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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi admires a photo taken at the Union Peace Conference in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: AUNG SHINE OO**

State Counsellor's office: 1st anniversary

THE Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor celebrated its first-year anniversary in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre, with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu

Kyi reaffirming her pledge to build trust between the people and the government.

She also reiterated the ministry's commitment to national reconciliation, peace, and the rule of law, expressing

the ministry's readiness to face both expected and unexpected challenges. She also stressed the need to change the mindset of the government and its employees first so as to effectively change the

country.

Following her speech she presented financial assistance for education and stationery to schoolchildren of ministry employees.

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H1N1 claims sixth victim

SIX people have died in the past eight days from H1N1 influenza, including two 5-year old girls, with 39 people so far confirmed to have contracted the H1N1 virus, the Myanmar health min-

istry said yesterday.

"Out of the patients who were receiving medical care for the seasonal influenza H1N1, a 5-year-old girl died on 24th July at Yangon Children's Hospital,

a 5-year-old girl died at Thingangyun Sanpya Hospital on 25th July and a 34-year-old man died at Thingangyun Sanpya Hospital on Thursday morning," according to a statement re-

leased by the Ministry of Health and Sports yesterday.

Most of the confirmed cases were in Yangon, but 10 people were found to have contracted

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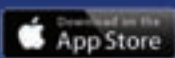
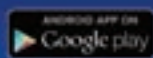


NATIONAL

Migrant worker agencies to be graded on adherence to labour standards

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Mediation law, power-generating turbine discussed at Pyithu Hluttaw

The possibility of a Mediation Law that could ease the backlog of lawsuit and a turbine that will generate 25 megawatts of electricity were among the issues discussed at yesterday's meeting of the Pyithu Hluttaw in Naw Pyi Taw.

A total of four questions were answered, one bill was put forward to the Hluttaw, receipt of 2 bills was acknowledged and one motion was discussed.

U Mya Thein, Judge of the Union Supreme Court, replied to a query by U Aung Sein of Dawei constituency as to whether there are any plans to draw up the Mediation Law so as to reduce the number of suits in courts of justice, especially civil cases of civilian versus civilian and public versus governmental organisations.

U Mya Thein said media-



U Nay Myo Htet. PHOTO: MNA

tion is already being performed in the court system without an official mediation law.

"The Union Supreme Court has been working on a process of a mediating system under the leadership of courts of justice in the strategy plan on judgment



Dr Tun Naing. PHOTO: MNA

from 2015 to 2017 with a view to reducing crimes and upgrading the reach of justice. The Union Supreme Court has been studying application of successful ways which will be in harmony with Myanmar's crime management system. Accordingly,



U Mya Thein. PHOTO: MNA

there is not yet a plan to draw up a Mediation Law."

Afterwards, Dr Tun Naing, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy, replied to a question raised by U Nay Myo Htet of Kyauktada constituency.

"A contract to purchase the

25 megawatt trailer-mounted dual-fuel turbine on 25th May 2017 and installation had been made on 23rd June 2017. Though it was targeted to launch a "full-load test run" on 8th July 2017, the 45th day of the original target, it could not be performed at the designated date due to the breakdown of (LFCV) Liquid Fuel Control Valve of Liquid Fuel System and Backplane Control Card of Control System, hence no production of power during the designated period. On 25th July 2017 a full-load test was successfully driven, producing 26.2 megawatts. And it will be driven to the stage of full-power capacity. Efforts have been made to be ready for the coming summer, when power consumption in Yangon Region is at its peak".
—Myanmar News Agency ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

Bridge across Zaw Gyi River, upgrade of Ooyintaw-Nyaungbungyi Road discussed at Amyotha Hluttaw

A bridge across the Zaw Gyi River between Kyungyi Villager and Kin Village in Ywangan Township, Danu Self-Administered Zone and the upgrade of Ooyintaw-Nyaungbungyi Road connecting Ooyintaw Village and Nyaungbungyi Village in Ottwin Township were among the issues discussed at yesterday's meeting of the Amyotha Hluttaw in Nya Pyi Taw.

In response to a question raised by Daw Ma Ma Lay of Shan State constituency 8 on a plan to construct a bridge across Zaw Gyi River between Kyungyi and Kin villages in Ywangan Township, Danu Self-Administered Zone, the Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut said the planned 270-feet long bridge could not be constructed with the regional development fund. It is a type of work that can be conducted only by the Special Bridge Group (of the Ministry of Construction), the Deputy Minister said.

Next, U Min Oo of Bago constituency 8 asked about the plan to upgrade the Ooyintaw-Nyaungbungyi Road connecting Ooyintaw and Nyaungbungyi villages in Ottwin Township, to which Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw said the connecting road is two miles, seven furlongs long, of which seven furlongs is



U Min Oo. PHOTO: MNA

tarred. The plan is to tar a mile of the remaining two miles with Ks21.12 million in FY 2017-2018, but the funds were not included in the budget and thus could not be upgraded. The upgrade will be conducted depending upon prioritisation of States and Regions, the Deputy Minister said.

Similarly, questions by U Whey Tin of Chin constituency 11, U Aung Myo of Sagaing Region constituency 2 and U Khun Thein Pe of Shan State constituency 9 were answered by Deputy Ministers of Ministry of Border Affairs and Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

Afterward, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than took the decision of the hluttaw on the Myanmar Company bill paragraph by paragraph, which was confirmed by the hluttaw.



Daw Ma Ma Lay. PHOTO: MNA

The bill was tabled for confirmation by Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win and discussed in support by U Mya Min Swe of Bago Region constituency 9. The hluttaw announced its confirmation.

A bill to amend the 1993 narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances law was then tabled by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe, Amyotha Hluttaw bill committee secretary Dr. Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region constituency 3 read the bill committee report and the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced that interested hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the bill should submit their names.

Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Aung Soe said the law was enacted on 27 January 1993 and



Maj-Gen Aung Soe. PHOTO: MNA

was in practice for more than 20 years. In order to make it more appropriate with current situations, starting from 2014, a group formed with international experts, legal experts from international organisations, and similar experts drew up a bill amending the law that is in line with international standards and norms.

The bill was sent to Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the Union Attorney General's office for comments and remarks, after which it was submitted to the President's office. The President's office sent the bill back to the first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw with seven suggestions on 24 June 2015. As there wasn't sufficient time for the hluttaw to handle the matter during its remaining



U Whey Tin. PHOTO: MNA

term, the bill was sent back to the government.

Starting from 4 May 2016, the bill was reviewed by the incumbent government and comments and suggestions requested from Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, eight related ministries, 10 working groups, states and regions drug abuse control groups, local non-government organisations and the Union Attorney General's office.

Furthermore, the bill was published in the newspapers on 17, 18, 19 and 20 March, enabling the public to comment and make suggestions on the bill. The bill to amend the 1993 narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances law is now being submitted to Amyotha Hluttaw for discussion, said the Deputy Minister.
—Myanmar News Agency ■



Speaker U Win Myint waters the plant. **PHOTO: MNA**



Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than plants the tree. **PHOTO: MNA**

Hluttaw offices plant trees for monsoon season

Hluttaw offices held a ceremony to plant trees yesterday in the compound of the Hluttaw.

The “Monsoon season trees planting ceremony” was participated by Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than, Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat and Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Thar Aung, chairmen and members of the Hluttaw committees.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Media Sector Development Meeting Held

For the development of media sector, the meeting between representatives from news media organizations including Myanmar Press Council co-sponsored by the Tatmadaw true news information team and spokesperson and the media team of the Ministry of Information was held at 1 pm on July 27, at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information, in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting Dr Pe Myint, Union Minister for Information said about the performances of the Ministry for the development of media sector, efforts to acquire the right of news coverage more than ever, matters on discussions to be submitted by media-men as to what they want to make and they do not want to make, the problems being experienced currently by media-men, and expectations which will come out from this meeting.

Major General Myint Nwe, Deputy Minister for Defense said about Tatmadaw-run media's news broadcasting likewise



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint addresses the Media Sector Development Meeting. **PHOTO: MNA**

State-run media's efforts with a view to sending the news to the public to keep up with the time, making news releases occasionally through the Tatmadaw true news information team formed systematically for the smoothness of news flow, making replies to the questions raised concerning with the State, the People and Tatmadaw and receiving news-media men by the Commander-in-Chief of the

Defense Service himself depending upon availability.

Major General Aung Ye Win, director of the Department of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare under the Ministry of Defense and deputy chairman of Tatmadaw true news information team explained about the formation of Tatmadaw true news information team, set-up of leading and working committees, amounts

of Tatmadaw media and broadcasting programmes, on-line face-book social media pages of the Tatmadaw, Tatmadaw's major tasks and national cause, situations on Tatmadaw's stance over public relations and media, holding news conferences, invitation of news media in the programmes of Tatmadaw training, matters which would like to inform the media and situations on releasing military

operation news.

