized another man identified as a fugitive sought for being a user of ByLock, an en-



Supporters of President Tayyip Erdogan react as soldiers accused of attempting to assassinate the president on the night of the failed last year's 15 July coup arrive at the court for a trial in Mugla, Turkey on 13 July, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

crypted messaging app Ankara says was used by Gulen's followers, the agency added.

Turkish media said the trailer for his new film had

caused public uproar as it portrayed Erdogan's family shot dead and an army officer pointing a gun at the back of the president's head as he prayed.

Avci's earlier film "The Chief" was released in March ahead of an April referendum on boosting the president's powers. The film portrayed Er-

dogan in largely admiring terms as a child and as Istanbul mayor when he was jailed for reciting a religiously themed poem.

More than 50,000 people have been jailed pending trial and 150,000 state workers including teachers, judges and soldiers have been suspended or dismissed under emergency rule imposed in late July after the coup.

The government says the crackdown and constitutional changes are necessary to address security threats. More than 240 people were killed in last year's coup attempt. Rights groups have voiced concern about stifling of dissent under the crackdown.

Gulen, who has denied involvement in the coup, told Reuters in an interview this week he had no plans to flee the United States and would accept extradition if Washington agrees to a request by Ankara to hand him over.—Reuters ■

South African watchdog says Zuma should open graft probe — report

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa's anti-graft watchdog wants President Jacob Zuma to comply with a directive by her predecessor and appoint a judge to investigate influence-peddling in his government, Business Day newspaper reported on Thursday, citing court documents.

Then Public Protector Thuli Madonsela, a constitutionally mandated anti-corruption watchdog, found in a report in November that a full investigation was needed into allegations that members of the Gupta family, friends of Zuma, wielded undue influence over political appointments and the awarding of government tenders.

The Gupta family and Zuma deny wrongdoing.

Madonsela, who left office the day after her report was released, called for a full judicial inquiry. Zuma has challenged the need to open that probe.

Madonsela's successor Busisiwe Mkhwebane has filed papers with the high



South Africa's President Jacob Zuma. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

court saying Zuma should have complied with her predecessor's report by December and opened a judicial inquiry, Business Day said, citing court papers.

Mkhwebane's spokeswoman was not immediately available to comment. Zuma's spokesman did not immedi-

ately respond to a request for a response.

Persistent corruption allegations are piling pressure on Zuma and there are increasing calls for him to stand down from within the ruling African National Congress. Parliament will hold a no-confidence vote on Zuma

next month.

South African media in recent weeks has been dominated by stories about how Gupta-controlled companies do business with state-run and international firms after more than 100,000 internal emails and documents were leaked.

International companies are being drawn into the scandal.

German technology company, SAP, told Reuters on Wednesday it had placed four senior managers in South Africa on leave and opened an investigation after it was accused of taking kickbacks from a Gupta-owned company.

SAP has denied any wrongdoing.

London-based public relations firm Bell Pottinger apologised last week and said it had fired a partner in charge of a South African PR campaign for a Gupta-owned company that the political opposition said inflamed racial tensions.—Reuters ■

Firefighters tackle blaze in Turkish military zone near Syrian border

ISTANBUL — A fire broke out on Thursday in a military zone in Turkey's southern province of Kilis bordering Syria and 10 soldiers suffered mild smoke inhalation, the provincial governor's office said, but there were no other casualties.

Broadcaster CNN Turk showed images of black smoke billowing into the sky above the blaze, which spread to an ammunition depot and triggered small explosions, according to a statement from the Kilis governor's office.

It said fire fighters were working to extinguish the blaze and the affected soldiers were taken to a hospital in the town of Kilis for treatment.

The cause of the fire was unclear. The military quarters where the blaze broke out were on the highway between Kilis and the region's largest city, Gaziantep. Traffic on the highway was halted at 4 am (0100 GMT) because of the fire, the private Dogan news agency said.—Reuters ■

Russia's defence contractor to feature advanced military hardware at MAKS air show

MOSCOW — Almaz-Antey Group, the manufacturer of the famous S-300 and S-400 air defence missile systems, will demonstrate over 150 items of military and civil hardware at the MAKS-2017 international airshow in Zhukovsky outside Moscow on 18-23 July, the company's press office reported on Wednesday.