U Aung Hla Tun, vice-chairman (1) of Myanmar Press Council said the media ethics, truth, necessities of accuracy, fairness, freedom from bias and timely presentation of the news to the public, failure to gain success without co-operation with the remaining three panels, need to contact with authorities concerned for the acquisition of information of great importance in time for the action and potential violation of media ethics as for the media men.

Afterwards, responsible personnel from Myanmar journalists Association, Myanmar Press Union, Myanmar Journalists Network, Tatmadaw true news information team and Myanmar Press Council discussed respectively.

At today's meeting, matters on building up understanding and trust among the State, Tatmadaw and news media, and smoothness of releasing news, were frankly discussed.—MNA ■

France to speed up visa approval for Myanmar nationals

The waiting time for tourist visas to France will be reduced from 10 days to only 48 hours for Myanmar citizens, an effort by the European country to boost tourism, it was announced on Wednesday.

Myanmar was one of eight countries for which visa delivery

time was reduced by the French government.

In addition to Myanmar, France will cut visa delivery time to 48 hours for citizens of Russia, India, Thailand, the Philippines, Cambodia, Laos and Indonesia, Prime Minister Edouard Philippe said on Wednesday.

After a drop in 2016 following a wave of attacks that hit Paris and Nice, tourist numbers are rebounding this year. France is eyeing a record of as many as 89 million foreign tourists, up from 83 million last year, and 100 million visitors in 2020.

Starting on 1 November, cit-

izens of the eight countries will see the time to get a visa - which now takes around 10 days or so, more in peak season - fall to 48 hours.

This measure, which is already in place for a few other countries, including Qatar, would be extended to Saudi Arabia and

Vietnam next year if a change in EU visa procedures for those countries allow it.

The French government also said it would assign more staff to airport passport checks to limit waiting time to 30 minutes for EU citizens and 45 minutes for non-EU citizens.—Reuters ■

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

ACTING CHIEF EDITOR

Aye Min Soe,
ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

EXPATRIATE CONSULTANT EDITOR

Mark Angeles,
markrangeles@gmail.com

SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT

Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORS

Khin Maung Oo,
editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Khin Maung Win (Chief Proof Reader),
Zaw Min, zawmin.gnlm@gmail.com

INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR

Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

LOCAL NEWS EDITORS

Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com

TRANSLATORS

Khaing Thanda Lwin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Hay Mar Tin Win,
translator@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Ei Myat Mon
Zaw Htet Oo
Kyaw Zin Lin
Sandar Soe
Kyaw Zin Tun

REPORTERS

May Thet Hnin,
mayreporter.mmm@gmail.com
Tun Aung Kyaw,
reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

PHOTOGRAPHER

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAM

Tun Zaw (Chief of Computer Team),
Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin

EDITORIAL SECTION

(+95) (01) 8604529,
Fax — (+95) (01) 8604305

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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US\$400 million Chinese investment proposed for 33 agricultural extension centers

By May Thet Hnin

MYANMAR's Agribusiness Public Corporation (MAPCO), the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) and the China CITIC Construction Group submitted a US\$400 million proposal to Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) to construct the 33 agribusiness service centers in states and regions.

"We will construct the 33 agribusiness service centers as soon as possible," said Dr. Soe Tun, the MRF vice chairman. "Currently, we are waiting for the permission from MIC. The estimated cost of the whole project is US\$400 million. Now, we are seeking contracts for international loans."

The agribusiness service centers will provide services including the sale of pedigree seeds, fertilizer, and graineries services. The centers will also provide technical assistance and contract farming services.

The centers will be constructed in Yangon, Ayeyawady, Bago and Mandalay regions and Mon, Kayin and Shan States and in Nay Pyi Taw. MAPCO, MRF and the China CITIC Construction Group signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in



A woman growing pea plants on the field. The agribusiness service centers will be constructed in states and regions. **PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE**

Nay Pyi Taw on 21 July.

"We will conduct the feasibility study with the cooperation of CITIC Construction Group. Then, we will write a proposal and the Chinese company will submit our proposal to the Chinese government," said Dr. Soe Tun.

"As a local farmer, I would be very happy to see agribusi-

ness service centers in our region," said U Soe Tint, a local cultivator from Shwebo Township.

"If we have a drying machine, we can save the time and labour. Our main problem is insufficiency of the agricultural loans. The government provided loans amounting to Ks150,000 per acre. But in ac-

tual practice, farming costs us Ks400,000 per acre. Therefore, we have to think of other ways to borrow money.

We have to buy the fertilizers under credit system. The traders also buy rice at low price. So it is better to get the loans with a longer repayment period like 3 years for example." ■

MPF plans to manufacture Ks40 billion worth medicines in fiscal 2017-2018

Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (MPF) will manufacture Ks40 billion worth medicines in fiscal 2017-2018, according to a report in the City News Daily yesterday.

MPF, formerly known as Burma Pharmaceutical Industry (BPI), plans to scale up its pharmaceutical manufacture to generate more revenue and to

fulfill domestic demand at lower prices. MPF initiated its expansion plan in 2015 by installing its factory with improved equipment. Currently, MPF manufactures 13 per cent of Myanmar's domestic pharmaceutical supply with an outlay of Ks17.27 billion in FY2015-2016. MPF plans to invest Ks40 billion in pharmaceutical production in FY2017-2018.

MPF has already lined up demand letters from government agencies including the Ministry of Health and Sport, the Ministry of Defence and Yangon Workers' Hospital. MPF also sells their products in MPF drug stores. MPF also sells its products at Yangon General Hospital, Yangon Workers' Hospital, licensed private drug stores and

private hospitals and at various non-profit clinics and dispensaries. Civil society organizations are also allowed to purchase MPF products from the Ministry of Industry.

MPF manufactured 11 categories of medicine in FY2016-2017. MPF will introduce six additional pharmaceutical products this fiscal year.—City News

An eco-tourism destination to be opened in Bago Yoma

An eco-tourism destination will be opened in the Bago Yoma mountain ranges in the Bago Region starting on 29 July, according to a report in the City News Daily yesterday.

"Eco-tourism is an impor-

tant part of our green tourism," said U Hla Myint, director of the Tourism Promotion Department of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism during a 24 July meeting at the Novotel Hotel in Yangon.

The Phyto Sithu Company

will manage the eco-tourism project. Tourists will visit local ethnic communities, visit the elephants' hospital, go bird-watching and ride bicycles and elephants.

The Forestry Department will also participate in moni-

toring the eco-tourism project, said U Kyaw Min Htet, the joint general secretary of Myanmar Tourism Federation.

Myanmar has implemented 14 community-based tourism projects and 21 eco-tourism projects.—City News

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Visitors look at the electronic board showing the stock exchange rate at Yangon Stock Exchange on 15 May 2017. PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAH

Yangon Stock Exchange Expo slated for September in Yangon

The Yangon Stock Exchange Expo is scheduled to be held at the Park Royal Hotel in Yangon on 10 September, according to a report of yesterday's edition of City News.

The expo will explore the benefits of stockholding to the public and promote investment in listed companies.

Four companies currently trade on YSE and will be featured at the expo.

The expo will also include panels of economic and legal experts, lucky draw events and quiz programs.

On 27 July, a total of 7,984 shares with estimated worth of Ks46 million were traded

by four companies, First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB) and First Private Bank (FPB).

Closing stock prices were Ks15,500 for FMI, Ks3,900 for MTSH, Ks9,000 for MCB and Ks25,000 for FPB.—GNLM ■

Ks 11 billion worth of goods traded by ITC holders at border checkpoints as of mid July this FY

Border trade under the Individual Trading Card (ITC) system between 1 April and 14 July was estimated at Ks 11 billion. Export value under the ITC system as of 14 July FY was Ks 687 million, compared to Ks 11 billion in ITC imports, according to the statistics provided by the Commerce Ministry.

The Trade Department issues the cards to boost border trade. Cardholders are permitted to conduct over-the-border trade up to Ks 15 million a day.

Myawady and Kanpiket-

ee land ports of entry saw the largest trade value using the ITC among all border stations.

ITC border trade values as of 14 July were Ks 351 million in Tamu, Ks 6.7 million in Muse, Ks 8.7 billion in Myawady, Ks 499 million in Tachilek, Ks 54 million in Lweje, Ks 4 million in Chinshwehaw, Ks 746 million in Kan Pike Tee, Ks 221 million in Kawthoung, Ks 182 million in Reed, Ks 474 million in Maw Taung and Ks 48million in Kengtung respectively, according to official Commerce Ministry figures.

The Trade Department issued 53 Individual Trading Cards (ITC) from 1 April to 14 July, according to an announcement yesterday released by the Commerce Ministry.

The Trade Department issued 1,317 cards so far, comprising 292 cards from 21 Nov 2012 to 31 March 2013, 261 cards in FY 2013-2014, 317 cards in FY 2014-2015, 146 cards in FY 2015-2016 and 248 cards in FY 2016-2017 and 53 cards as of 14 July this FY, according to the Commerce Ministry.—Ko Khant ■

OCCI discussed with Myanmar businessmen for economic cooperation

A Japanese delegation led by Mr. Hiakru Kohama, Deputy Manger of the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) International Division met with Myanmar entrepreneurs at Union of Myanmar

Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) on 25 July.

The Japan delegation included representatives from retail, wholesale, ICT, energy transportation service, archi-

tecture and design, chemical production enterprises and shipping sectors.

Present at the meeting were U Thein Han, vice president of UMFCCI and other business people.—GNLM ■

New automobile restrictions reduces vehicle imports

NEW car import rules reduced vehicle imports this year compared to previous years, according to yesterday's report of Myawady Daily.

Currently, vehicles are imported by using permits that replace de-registered, used cars. As many Myanmar residents

have already taken advantage of this process, there is currently fewer older cars and less demand for replacement import licences. In addition, demand has been reduced by an import taxes on new vehicles, according to Ko Kyaw Kyaw, a car dealer.—GNLM ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း "Sunday Special" အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈)
မျက်နှာပါဝင်သော The Global New Light of Myanmar
နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကို အောက်ပါမြို့များတွင် ဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

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Hotline - 09974424848
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State Counsellor's office: 1st anniversary

FROM PAGE-1

The reason for establishment of the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor is mainly to implement the principles submitted to the public prior to the general elections, said the State Counsellor.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi made a concerted effort for the improvement of people's lives by prioritising national reconciliation and peace, stability and rule of law in the country.

"Only if the government can accomplish the task will the people trust the government", she said.

"Now is the time to change. Time to change means that we are required to change our mind-

sets".

The State Counsellor said that without changing their mindsets, the government cannot effectively change the country.

Therefore, it is important for each ministry, each government department to have the ability to tackle the problems that occur. When the Ministry of the State Counsellor's Office was formed, it was formed with the view to tackle both expected and unexpected challenges, she added.

The people's government needs to face the comments and critics courageously and correctly. A government elected by the people ought to face the criticism of the people and respect it. A

good government that became a government by persuading for people's votes does not ignore the people's desire after it becomes a government, said the State Counsellor.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi also pledged that the government would strive together with all for progress that is aimed truthfully for the government and the country, saying there is a need to set a good example.

In conclusion, she called for the employees of the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor to take the opportunity with pride and happiness, urging all to strive together for peace and prosperity of the country.—GNLM ■

Trees planted at Ministry of Foreign Affairs to commemorate 50th Anniversary of ASEAN

The Commemorative Monsoon Tree Planting Ceremony was held on the front lawn of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday to mark the 50th Anniversary of the founding of ASEAN.

The event was attended by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin, Permanent Secretary U Kyaw Zeya,

Director-General, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials.

Minister of State U Kyaw Tin, Permanent Secretary U Kyaw Zeya and Director-General U Myint Thu planted eugenia, gangaw and padauk trees, respectively, to commemorate ASEAN. A total of 150 rare tree saplings were planted.—Ministry of Foreign Affairs ■

Myanmar delegation attends ASEAN Information Sector meeting



A Myanmar delegation comprised of U Myo Myint Maung, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Information, and U Zayar, director of MRTV, attended the 18th SCI Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 25th to 27th July.

The meeting was held annually, with a different ASEAN country each year acting as the host country, in order to assess and discuss situations on the implementation of the projects in the information sector of the ASEAN sub-committee on culture and information. Present at the meeting were chairmen

of sub-committees on culture and information of ASEAN member countries and representatives, presided over by Malaysia and co-presided by Myanmar.

At the meeting, assessments and discussions over activities and decisions on information from the meetings of various sectors concerning ASCC (ASEAN Social and Cultural Circle) Panel held were made, it has been learnt.

The 19th SCI Meeting to be held in 2018 will be hosted by Myanmar.—Myanmar News Agency ■



New school buses are seen in Yangon. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT

Korea helps Yangon establish modern, safe school bus fleet

By Min Thit (MNA)

A ceremony was held yesterday to recognize the Republic of Korea's provision of new school buses to the Yangon Region at People's Park, Yangon.

The school buses were manufactured by Hyundai and purchased through a Myanmar and Korea agreement that will include an investment of Ks5 billion and the formation of a public company called Shwe Let Company. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein said Shwe Let Co. will manage the

school bus system.

The ceremony was attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon region Minister for Electricity, Industry, Road and Communication Daw Nilar Kyaw, Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Kim Jung Hwan and Hyundai Motor Company General Manager Mr. Kang, who handed over the bus keys.

The Chief Minister said this is the first step toward a modern school bus system to replace dangerous flatbed trucks currently in use throughout the city.

Shwe Let Co. will manage the bus fleet and procure subcontractor services. Yangon Region government will put the buses into service by September.

"There are 200 buses and arrangements are made to replace some existing school buses while routes are being drawn up," said Yangon Region Transport Authority Secretary Dr. Maung Aung said. "Female drivers will be prioritized to drive these school buses and trainings will be provided. It is important for the people to trust and accept the system." ■

H1N1 claims sixth victim

FROM PAGE-1

the virus earlier this month in Matupi, Chin State, in remote northwestern Myanmar. The ministry later announced that an 8-year-old boy who died in Matupi with respiratory problems is suspected to have also caught the H1N1 virus, also known as swine flu.

The Ministry of Health and Sports urged everyone to follow their recommended precautionary measures, which include avoiding crowds, frequent washing of hands, use of disposable tissues when sneezing and coughing, and thorough cleaning of utensils and plates before use. The ministry

has also instructed responsible personnel in schools, factories, hotels and homes for the aged to monitor the health condition of residents and workers, and to watch for those who develop a fever.

Health officials have sought to calm fears among the public over the outbreak, which has seen stores in Yangon sell out of surgical masks.

They point out that H1N1 has been among the strains of flu circulating in Myanmar seasonally since a global pandemic in 2009, although deaths from the virus have not been reported in recent years.—GNLM ■

N Korea militarily quiet on war anniversary amid missile fears

BEIJING/SEOUL — North Korea was quiet militarily on Thursday as it and South Korea marked the 64th anniversary of the signing of the armistice that ended the 1950-53 Korean War.

South Korean officials said there was no sign of an imminent missile launch by its communist neighbor. Still, government and defence officials in the region continued to be on high alert over possible saber-rattling by North Korea around the commemoration, following recent satellite-based information showing that it may be preparing for another ballistic missile test.

In celebrating the anniversary of what North

Korea calls “victory” day, the country’s leading newspaper, Rodong Sinmun, threatened the United States again with “a pre-emptive nuclear strike” if it tries to undermine “our dignity and the right to live.”

“No matter how desperately the United States may try, it can never evade its final ruin already sealed,” the paper said in a commentary. “There is only one way out for the United States. That is to withdraw the anachronistic hostile policy toward (North Korea) and kneel and apologize before its army and people.”

The armistice signed on 27 July, 1953, ended open fighting, but a formal peace

treaty has never been in place, leaving the Korean Peninsula in a technical state of war, divided at the 38th Parallel, now one of the world’s most heavily militarized borders.

North Korea, claiming it won in what it calls “the Fatherland Liberation War” against the US-led UN and South Korean forces, has long demanded a security guarantee from Washington.

Despite being faced with multiple sanctions by the international community, North Korea has shown no signs of abandoning its ambition to develop a nuclear-tipped missile capable of striking as far as the US mainland. —Kyodo News ■



South Korean Prime Minister Lee Nak Yon delivers a speech during a ceremony in Seoul on 27 July, 2017, marking the 64th anniversary of the signing of the armistice that ended the Korean War. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

US transfers surveillance planes to the Philippines

MANILA — The United States on Thursday transferred to the Philippines two brand-new, single-engine surveillance planes, boosting the capability of its former colony to patrol sprawling maritime borders, including pirate-infested southern waters.

At a ceremony at an air base in Manila, Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said two Cessna 208B aircraft were fitted with electro-optical sensors and other surveillance equipment to detect ships in the South China Sea and the Sulu Sea.

“These planes will give us more capability to patrol our seas and guard against intrusions,” Lorenzana said. “These are not spy planes, only surveillance aircraft, because they are not stealth.”

The military variant of the plane can operate for hours at an altitude of

25,000 feet (7,620 metres) and has a range of 1,000 nautical miles (1,852 kilometres).

The planes, worth about \$2 million each, can also be used against Islamist militants in Marawi City on the southern island of Mindanao. But the whole package costs \$30 million, including the surveillance, intelligence and reconnaissance (ISR) gear. Philippine troops have been battling hundreds of pro-Islamic State militants who seized Marawi City on 23 May, killing nearly 600 people and displacing close to 500,000 residents in Lanao del Sur.