"The airshow's sites will demonstrate over 150 items of military, civil and dual-purpose hardware manufactured by the Group's subsidiaries," the press office reported.

Specifically, Almaz-Antey plans to showcase the full-scale models of the most advanced Tor-M2DT Arctic short-range air defense missile system's combat vehicle, the launcher of the S-400 Triumf surface-to-air missile complex, the self-propelled fire unit of the



Russia's Almaz-Antey Group, the manufacturer of the famous S-300 and S-400 air defence missile systems, will demonstrate over 150 items of military and civil hardware at the MAKS-2017 air show. **PHOTO: TASS**

Buk-M2E medium-range air defence system with a container-type training simulator; antiaircraft missiles for the S-400 Triumf air defence complex, the Tor-M2E system and other

military hardware items.

At its stand at the MAKS-2017 airshow, Almaz-Antey will also feature its products in the form of mockups and placards: the S-400 Triumf,

the S-300PMU2 Favourit and the Antey-2500 long-range air defence missile systems, the Tor and Buk families of surface-to-air missile systems, the Osa-AKM1 air defence missile

complex, the Rif-M, Shtil-1 and Klinok shipborne air defence missile systems, the Nebo-SVU, Nebo-UE, Kasta-2E2 and Fara-VR radar stations, the MSP-418K jammer pod and the Omul electronic counter-measures system.

Over 20 of Almaz-Antey's subsidiaries will feature products at the MAKS-2017 airshow.

Almaz-Antey specialists will also acquaint MAKS-2017 visitors with the technology of creating controlled visibility and camouflage, the technology of developing radar images of aircraft to detect and identify aerial objects.

Civil products

Almaz-Antey will showcase civil and dual-purpose products in a separate thematic zone. Specifically, the enterprise will feature an all-mode

digital station for air traffic control — the Aurora-2 monopulse secondary surveillance radar, and other products. "As the basic producer and the systemic integrator of equipment for the single air traffic control system, Almaz-Antey Group will pay special attention to the presentation of advanced developments in the field of radio-technical provision for flight and air navigation services. They will be presented as a separate segment," Almaz-Antey Deputy CEO for Output for Air Navigation Systems and Dual-Purpose Products Dmitry Savitsky said.

According to the deputy CEO, many of the items demonstrated on the company's stand have been successfully tested and are used in air traffic control centers in Russia and abroad.—Tass ■

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

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

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Abe agrees to appear in Diet committee session on favouritism claims

TOKYO — After his party earlier refused the request, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe agreed to an opposition demand for him to attend an ad hoc parliamentary committee session to address allegations of favouritism, the Liberal Democratic Party said Thursday.

“After I told the prime minister we had refused, he said he is willing to appear at the Diet himself and give an explanation,” LDP Diet Affairs Committee Chairman Wataru Takeshita told reporters, adding that the session is likely to take place next week or later.

But Takeshita indicated the LDP will agree to hold the budget committee session only if ruling party lawmakers are allowed more speaking time than



Wataru Takeshita (L), chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party's parliamentary affairs committee, and his Democratic Party counterpart Kazunori Yamanoi hold talks in the Diet in Tokyo on 13 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

opposition lawmakers.

Earlier Thursday, Takeshita conveyed the LDP's refusal in a meeting with Kazunori Yamanoi, his counterpart from the main opposition Dem-

ocratic Party, which made the request.

Lawmakers held parliamentary sessions on Monday to discuss the favoritism allegations, but Abe was abroad visiting

several European countries, prompting the Democratic Party to propose holding another parliamentary committee session with Abe in attendance.