Military spokesman Brigadier-General Restituto Padilla said the United States decided last year to transfer the planes under its \$425-million Maritime Security Initiative to help Southeast Asian countries tackle

regional security challenges, including China’s assertiveness in the South China Sea.

The Philippines got more than 80 per cent of the \$49.72 million allocated in 2016 under the MSI programme, a reward after Manila agreed to allow the United States access to its five bases.

Two Eagle Scan unmanned aerial vehicles will also be donated by September to help tactical units defeat Islamist militants. In February, Washington also donated hand-held Raven drones to the Philippine Marines operating against the Abu Sayyaf militants on the southern island of Jolo.

The military said it had bought hundreds of 500-pound bombs and unspecified rockets from the United States to replenish its inventory, depleted by daily bomb runs in Marawi City. —Reuters ■

Britain and Australia urge China to do more on North Korea threat

SYDNEY — Britain and Australia urged China on Thursday to do more to persuade North Korea to drop its nuclear and missile programmes.

Earlier this month North Korea, which has warned Australia could be the target of a strike, said it had conducted its first test of an intercontinental ballistic missile, which experts say could reach Alaska.

The United States and other countries have indicated frustration that China, North Korea’s sole major ally, has not done

more to rein in the regime of Kim Jung Un.

“With international influence comes responsibility. It is now for Beijing to use the influence it has over the North Korean regime to get it to abandon its programme,” British Defence Secretary Michael Fallon told reporters in Sydney.

North Korea has been under UN sanctions since 2006 over its ballistic missile and nuclear programmes and the Security Council has ratcheted up measures in response to five nuclear weapons tests

and two long-range missile launches.

Fallon said North Korea continues to receive help in developing its missile and nuclear ambitions as he called on enforcement of the sanctions.

North Korea’s missile and nuclear programme was a central element of the fourth annual meeting of Australia and British ministers. “We are seeing a level of uncertainty that we have not witnessed in a very long time,” Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop told reporters in Sydney. —Reuters ■



It is time for Special Rapporteur to act with prudence

By Dr Tha Sein

The situation in the Rakhine has reached an extremely dangerous phase with the continuous killing of civilians and the state has been racked by violence in recent months. Journalists who have reported from Rakhine State confirmed that many Muslim villagers have been killed by Muslim militants who turned the region into a hotbed of violence.

Muslim villagers described to Reuters earlier this year how Harakah al-Yaqin (HaY), or Faith Movement, began as a small group of leaders who recruited hundreds of young men in the

run-up to the October attack. Anthony Davis, a security analyst with Jane's at HIS-Markit, said the militants appeared to be regrouping and attempting to eliminate potential intelligence liabilities and to a degree to intimidate waverers among the population.

It is the unshakable will of Myanmar to go to the end if the militants want to remain unchanged in their violent stance. The area clearance operations of the government are an exercise of its legitimate right to resolve the problems that are a legacy of decades of internal conflict, isolation, and underdevelopment and defend peace and stability in the country and

the region at large.

The recent Special Rapporteur's end of mission statement on the Rakhine situation was met with public objections across a large section of the country. The statement is a clear manifestation of the heinous intention to inflame, rather than resolve, the complex and challenging situation that confronts the country. It is time for the Special Rapporteur to renew her perspective on Myanmar's stance towards the Rakhine situation and to act with prudence.

Myanmar, a peace-loving country, cherishes peace and places a great value for peace. It will face acts of terror

with firmness and determination and an indomitable spirit. It would be a big mistake to think that Myanmar would tolerate such violent acts as it is in the process of modernizing its deterrent capability as a vital way to pursue peace through strength.

We may thus see the historical significance of the measures taken by Myanmar that rose to a dignified country in the face of pressure. The country should abide by and promote social norms for equality and fairness, and allow the traditions of honesty and generosity to come to life while safeguarding its dignity in the present hostile world. ■

Wilderness areas are being destroyed but the World Heritage Convention can protect them

Only 1.8 percent of wilderness in global World Heritage sites currently protected, but many opportunities to increase this

This article is provided by University of Queensland

A University of Queensland-led international study published today urges the UNESCO World Heritage Convention to better conserve wilderness areas within Natural World Heritage Sites.

Lead author and UQ PhD student in the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences James Allan said the study revealed that only 1.8 per cent of the world's wilderness is protected in these sites.

Mr Allan said while some sites like the Okavango Delta in Botswana and Purnululu National Park in Australia both had excellent wilderness coverage, there were broad gaps in wilderness coverage across the globe.

The study identifies protected areas within these gaps, for example the Hukaung Valley Tiger Reserve in Myanmar or Eduardo Avaroa Andean Fauna Reserve in Bolivia that have good wilderness coverage and may warrant consideration for World Heritage Status.

Globally important wilderness areas are increasingly being shown as not only strongholds for endangered biodiversity, but critical in the fight to abate climate change, for regulating local climates, and supporting many of the world's most culturally diverse but politically and eco-

nomically marginalised communities, according to Mr Allan.

"Despite their importance, wilderness areas are being destroyed at an alarming rate and need urgent protection.

"The World Heritage Convention has the ability to do this by improving wilderness coverage within Natural World Heritage Sites."

Natural World Heritage Sites (NWHS), via the formal process run by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), are globally recognised as containing some of Earth's most valuable and most threatened natural assets.

Senior author Associate Professor James Watson of UQ and the Wildlife Conservation Society said wilderness conservation had been almost completely ignored in environmental policy.

"There is not just an important opportunity but an urgent need for a global environmental convention to recognise the importance of conserving wilderness before it is too late," Dr Watson said.

"The World Heritage Convention can better achieve its own objectives by increasing wilderness coverage within NWHS, which in turn will raise the profile of wilderness conservation globally, and provide wilderness areas with additional protection they need. It is a win-win situation."



PHOTO: WCS



The Hukaung Reserve is home to 35 species of mammals, such as the Indochinese tiger, Indochinese leopard, Indian elephant and bears and monkeys; over 370 species of birds; 46 species of frogs; 37 species of fresh water fish; four species of turtle; many species of butterfly and 13,500 plant species.

The Hukawng Valley Tiger Reserve covers 21,890 square kilometres. The Myanmar government has also designated 6,500 square kilometres of the valley as a protected forest reserve.

Myanmar is home to a rich variety of habitats and ecosystems, including 14 terrestrial ecoregions supporting 233 globally threatened species. Among those species are 37 that are critically endangered and 65 that are endangered. The country contains large expanses of species-rich and globally threatened ecosystems, such as lowland tropical forests and mangrove ecosystems, which are critically threatened elsewhere in the region.



Embassy of Egypt celebrates National Day

Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo is welcomed by H.E. Mr. Khaled Mohamed Abdelrahman Abdelsalam, Ambassador of Egypt at a ceremony to mark the Egypt National Day which was held in Melia Hotel in Yangon on 27 July.—Myanmar News Agency

Myanmar female worker raped in Thailand

A Myanmar female migrant worker in Thailand was allegedly abducted and raped by a Thai driver near Ban Phaeo, Samut Sakhon Province on 24 July.

The alleged victim is a 19-year-old Mon State native and was returning to work in Bangkok in a van ferrying

people between Maesot and Mahachai. The alleged attack occurred in a motel.

The alleged victim reported the incident to Myanmar Embassy Labour Attache U Moe Aung Khaing by phone, who informed the Mahachai Police, who arrested the driver.— Soe Win-MLA

Correction

The captions for the two photos that accompanied the story headlined “State Counsellor receives UNDP Country Director, Israeli Agriculture Economics Professor” on page three of yesterday’s edition of the Global New Light of Myanmar were incorrect. The caption for the photo on the left should read: “State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes Israeli ambassador H.E. Daniel Zonshine in Nay Pyi Taw”. The caption for the photo on the right should read: “State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with UNDP Country Director, Mr. Peter Batchelor. — Myanmar News Agency

Migrant worker agencies to be graded on adherence to labour standards

By May Thet Hnin

A committee will be formed to prevent abuses by and protect migrant workers against unscrupulous overseas employment agencies, according to the Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation.

Committee members will include a representative from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, an anti-trafficking police officer, a legal expert, a labour expert, a representative from overseas employment agencies, a migrant labour representative and an independent representative, said U Win Tun, the vice chairman of the Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation. Overseas employment agencies and the International Labour Organization participated in drafting a code of conduct to govern agencies. About 114 overseas employment agencies have ratified the code of conduct since its creation in August 2016. The code is based on the legal framework for responsible business practices in Myanmar’s apparel sector. The



Myanmar migrant workers sort shrimp at a wholesale market for shrimp and other seafood in Mahachai, in Samut Sakhon province, Thailand, July 4, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

federation plans to issue rankings of overseas employment agencies on 19 August.

“Our Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation (MOEAF) will give grades to agencies according to the Code of Conduct, CoC,” said U Win Tun. There are three sets of criteria to determine whether agencies are following labour rules and regulations. While there is no plan yet to take legal action against scofflaws, those who fail to meet agreed standards will be made

public and known to migrant workers for their protection.

“Overseas labour agencies need to act in a correct way and show transparency in dealing with workers and international employers,” said U Win Shein, the director-general of the labour department under the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population at a 16 July overseas employment agencies meeting. In 2016, 25,320 women and 56,306 men from Myanmar used overseas employment agencies. ■

VisionFund brings micro finance to Myitkyina

People living in Myitkyina, the capital city of Kachin State, have improved access to responsible microfinance thanks to a partnership between VisionFund Myanmar and the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT) through World Vision. The branch was officially opened by representatives from VisionFund and local authorities recently.

With around 32 per cent of the country’s population still living below the poverty line, VisionFund focuses on serving rural areas that are financially under served and bringing about positive change in communities and families living in poverty.

“VisionFund seeks to lift people out of poverty by providing microfinance to improve small businesses. With the right support, entrepreneurial families have the potential to not just help themselves but benefit their



entire community,” says Rommel Caringal, Chief Executive Officer of VisionFund Myanmar. “We are already making great progress in serving the people of Myitkyina and look forward to doing more in helping unlock the economic potential in the area,” he adds.

VisionFund is also known for its emphasis on providing quality financial services to vulnerable communities with a special focus on empowering women.

As a subsidiary of World Vi-

sion, the MFT’s vision is to ensure the wellbeing of children in poor communities through its microfinance work. “It is our intention to expand our operations to meet the needs of the most vulnerable families and communities.

We will look to empower more women through this process and thereby ensure children are better cared for and protected,” Says Suresh Bartlett, National Director of World Vision Myanmar. —GNLM ■

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

Putin signs law on ratification of Russia air force grouping in Syria

MOSCOW — President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday signed a federal law on ratification of a protocol to the agreement on deploying an air force grouping of the Russian Armed Forces in Syria.

The document was published at the official website of legislative information.

The protocol, which the Russian and Syrian officials signed of 18 January, 2017, in Damascus says that Syria transfers to Russia on terms of gratuitous use until the dates of expiry of the agreement a land plot at Hmeymim air base and the installations located there.

The document aims to lay down the international legal grounds that will regulate the terms of deployment of the Russia air force grouping in Syria and will provide for the strengthening Russia and Syria's defense capability proceeding from their mutual intention to consolidate defense cooperation.

The protocol also spells out the conditions for Russia's jurisdiction over its air force group in the places of its deployments,



Russian President Vladimir Putin . PHOTO: TASS

and the issues related to the status of Russian servicemen, members of their families and civilian personnel.

The document specifies immunities and privileges, as

well as the mechanisms for assistance on the issues of jurisdiction and legal aid on cases pertaining to civilian, criminal and administrative offenses.

The protocol says the agreement shall have legal effect over a period of 49 years and will have an automatic prolongation for periods of 25 years subsequently.—Tass ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Trump may sign Russia sanctions bill, or seek 'tougher deal' — aide

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump could veto pending legislation imposing new sanctions on Russia in order to push "an even tougher deal," White House Communications Director Anthony Scaramucci said on Thursday.

"He may sign the sanctions exactly the way they are or he may veto the sanctions and negotiate a even tougher deal against the Russians," Scaramucci told CNN in an interview.—Reuters ■

Turkey wants to avoid fallout from German tensions, PM tells executives

ISTANBUL — Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim told executives from German companies in Turkey that his country wanted to prevent political tensions damaging their economic ties.

Yildirim said Ankara did not want the political tensions to escalate and that it was important for politicians to ensure that their disputes did not spill over and harm commerce.—Reuters ■

Britain plans to send warship to S China Sea in move likely to irk Beijing

SYDNEY — Britain plans to send a warship to the disputed South China Sea next year to conduct freedom of navigation exercises, Defence Minister Michael Fallon said on Thursday, a move likely to anger Beijing.

Britain would increase its presence in the waters after it sent four British fighter planes for joint exercises with Japan in the region last year, he said.

China claims most of the energy-rich sea where neighbours Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Viet Nam also have claims.

"We hope to send a warship to region next year. We have not finalised exactly where that deployment will take place but we won't be constrained by China from sailing through the South China Sea," Fallon told Reuters.

"We have the right of freedom of navigation and we will exercise it."

The presence of a British vessel threatens to stoke tensions, escalated by China's naval build-up and its increasingly assertive stance.

China's construction of islands and military facilities in the South China Sea has stoked international condemnation, amid concern Beijing is seeking to restrict free movement and extend its strategic reach.

Britain's move could also upset ties between London and Beijing, undermining efforts to shore up what the two governments have called a "golden era" in their relationship as Britain heads towards a divorce with the European Union.

"We flew RAF Typhoons

through the South China Sea last October and we will exercise that right whenever we next have the opportunity to do so, whenever we have ships or planes in the region," Fallon said.

The United States estimates Beijing has added more than 3,200 acres (1,300 hectares) on seven features in the South China Sea over the past three years, building runways, ports, aircraft hangars and communications equipment.

To counter the perceived Chinese aggression, the United States has conducted regular freedom of navigation exercises that have angered Beijing.

Earlier this month, the United States sent two bombers over the region, coming just a few months after it sent a warship

to carry out a manoeuvring drill within 12 nautical miles of one of China's artificial islands.

China has repeatedly denounced efforts by countries from outside the region to get involved in the South China Sea dispute.

The South China Sea is expected to dominate a regional security meeting in Manila next week, where Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi will meet counterparts from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries.

Meeting ASEAN diplomats in Beijing on Wednesday, Wang told them both sides must "exclude disturbances on the South China Sea issue, and maintain positive momentum", China's Foreign Ministry said.—Reuters ■

Three dead as Venezuela's anti-Maduro strike goes into second day

CARACAS — Three people died during clashes on the first day of an opposition-led strike against Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro, the state prosecutor's office said on Thursday.

More than 100 people have died in total during anti-government unrest convulsing the South American OPEC nation since April. The 48-hour shutdown was in its second day on Friday.—Reuters ■

France's Macron eyes special centers in Libya to handle asylum requests



French President Emmanuel Macron listens to speeches after a mass to pay tribute to French priest Father Jacques Hamel one year after he was killed by Islamist militants in an attack in the church, in Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray near Rouen, France on 26 July, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

PARIS — French President Emmanuel Macron said on Thursday that he was hoping to set up so-called “hot spots” to handle asylum requests in Libya, which has seen thousands flee fighting in the country.

Earlier this week, Macron

chaired talks between Libyan Prime Minister Fayez al-Serraj and the divided country's eastern commander Khalifa Haftar.

At those talks, the two Libyans committed to a conditional ceasefire and to work towards holding elections next spring.

Macron wants France to play a bigger role in coaxing Libya's factions to end the turmoil that has allowed Islamist militants to gain a foothold and migrant smugglers to flourish in the absence of a strong central government.—Reuters ■

Filth spreads Yemen's deadly cholera outbreak

SANAA — Yemen's cholera outbreak is so widespread that just drinking water can lead to death.

Nearly 2,000 people have already succumbed to one of the worst recorded outbreaks of cholera in modern history, with over 400,000 having contracted the disease, according to the World Health Organization.

Cholera, a diarrhoeal disease spread by ingestion of food or water tainted with human faeces, can kill within hours if untreated. It has been largely eradicated in developed countries equipped with sanitation systems and water treatment.

But Yemen's devastating civil war, pitting a Saudi-led military coalition against the armed Houthi group, and economic collapse has made it extremely difficult to deal with catastrophes such as cholera and mass hunger.

With stinking green watery filth mingled with trash being a common sight in the capital Sanaa, the government is struggling to control the spread of the disease.

Pumps to sanitize the water

supply sit idle for lack of fuel, while maintenance agencies tasked with chlorinating aquifers go without salaries and supplies.

Since Yemen's government took control of central bank funds, it no longer pays most civil servants in Houthi-held lands. This means that most of those working in and around Sanaa have not been paid for six months, ruining the lives of hospital and sanitation workers.

Meanwhile, the parched and mountainous country is in danger of running out of water, leaving its 28 million mostly impoverished citizens facing another crisis.

A dearth of clean water has forced many residents to queue up and fill jerry cans from water trucks.

The United Nations estimates that in Yemen a child under the age of five dies every 10 minutes from preventable causes, two million people have fled fighting near their homes and only half of hospitals have staff and supplies to function normally.—Reuters ■

Egypt's Al-Azhar sets up kiosk in subway station to counter militancy

CAIRO — Two elderly sheikhs have set up shop at a kiosk in one of Cairo's busiest underground stations, ready to dole out religious advice to commuters queueing outside.