During Monday's ses-

sions, former top education ministry bureaucrat Kihei Maekawa reiterated that the prime minister's office was involved in the approval process for a new veterinary school by the Kake Educational Institution in a government-designated special economic zone.

Kotaro Kake, chairman of Kake Educational Institution, is a close friend of the prime minister.

Maekawa, former vice minister of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, did not offer fresh evidence related to the matter. Government officials, including Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Hagiuda, denied Maekawa's claims during the sessions.

Abe has come un-

der fire over suspicions he used his influence to secure the approval of Japan's first department of veterinary medicine in half a century in Imabari, Ehime Prefecture, western Japan.

Such suspicions have grown since documents were revealed indicating that officials of the Cabinet Office, which oversees special economic zones, pressured the education ministry ahead of the selection of Kake.

The scandal has hit the Abe Cabinet's support ratings and contributed to the LDP's crushing defeat in the Tokyo metropolitan assembly election this month. Parliament is not currently sitting, the most recent ordinary session having ended on 18 June.—Kyodo News ■

Malaysian businessman “central” in 1MDB scandal: Singapore prosecutors

SINGAPORE — Singapore's state prosecutors have labeled Malaysian businessman Low Taek Jho, better known as Jho Low, as a “central figure” in a multibillion dollar global scandal at Malaysia's 1MDB state development fund.

Citing the financial scandal, the state prosecutors said in a court document this week that “investigations have uncovered ‘actual facts’ that indicate that the central figure behind the ‘improprieties’ is Jho Low.”

He has been characterized in media reports as close to Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, and the Wall Street Journal had reported in March that US authorities intended to file criminal charges against him in connection with the 1MDB scandal. Aside from Singapore and the United States, Switzerland has also been investigating it.

The Singapore court document was presented to the State Court on Wednesday in the case

of Yeo Jiawei, a former wealth planner for Swiss bank BSI's Singapore branch, who was one of the first individuals to be hauled to court in connection with Singapore's investigations into the scandal.

The same day, the court sentenced the 34-year-old Singaporean citizen to four and a half years in prison for money laundering and cheating in connection with Singapore's investigations of some banks based here being used as an illegal conduit for funds related to 1MDB. According to Singapore's state media, his sentence is the most severe punishment to be meted out in the worldwide probe into the alleged misappropriation of billions of dollars from 1MDB. The document said Yeo had “worked for Jho Low and joined his circle of associates” after leaving BSI Singapore.

It said Jho Low was a “key adviser” to 1MDB and SRC and was highly influential in decisions

made by these companies, it said, adding that, any transactions that Jho Low was involved in were facilitated by Yeo.

Yeo and his superior at BSI Singapore, Kevin Swampillai, “had clandestinely obtained millions of dollars in secret profits from certain transactions connected with Brazen Sky and subsequently laundered by Yeo.” Brazen Sky is a subsidiary of 1MDB.

Yeo had pleaded guilty to two charges for money laundering and cheating relating to these secret profits and the laundering of these profits.

The investigations, relating to 1MDB, is by far the most complex, sophisticated and largest money-laundering case that Singapore has ever handled, the document said.

Jho Low hit back by issuing a statement on Thursday through his spokesperson refuting the allegation, according to Malaysia's Star newspaper's website.—Kyodo News ■

Gunmen kill four police in Pakistani city of Quetta

QUETTA, (Pakistan) — Islamist gunmen on Thursday killed a senior police official and three other policemen guarding him in the Pakistani city of Quetta, police said, in an attack claimed by the Pakistani Taliban.

Superintendent of Police Mubarak Shah, 56, was killed en route to his office when four gunmen riding on motorcycles attacked his vehicle, said city police officer Muhammad Sultan.

“The head and upper parts of all the four victims were targeted,” said Sultan, adding that one policeman was critically

wounded.

A faction of the Pakistani Taliban, known as Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, carried out the attack, according to the faction's spokesman, Asad Mansur.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif condemned the attack, his office said.

It was second such attack in a week targeting senior police officers in the volatile Baluchistan province, which borders Afghanistan and Iran. Quetta is the provincial capital.