It is the latest attempt by Al-Azhar university, Egypt's highest religious authority and one of the world's most eminent seats of Sunni Muslim learning, to touch base with the wider public and counter the appeal of militant Islam.

“We are saving (people) energy, time and effort by placing this desk in this blessed place that is the greatest meeting point for the Egyptian population,” said Saeed Amer, deputy secretary general of the Al-Azhar department in charge of issuing religious edicts and one of the clerics in the kiosk.

Almost 2,000 people have come to seek advice since the initiative began two weeks ago in the Shohadaa subway station. Many questions to the clerics have touched on issues of Islamic prayer rituals, inheritance, marriage and divorce.

Commuters appeared to welcome the initiative, with some even calling for more kiosks to pop up at other stations across the capital. But some critics were not impressed.

“It is clear (Al-Azhar) is disconnected from reality. I am shocked that after almost four years of requests from the ... president, and passed through all levels of society, to make

amendments to religious rhetoric, they only come up with this (kiosk) idea,” parliamentarian Mohamed Abu Hamed told Reuters.

“I will not respect what they are doing in this domain until they practically do what is demanded of them, which is the ... revision of the context (of religious discourse). That is the core problem.”

The 1,000-year-old Al-Azhar has come under fire from parliament and local media who accuse its clerics of failing to modernise their religious discourse to better counter the lure of militancy among disaffected, marginalised young people.

Islamist militants are waging an insurgency in the Sinai Peninsula and have killed hundreds of Egyptian soldiers and

police in clashes since 2013. Jihadist attacks have increasingly spilled into the mainland, killing Christians and tourists.

In 2015, President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi called on Al-Azhar to update their Islamic teachings to better engage youth and steer them away from violent jihadism.

The Azhar Observatory was subsequently launched. Operating in 10 languages, the Observatory tracks social media where militants spread their rhetoric so as to counter and refute it in timely fashion.

The university has also published several books about terrorism as a threat to international peace and stressed the need to correct jihadist interpretations of Islam. The books are displayed for sale on shelves outside the kiosk.

The kiosk advice project will last until the beginning of September, Transport Minister Hisham Arafat said, but he added that the government is open to repeating the experiment if there was enough public demand.—Reuters ■



Al-Azhar clerics answer questions at a recently installed Fatwa kiosk offering subway commuters religious guidance and advice at Al Shohadaa metro station in Cairo, Egypt on 24 July, 2017, as part of an initiative by Al-Azhar, one of the world's oldest religious institutions, aimed at countering extremism. **PHOTO: REUTERS**



Verba man-portable air defense missile system. PHOTO: TASS

Russian airborne divisions get advanced portable air defence systems

PATRIOT PARK — All the Russian airborne and air assault divisions have been rearmed with Verba new man-portable air defence missile systems, Airborne Force Commander Colonel-General Andrei Serdyukov said on Thursday.

“We are currently completing the delivery of the fourth-generation Verba man-portable air defence missile systems to the Airborne Force. As of today, all airborne divisions have been supplied with these systems and now efforts are under way to deliver them to sepa-

rate airborne assault brigades in a planned manner,” the commander said on the eve of the 87th anniversary of establishing the Russian Airborne Force.

The Verba man-portable air defence missile systems are capable of striking tactical aviation planes, attack helicopters, cruise missiles and remotely controlled aircraft in oncoming and catch-up courses in daytime and at night in the conditions of the target’s visual visibility, including amid background and artificial interference.

The new systems are

capable of hitting targets with low infrared emissions in a head-on engagement at the far boundary of the destruction zone at extremely low altitudes, the commander said.

As compared to their predecessors, the new short-range air defense missile systems feature expanded combat capabilities and destroy targets highly effectively, despite powerful optical counter-measures, the commander said.

As compared to the previous man-portable air defense missile systems, the Verba complex has

its area of engaging targets with low emissions increased several times and its protection against powerful pyrotechnical interference boosted several dozen times.

While the procedure of using the new man-portable air defence missile system in combat is similar to the procedure of employing its predecessors, the Verba system needs a smaller number of missiles for striking a target while the temperature range of its use has been expanded to minus 50 degrees Celsius, the commander said.—Tass ■

Italy aims to deploy ships in Libyan waters by end-August

ROME — Italy intends to deploy several ships in Libyan waters by the end of August to fight human trafficking and stem a flood of immigrants, a government source said on Thursday.

A mission plan should be brought to the Cabinet for approval on Friday, and the necessary parliamentary vote to endorse it may be held next week,

the source said.

“The exact number of ships and sailors is still being worked out,” said the source. If parliament approves, the mission might begin “by the end of August”, he said, explaining that the navy can be ready to put it in place “in a matter of hours”.

Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni met with military chiefs and ministers

on Thursday to discuss “security, immigration and the Libyan situation”, according to a statement. He had said on Wednesday Libya’s UN-backed government in Tripoli had invited Italian warships into its territorial waters.

Tripoli had refused access to its waters to the European Union’s anti-trafficking sea mission Sophia since 2015,

hobbling efforts to stop smugglers.

As a result, some 600,000 migrants have reached Italy by sea from North Africa since 2014. Most came through Libya, where people smugglers operate with impunity amid the turmoil that has gripped the country since Muammar Gaddafi was overthrown in 2011.—Reuters ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV AEGIS FORTUNE VOY. NO (0662)

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CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

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

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

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Xi says socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered new development stage

BEIJING — China's development is standing at a new historical starting point, and socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new development stage, President Xi Jinping has said.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks at a workshop for

provincial and ministerial officials held from Wednesday to Thursday in preparation for the 19th CPC National Congress.

The CPC and the country have witnessed historic changes since the 18th CPC National Congress, drawing on major achievements made since the founding of the People's Republic of China, and especially since the launch of reform and opening up nearly 40

years ago, Xi said at the workshop presided over by Premier Li Keqiang.

The major achievements made in socialism with Chinese characteristics mean that the Chinese nation, which had experienced tribulations and hardships since modern times, has made a historic leap from standing-up to becoming better-off to getting stronger, Xi said.

The great achieve-

ments also mean that socialism has taken on a strong vitality in China and kept opening up new development horizons, he said.

The major achievements mean that socialism with Chinese characteristics has expanded the pathway to modernization for developing countries, thus providing Chinese wisdom and Chinese solutions to problems facing mankind, Xi said.—Xinhua ■



Chinese President Xi Jinping. PHOTO: XINHUA

Brazil police arrest former Petrobras CEO Bendine in graft probe

RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazilian federal police on Thursday arrested former Petrobras Chief Executive Officer Aldemir Bendine on suspicion he received large bribes from construction conglomerate Odebrecht.

In a statement, the prosecutor-general's office said police served three arrest warrants and

executed 11 search and seizure orders as part of the so-called Car Wash investigation, which has ensnared senior executives and high-ranking politicians in Latin America's largest economy.

Legal representatives for Bendine were not immediately available to comment.

Bendine served as

CEO of Petróleo Brasileiro SA, as the state-controlled oil company is formally known, between 2015 and 2016 and as CEO of state-owned lender Banco do Brasil SA from 2009 to 2015.

According to the statement, Bendine sought 17 million reais in bribes when he led Banco do Brasil to authorize

the rollover of a loan to an Odebrecht unit. However, the company refused to pay him.

Shortly before taking over as head of Petrobras, Bendine demanded payments of three million reais from Odebrecht so that it "would not be damaged by Petrobras" after the Car Wash corruption scandal broke three years

ago, it added.

The company paid Bendine the three million reais in 2015, the prosecutor general's office said. It did not specify what kind of "damage" Bendine purportedly offered to head off.

Separately, Bendine received a further three million reais in 2017 from Odebrecht for unidenti-

fied reasons after he left Petrobras, according to the statement.

The arrest is the latest police operation stemming from plea deals signed by executives from Odebrecht, which admitted in a settlement with US and Brazilian prosecutors to paying bribes across 12 countries to win contracts.—Reuters ■

Heathrow chief welcomes Britain's focus on business in Brexit talks

LONDON — The boss of London's Heathrow welcomed the government's recent emphasis on protecting business in Brexit talks, as Europe's biggest airport reported record passenger numbers on Thursday.

Heathrow is Britain's biggest trade port, handling a quarter of its goods exports by value, and John Holland-Kaye, chief executive of Heathrow Airport Holdings, said on Thursday Britain needs to rebalance its economy to other parts of the UK and boost exports if it is to prosper outside the EU.

"I'm encouraged by the language the government's been using, increasingly focusing on the needs of business," he told Reuters after the

company reported first half results.

Prime Minister Theresa May has recently moved to ease concerns over Brexit among British businesses, meeting industry chiefs last week and signalling she wanted a "smooth, orderly exit" from the EU including "a period of implementation in order to avoid any cliff-edges".

"We welcome what we're hearing from government about growing the economy faster than before, and making sure Britain keeps its position as a leading trading nation.

That's exactly the right sort of thing to be doing," Holland-Kaye said.

Heathrow said it drew a record 37.1 million passengers in the

first half of this year, up 3.9 per cent on a year ago. That helped push its revenues up 4.1 per cent to 1.4 billion pounds (\$1.8 billion) while underlying earnings rose nearly 7 per cent.

The UK sees Heathrow as a vital element of the country's post-Brexit future, and has pledged to expand the airport.

Holland-Kaye said the Brexit vote had focused minds on a new runway at Heathrow, which was announced last October after 25 years of indecision.

"There's a growing sense that it's really essential in a Brexit world that we get on and make Britain as competitive as we can make it, and Heathrow as the trading hub is key to that," he said.

Heathrow sought to reassure that it can keep costs down as it expands.

The airport operator said it was making good progress towards meeting the government's challenge to deliver expansion while keeping airport charges close to where they are.

Holland-Kaye said that costs would be kept down by simplifying the terminal structure, through a possible expansion of terminals 2 and 5, rather than by seeking a shorter runway.

"We want to be able to have a full length runway which will allow any plane to land and take off," he said.

"That means that we can protect the long-term future of the UK economy."—Reuters ■

HINDU FAMILIES WILL OFFER WASO ROBES AND SOON TO THE STATE SANGHA MAHANAYAKA SAYADAW & STATE PARIYATTI SASANA UNIVERSITY (YGN) SAYADAW

Sanatan Dharma Swayamsevak Sangh, Hindu has Organized for Hindu Families a Donation Ceremony to offer "Soon", Waso robes to the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaws and State Pariyatti Sasana University Sayadaws at Kabaye Hill "Mogok Soon Sa Kyaung" on Sunday 5th August 2017 from 9:00 a.m. onwards.

Hindu Families are cordially invited to participate and offer their Donations in this ceremony. They may contact Ph:09-5108541, 09-5014040, 09-5000453, 09-43334445 for further information.

Sanatan Dharma Swayamsevak Sangh (HQ)
No. 227, 37th Street, Yangon.

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ABLE VOY. NO ()

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Cast member Gal Gadot. PHOTO: REUTERS

‘Wonder Woman’ returning for 2019 movie sequel

LOS ANGELES — “Wonder Woman” is coming back for more.

Hollywood movie studio Warner Bros. (TWX.N) on Tuesday announced a December 2019 date for the return of the female superhero, played by Gal Gadot, who smashed box office records in June.

Israeli actress Gadot is set to reprise her role as Diana Prince but director Patty Jenkins is yet to be confirmed as directing the sequel.

“Wonder Woman” was the

first superhero movie to star a woman since 2005 and the first to be directed by a woman. It rode to the top of the box office on a wave of good reviews and female empowerment, and is now the second-biggest movie of the year in North America after the live action version of “Beauty and the Beast.”

“Wonder Woman” has taken in some \$780 million at the worldwide box office.

The Warner Bros statement gave no details about the sequel

saying only that “Wonder Woman 2” would be released on 13 December, 2019.

Hollywood trade paper Variety reported in June that Jenkins was already working on a script for a sequel and that it would likely be set again in the past, but not during the World War One era of the first movie.

A teaser at the Comic-Con convention in San Diego over the weekend gave a glimpse of “Wonder Woman II,” the presumed sequel.—Reuters ■

Kid Rock may run for Senate, says voter registration ‘critical cause’

WASHINGTON — Kid Rock, an outspoken supporter of Republican President Donald Trump, said on Thursday that he will decide over the next few weeks on whether to run for the US Senate and in the meantime will work on the “critical cause” of registering voters.

The singer-songwriter said in a statement that he plans to create a non-profit organization to promote voter registration so he can raise money for the cause and get people registered to vote at his shows as he explores his possible candidacy in 2018.

“The one thing I’ve seen over and over is that although people are unhappy with the government, too few are even registered to vote or do anything about it,” he said. Rock said he will discuss his political plans at a press conference in about six weeks.

“If I decide to throw my hat



Kid Rock. PHOTO: REUTERS

in the ring for US Senate, believe me ... it’s game on mthrfkrs,” he said in the statement.

Earlier this month, Rock drew attention on Twitter and his Facebook page to a “Kid Rock ‘18 for US Senate” website, stoking speculation that the 46-year-old Michigan native was considering a run next year.

“I was beyond overwhelmed with the response I received from community leaders, DC pundits,

and blue-collar folks that are just simply tired of the extreme left and right bullshit,” he said.

Born Robert James Ritchie in the Detroit suburb of Romeo, he rose to fame in 1998 as his debut album “Devil Without a Cause” sold some 14 million copies. He gained additional celebrity through his courtship of actress Pamela Anderson and their brief marriage in the 2000s.

The Capitol Hill-based newspaper Roll Call reported that Rock’s name surfaced as a possible candidate earlier this month during a state Republican Party convention in Michigan, which Trump carried in the 2016 presidential race, though no official decisions were announced.

Rock presumably would seek to challenge Michigan’s Democratic incumbent senator, Debbie Stabenow, who is up for re-election in 2018.—Reuters ■

Angelina Jolie puts movies aside for cooking, cleaning up poop

LOS ANGELES — Angelina Jolie has put movie-making on hold to become a better mom, take cooking classes and do ordinary tasks like picking up dog poop.

In an interview with Vanity Fair released on Wednesday, the actress said life after splitting in September from husband Brad Pitt was focused on looking after her health and her children.

“I actually feel more of a woman because I feel like I’m being smart about my choices, and I’m putting my family first, and I’m in charge of my life and my health. I think that’s what makes a woman complete,” Jolie said.

Her latest film as a director, “First They Killed My Father,” about the Khmer Rouge regime in the 1970s, under which more than 1 million people died, had its premiere in Cambodia in February. It is due to be released globally and on Netflix in September. Apart from promoting the film, Jolie said she had no interest in working on another movie right now. She has primary custody of her six children with Pitt pending a final settlement of their divorce.

“I’m just wanting to make the proper breakfast and keep the house,” she told Vanity Fair.

“That’s my passion. At the

Angelina Jolie.
PHOTO: REUTERS

request of my kids, I’m taking cooking classes. As I go to sleep at night, I think, ‘Did I do a great job as a mom or was that an average day?’”

“I’ve been trying for nine months to be really good at just being a homemaker and picking up dog poop and cleaning dishes and reading bedtime stories,” she said. “And I’m getting better at all three.”

Jolie, 42, a special envoy for the United Nations refugee agency, said the children had been “very brave” since the split from Pitt. “They’re six very strong-minded, thoughtful, worldly individuals. I’m very proud of them. They’ve been very brave. They were very brave,” she said. Jolie revealed that she had developed hypertension, and Bell’s Palsy — a weakness in facial muscles that can cause one side of the face to droop slightly — since the separation from Pitt, but had recovered thanks to acupuncture.—Reuters ■

French President Macron meets Rihanna to discuss global education

PARIS — French President Emmanuel Macron Wednesday met Barbados-born pop singer Rihanna at the Elysee Palace to address education goals across the globe.

Macron tweeted after the meeting that he is “committed” to taking up the challenge of 264 million out-of-school children.

The Barbadian singer was in Paris, seeking France’s contribution to her education fund for developing countries. She founded the Clara Lionel Foundation in 2012, a nonprofit organization that promotes global education and health programmes.

“We focused on the topic of

education from global aspects, and we will make a very big announcement this coming September,” Rihanna told reporters here.

The singer said she was “so inspired and impressed” with the newly elected president’s leadership, but she didn’t reveal whether Macron had made a pledge to her fund.

Last month, Rihanna, who has more than 75 million followers on Twitter, tweeted the French president: “bonjour @EmmanuelMacron, will France commit to #FundEducation?”

She has recently used it to approach other global leaders such as Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.—Xinhua ■

South Korean shelter dog basks in presidential glory as 'First Dog'

SEOUL — South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Wednesday welcomed a rescue dog to his official Blue House residence, delivering on a campaign promise to boost awareness of the fast-growing numbers of abandoned animals accompanying a surge in pet ownership.

Tori, a four-year-old black mixed breed, becomes the first shelter dog to attain the title of First Dog, joining Moon's two other pets, a 10-year-old Korean-breed Pungsan dog called Maru and a former stray cat, Jjing-jing.

"As a society, we need to pay more attention to abandoned animals and care for them," Moon told animal rights advocates at the welcome ceremony, his

office said, adding that as many as 300,000 animals had been abandoned.

Like many shelter animals, Tori suffered the double stigma of being abandoned and having darker fur in a country that favors lighter-coloured animals as pets, and avoids those with black pelts out of superstition.