A suicide bomber on Monday killed a district police chief and his guard in the town of Chaman on the

Afghan border. The Pakistani Taliban claimed that bombing in text messages and emails to media.

Violence in Baluchistan has raised concern about security for projects in the \$57-billion China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a planned transport and energy link from western China to Pakistan's southern deep-water port of Gwadar.

Resource-rich Baluchistan has long been plagued by insurgencies by separatists. Islamist groups such as the Taliban and Islamic State also carry out attacks in the region.—Reuters ■



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Stakes are high for Luc Besson's intergalactic leap into 'Valerian'

LOS ANGELES — Introducing a brand new multi-million dollar intergalactic adventure film based on a French comic book strip during a summer box office dominated by superheroes and sequels may be considered a big risk to take by an independent filmmaker.

But French director Luc Besson was so confident in his vision for adapting the "Valerian and Laureline" sci-fi comics into a film, he took his script and sketches to buyers at the Cannes Film Festival three years ago with the hopes of securing funding for the \$150 million project.

"They all raised their hands because they loved the script so we had almost 90 per cent of the funding in one day," Besson told Reuters.

Set in the 28th century where humans and aliens have found a home on the space station Alpha, "Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets" follows two space agents, the cocky Valerian (Dane DeHaan) and the spirit-



Model Cara Delevingne and Actor Dane DeHaan. PHOTO: REUTERS

ed Laureline (Cara Delevingne) trying to uncover the origins of a mysterious force.

They journey through the different environments and diverse population of Alpha, known as the city of a thousand planets where species include sea monsters and organic ro-

bots to winged reptilians and thuggish bug-eyed ogres.

The film comes out in theaters on 21 July and is the fruition of Besson's nearly 50-year obsession with the comic strip he discovered at the age of 10, setting him on a path to make films such as "The Fifth Ele-

ment" and "Lucy."

The stakes are high for Besson's EuropaCorp film studio as "Valerian" enters a box office saturated with superhero films such as "Wonder Woman" and "Spider-Man: Homecoming" and sequels such as "War for the Planet of the Apes" and "Des-

picable Me 3."

Still, the director didn't consider it a gamble.

"You take risks when you do a first-time director movie at \$8 million and no cast. That's a gamble," Besson said, adding that Valerian's theatrical rights had already been bought across nearly 120 countries.

Early reviews for the film have been mixed, with critics praising the vibrant visuals but criticizing the plot and performances.

Variety's Peter Debruge said the film's "creativity outweighs its more uneven elements." Hollywood Reporter's Todd McCarthy dubbed it a frontrunner for the Razzies, Hollywood's annual tongue-in-cheek "worst film" awards.

But Besson believes the audience will determine the success of the film and future installments.

"I wish they love the film because I'm dying to make another one because I love Cara and Dane," he said.—Reuters ■

Lines of cocaine? No, says Kim Kardashian, it's just the table design

LOS ANGELES — Reality star Kim Kardashian has shot down speculation that she is using cocaine, saying white lines seen on a table in one of her social media postings were in fact the markings on a marble table.

A Snapchat video posting on Monday, with the table in the background, prompted 24 hours

of rampant speculation on Twitter that the influential "Keeping Up With the Kardashians" mother of two had been caught out with cocaine. Kardashian, 36, who has 101 million followers on Instagram, first responded on Tuesday by tweeting that the white lines were "sugar from our candy mess" from a New York store vis-

it with her children with rapper Kanye West, North and Saint. In a close-up video of the table, posted on her Twitter and Snapchat accounts later on Tuesday, Kardashian said that while she initially thought the lines were candy, they were instead the marble design on the table in their New York hotel room.—Reuters ■

I think I am really privileged: Katrina Kaif on working with Khans again

NEW DELHI — Desi Barbie Doll Katrina Kaif has spent more than a decade in the Hindi film industry and has a strong holding there. She has an ocean of fan following and is one of the few actresses who have worked with the Khan trinity of Salman, Shah Rukh and Aamir more than once in their career.