"Tori had to wait for two years to be adopted while his lighter-furred friends easily found new homes," said Park Soyoun, president of Seoul-based animal shelter Coexistence of Animal Rights on Earth (CARE).

Before his rescue, Tori was kept on a short leash in a deserted farmhouse and fed scraps —Reuters

After-hours drinking hole a haven for Tower of London's Beefeaters



Memorabilia is displayed at the Yeoman Warder Club at the Tower of London in London, Britain on 20 July, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — After the hordes of tourists with their cameras and selfie sticks depart from the Tower of London every evening, a private drinking hole for Beefeaters comes to life within the walls of the royal fortress.

Officially called Yeoman Warders and instantly recognisable with their distinctive hats and uniforms, the 37 Beefeaters live with their families inside the fortified complex which houses the Crown Jewels, glittering symbol of the British monarchy.

While living in a castle on the bank of the Thames has a unique cachet, Beefeaters share their home with close to 3 million visitors a year and spend much of their time conducting tours, answering questions and posing for photographs.

After the daily hubbub fades, they can change out of their uniforms and head for a quiet drink at the Yeoman Warders' Club, their own private bar in a discreet corner of the sprawling fortress — a much-needed respite.

"There are certainly

two sides to life here at the Tower," club chairman John Donald, who has been a Beefeater for 3-1/2 years, said.

"When we are here looking after the general public, we're very much in the public domain, very, very busy answering lots of questions. And then come 6 o'clock it becomes our own little village again, where as a community we can relax and enjoy ourselves."

That relaxation could take the form of a pint of Beefeater Bitter, a beer made by Marston's Brewery in Staffordshire, central England, and available only in the Yeoman Warders' Club.

The brewery also produces a craft lager called Yeoman 1485 also only available in the private bar. Both drinks are "very lovely", Donald said.

"May You Never Die a Yeoman Warder"

In keeping with the history of the Tower of London, which has served many purposes over the centuries from royal residence to the prison where two of King Henry VIII's wives were

beheaded, the club is decorated with unusual objects.

Among them is a plaque that reads "SITE OF SCAFFOLD" — kept as a souvenir after it was removed from the site where executions took place. For good measure, the Yeoman Gaoler's axe hangs just above it, a ghoulish reminder of the gruesome past.

Other memorabilia includes a framed document bearing the signature of Rudolf Hess. The Nazi politician was briefly imprisoned at the Tower in 1941 after being caught in Scotland during a failed secret peace mission. He was one of the last prominent people to be held prisoner there.

On a more cheerful note, the bar also boasts glass cases displaying objects linked to the Beefeaters' colourful traditions.

There are silver tankards used by new Beefeaters to have a drink of port after their formal swearing-in ceremonies while their colleagues proffer the toast: "May you never die a Yeoman Warder".

That dates back to a time when if they retired from the corps, Beefeaters could sell the job to someone else, but if they died while in office the Constable of the Tower would pocket the money instead. That system no longer exists.

Another glass case displays one of the Beefeaters' scarlet state dress uniforms, known to gin lovers around the world from the labels on bottles of Beefeater Gin, but now worn only on special occasions such as Queen Elizabeth's birthday.

In their day-to-day duties, Beefeaters now wear a dark blue and red "undress" uniform, while at the private club they can relax in everyday clothes.

Donald appeared content for the elaborate state dress uniform, with its heavy tunic, knee-breeches and tight white neck ruff, to be in a glass case.

"The state dress, we only wear for a couple of days a year and only for a couple of hours at a time, so we kind of grin and bear it," he said. —Reuters

mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(28-7-2017 07:00am ~ 29-7-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:25	Am	A Day Life Of Kayan Padaung Tribe
07:55	Am	Dances of Myanmar "Lisu Traditional Dance"
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	The Stories Of The Great Souls (Daw Saw Mone Nyin - A Living Literary Legend Of Myanmar)
08:52	Am	Kayah
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Applied Myanmar Traditional Martial Art
09:50	Am	Culture Shows: Theatrical Art
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	The Green Corner (Epi-14) Plastic Spoon Mirror Frame
10:33	Am	Htan Taw Drums (Part-I) "Osi"
10:46	Am	Licuala Palm Leaf
10:54	Am	Young Artist: Maw Thu Da Nu

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	A Journey To Southern Shan State (Ep-3)
07:42	Pm	A Worth Studying Site For Ancient Myanmar Heritages
08:03	Pm	News
08:27	Pm	The Stories Of The Great Souls (U Pyae Son) (Part-1)

(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)

Myanmar female footballers to play against men's teams

Ye Yint Shine

The Myanmar women's national team will play friendly matches with local men's football teams to help choose the right players to compete in the upcoming 29th SEA Games.

The Myanmar women's team recently finished friendly matches in Japan and will restart their training in Myanmar and will play friendly matches against Myanmar men's teams in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay starting 29 July. During matches with highly ranked Japanese clubs, the Myanmar women's team lost three matches and won two, and appeared to improve



Myanmar women football players under training. **PHOTO: SOE NYUNT**

their conditioning and spirit.

The women's football matches at the SEA Games will be played from 15 to 27 August,

with Myanmar scheduled to play against Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, host Malaysia and Vietnam.

Player selection for Myanmar U-23 team next week

Kyaw Zin Lin

With the start of the 29th SEA Games less than a month away, the Myanmar U-23 team will compile the final roster of players next week following a friendly match, according to the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF). "We have gained good experience during the ASEAN qualifying and other international matches this month, and the final players are going to be chosen next week after a match

with the Japanese squad", said an MFF official.

Our team is a strong team, and I believe in their empathy, spirit, togetherness, and we have better conditions to fight for the 29th SEA Games Football matches", said Myanmar Coach Gutt Friedrich. There were several players who were injured during the qualifiers, but team officials are optimistic that they will be healthy enough to play by the time the SEA Games begin.

Myanmar futsal team in test match against Thai squad

In preparation for the 29th SEA Games, the Myanmar national futsal team will play a test match against Port Futsal Club from Thailand today.

Myanmar has been training in Thailand since 21 June and has lost to three Thai futsal

teams. Myanmar lost to BTS Bangkok 3-1, Kasem Bandit University 6-2 and the Thailand national futsal team 7-4. The Myanmar futsal team has to play against the Thai national futsal team again on 30 July.—Phoe Thaw Zin

Spanish federation boss Villar resigns from UEFA

ZURICH — Suspended Spanish football federation boss Angel Maria Villar has resigned as vice-president and an executive committee member of UEFA, European soccer's governing body said on Thursday.

Villar, his son Gorka and two other football federation executives were detained on 18

July on allegations of collusion, embezzlement and falsifying documents.

Villar has denied all the allegations. "Angel Maria Villar (has) tendered his resignation as Vice President of UEFA and member of the UEFA Executive Committee with immediate effect," said UEFA in a statement

sent to Reuters.

"Following his resignation, Villar will no longer have any official functions at our organisation."

UEFA said its president, Aleksander Ceferin, had accepted Villar's resignation and had thanked him for his many years of service to European football.

"In view of the ongoing court proceedings in Spain, we have no further comments to make on this matter," it said.

Villar, a former Athletic Bilbao and Spain midfielder, had headed the Spanish federation for 29 years. It has named Juan Luis Larrea as its interim president.—Reuters ■



PHOTO: REUTERS

Passion for game grew during suspension, says Sharapova

LONDON — Maria Sharapova's love for tennis has only grown stronger during her 15-month doping ban, the five-times grand slam winner has said as she continues her comeback from the suspension. The 30-year-old returned at the Stuttgart Open in April after being given a controversial wildcard and went on to play in the Madrid Open and Italian Open before sustaining a thigh injury that ruled her out of the grasscourt season. As she prepares for the hardcourt season, starting with next week's Bank of West Classic at Stanford, Sharapova said her struggles over the past two years have made her stronger.—Reuters ■

Djokovic to miss rest of the season with elbow injury

BELGRADE — Twelve-times grand slam champion Novak Djokovic will miss the rest of the tennis season, including next month's US Open, to recover from a right elbow injury, the Serbian said on Wednesday.

The 30-year-old posted a video statement on Facebook in which he said he had decided to let heal the injury which caused him to retire during his Wimbledon quarter-final against Czech Tomas Berdych earlier this month.

"I've made a decision to not play any competitions or tournaments for the rest of the 2017 season," Djokovic, down at number four in the world rankings for the first time since 2009,



Novak Djokovic. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

said. "It's a decision that had to be made."

Djokovic then told a news conference he had decided to take six months off after con-

sulting doctors and specialists in Serbia and abroad.

"I have been dragging this injury for the past 18 months and it has escalated in the last

month or two," Djokovic, who will miss a grand slam for the first time since 2004 