The actress is currently busy promoting her upcoming venture 'Jagga Jasoos' with Ranbir Kapoor as the film is hitting the screens on 14 July, 2017.

Katrina was recently asked about working with the Khans



PHOTO: PTI

once again and that too almost simultaneously, PTI quotes her saying, "I have worked with Aamir, Shah Rukh and Salman before and those were wonderful films. So, I am very happy to be a part of great films, good scripts, work with good directors and co-stars. I think I am really privileged right now to have exciting work." She will be seen opposite Salman in the upcoming "Tiger

Zinda Hai", with Aamir in "Thugs of Hindostan" and with Shah Rukh in Aanand L Rai's next.

She was speaking at a special event to promote "Jagga Jasoos". "It's been a long journey of three years. Anurag Basu (director) has given everything to the film. Ranbir Kapoor and I have put in a lot of love and hard work in it. I really hope audiences like it," she said.—PTI ■

From saving a village to fighting aliens, Cambodian books show 'girls can do anything'

KUALA LUMPUR — From a girl who builds a flying bike to save her village to a female cicada defying the odds to join a flying contest, a new children's book project in Cambodia is seeking to inspire girls to fight stereotypes and male dominance.

The vividly illustrated e-books in the local Khmer language tell the stories of eight different female characters who overcome challenges through courage and ingenuity under the tagline "Girls Can Do Anything".

One story features a girl who invents a flying contraption that looks like a bike with bat-like wings to save her village while another girl fights aliens seeking to destroy her city.

"The availability of original storybooks for children in Khmer is limited. Content related to the empowerment of women is even more scarce," said Edward Anderson from The Asia Foundation, which is running the project.

"The books ... can serve as role models for young girls,

helping them to break away from traditional subservient expectations and empower them to become leaders," added Anderson, the acting Cambodia chief for the US-based charity.

Cambodia was ranked 112 out of 144 countries in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap 2016, after scoring poorly in political empowerment and education attainment for women.

Campaigners say a gap in education persists in the impoverished Southeast Asian nation, with fewer girls attending and completing school, while sexual and labor exploitation remain a serious problem for women.

The book series, under a wider initiative known as "Let's Read!" which aims to encourage reading among children, was created by Cambodian writers and illustrators during a "hackathon" event.

Prum Kunthearo, one of the eight writers, said it was the first time she had used a female protagonist in a story since she began writing books in 2013.—Reuters ■

Two gored and four more hurt at Pamplona's seventh bull run

PAMPLONA, Spain — Two people were gored and at least four others were treated for injuries on Thursday after the seventh bull run at the San Fermin festival in Pamplona where thousands of runners sprint from a dozen bulls and steers through narrow city streets.

The final day of the centuries-old festival, most famous for the 875-metre, 8-am run from the specially-bred cattle along a cordoned off route, is on Friday.

The run on Thursday lasted 2 minutes 40 seconds and included animals from the Nunez del



Spanish bullfighter Alberto Lopez Simon performs a pass to a bull during a bullfight at the San Fermin festival in Pamplona, northern Spain on 12 July, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Cuvillo ranch. The half a dozen bulls which take part in the run are later pitted against a matador in the city's bull ring.—Reuters ■

Carbon dating confirms age of 3,800-year-old pottery bird statue

ZHENGZHOU — Carbon dating has recently confirmed the age of a 3,800-year-old red pottery bird statue, unearthed in central China's Henan Province.

The statue, 16 cm long and 7 cm tall, was painted red with cinnabar, which suggests it may have been an item of worship, according to archeologists.

The item was found at

the ruins of the city of Xinzhai, discovered in 1979 and believed to be founded by Qi, king during the Xia Dynasty, as early as 2050 BC.

Zhao Chunqing, from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said the statue indicates totemistic bird worshiping in prehistoric China. A large number of pottery utensils and stone tools have been discovered in the same pit, as well as

an urn decorated with a leaf design and a cone-shaped tripod with pierced decoration.

According to historical documents about the Xia, believed to be China's first dynasty, Qi's son Taikang lost power and was driven out of the city by tribal leader Houyi, who was later defeated by another tribe leader Hanzhuo.

Geng Guangxiang, an

archeologist working on the Xinzhai project, said previous research suggested that both of these tribes worshipped bird totems, therefore the statue may have come from that period. He added that Xinzhai continued to serve as the capital during the power struggles until Qi's descendant Shaokang took control of the Dynasty.

—Xinhua ■

Tokyo theme park: eat "poop" curry and write better

TOKYO — An indoor theme park in Tokyo will be covered with "poop" next week as it has tied up with a children's workbook on Japanese kanji writing which includes a heavy dose of toilet humour.

Namco Ltd's Namjatown in the busy Ikebukuro district will feature from 20 July through 31 August food and attractions themed with "Unko Sensei," or Mr Poop, the bright-yellow coil character with glasses and a moustache that appears in the hugely successful six-book "Unko Kanji Drill" series.

The theme park will sell seven different dishes, including "Unko Sensei's sweet curry," priced at 980 yen (\$8.6) and "Unko Sensei cotton candy," at 700

yen, while a kanji-learning attraction will allow participants to fight "Unko Dragon" by solving kanji problems.

The concept of the curry fits with a well-known Japanese playground "ultimate choice" question — would you rather eat poop-flavoured curry or curry-flavoured poop?

The kanji workbooks covering 1,006 characters taught at elementary schools have become a huge sensation among young students by using the word "poop" in every single example sentence.

Like the workbook, Namjatown website says, "Let's fill inside Namjatown with poop."

Ticket prices start at 300 yen for children. —Kyodo News ■



Undated supplied photo shows "Unko Sensei's sweet curry," a dish featuring the bright-yellow poop character with glasses and a moustache that appears in children's workbook on Japanese kanji writing. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**



Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(14-7-2017 07:00am ~ 15-7-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News	07:03	Pm	News
07:27	Am	Discovering Tribes- Bwe	07:27	Pm	Cruising To Precious Islands (Part-1)
07:54	Am	The Storytellers	08:03	Pm	News
08:03	Am	News	08:26	Pm	Myanmar National Poet And Literary Icon; Prolific Writer of Poems & Prose - Min Thu Wun (Ep-1) In Memory of Him & His Childhood
08:25	Am	A Street Vendor Spreading Knowledge	08:55	Pm	Now in Yangon
09:03	Am	News			
09:26	Am	Those Who Never Give Up (Ep-1) Aung Thamar Di Gold Shop			
09:52	Am	Tea Leaves			
10:03	Am	News			
10:25	Am	The Green Corner (Epi-12) Paper Mache Bird			
10:35	Am	Shwe Maw Daw: The Glory Of Bago City			

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

Prime Time

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

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



Programme Schedule

(14-7-2017, Friday)

6:00 Am

♦ Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

7:00 Am

♦ Breakfast News

7:35 Am

♦ MRTV Travelogue

8:35 Am

♦ Current Affairs

9:10 Am

♦ Documentary

9:30 Am

♦ MRTV Worker's Programme

10:30 Am

♦ Socio Economic Scenes

12:30 Pm

♦ TV Drama Series

1:00 Pm

♦ Myanmar Movie (Part-2)

2:05 Pm

♦ TV Drama Series

4:35 Pm

♦ Documentary

5:05 Pm

♦ World of Innovation

5:15 Pm

♦ Health Magazine

5:35 Pm

♦ Weekly Sport Info

6:20 Pm

♦ Documentary

7:15 Pm

♦ TV Deama Series

7:45 Pm

♦ Documentary

8:00 Pm

♦ News/ International News/ Weather Report

9:15 Pm

♦ TV Drama Series

Myanmar beats Singapore 2-0 in 2017 AFF U15 Championship

THE MYANMAR U-15 football team shut out the Singapore U-15 team with 2-0 result in the 2017 AFF Championship at Chonburi Campus Stadium in Thailand yesterday evening. Myanmar used star players including Pyae Phyo Aung, La Min Htet, Kun Kyaw Zin Hein, Yan Kyaw Soe and played well in the first half and scored two goals within a 10-minute period.

At the 20-minute mark, Myanmar got its first goal by the striker Yan Kyaw Soe, who perfectly touched the ball into the goal. Ten minutes after the opening goal, Myanmar attacked more often and scored its second goal at 29 minutes by the striker Hla Min Htwe. In the second



Myanmar U-15 player passes the ball next to Singapore's players. PHOTO: MFF

half, Myanmar defenders and goalkeeper Nay Lin Htet effectively cleared the ball even in the penalty area in front of the goal. Myanmar has so far won two matches along with one draw and has

7 points altogether.

In order to progress to the next round, Myanmar must win the next two matches against Australia on 15 July and host Thailand on 17 July.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Myanmar U-22 loses to Malaysia in friendly match

IN PREPARATION for the SEA Games, Myanmar U-22 played a test match with Malaysia U-22 at the Shah Alam Stadium in Malaysia and lost 0-2 yesterday night.

Both Myanmar and Malaysia used main players and prepared well for the friendly match.

Malaysia's Tharna Barkah scored the opening goal at 25 minute with a direct head butt into the goal net.

Heavy rain fell in the first half causing difficulties for both teams.

In the second half both

teams changed their game tactics and Myanmar attacked more fiercely than the first half.

Although Myanmar's strikers passed the Malaysia's defenders, they could not manage to score a goal.

Malaysia achieved its second goal by Daniel at 86 minute and ended the match, winning 2 goals.

Myanmar U-22 will also have to prepare for the ASIAN qualifier Group F matches which will start from 19 to 23 July, hosted in Yangon, Myanmar.—Ye Yint Shine ■

Real Sociedad sign Januzaj from Man United

MADRID — Real Sociedad have signed Manchester United winger Adnan Januzaj for a reported fee of 9.8 million pounds (\$12.6 million), the Spanish La Liga club said on Wednesday.

United have installed a buy-back clause in the deal for the 22-year-old Belgian, Spanish media reported.

Januzaj has agreed a five-year contract with the Basque side and will be presented officially on Thursday after attending his first training session.

"Thank you to some of the coaches and staff that work at Manchester United to make it a great club," Januzaj said on Instagram.

"Unfortunately, my time at the club has come to an end and it didn't go the way I



United."

Januzaj broke into the United team in 2013 under manager David Moyes and scored twice in his first start in a Premier League game against Sunderland. But he never built on that early success and netted only five goals in 66 appearances for United before being sent on-loan to Borussia Dortmund and Sunderland.—Reuters

wanted it to go, but I will always have love for Manchester

Djokovic considers break after painful 18 months

LONDON — Novak Djokovic is considering taking a break from competitive tennis to recover after a long-standing elbow injury forced him out of Wimbledon on Wednesday.

The three-times champion retired hurt from his quarter-final against Tomas Berdych after he had lost the opening set and was down a break in the second.

The 30-year-old Serb said his right elbow had been bothering him off-and-for over a year and a half. The injury has coincided with a slump in form during which the former world number one surrendered his Australian and French Open titles this year and slipped to fourth in the world rankings.

"The specialists that I've talked with haven't been really too clear, mentioning also surgery, mentioning different options," Djokovic said.

"Nobody was very clear in what needs to be done. I guess the break is something that I will have to consider right now," he added. "The more I play, the worse it gets."

Djokovic remained philosophical. "It's just unfortunate — but in life, these particular things happen for a reason. It takes some time and obviously thinking to understand why this happened and to obviously learn from it," he said. "At the end of the day, this is something I have to deal with and accept."—Reuters ■



Serbia's Novak Djokovic after he retires from his quarter final match against Czech Republic's Tomas Berdych on 12 July, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS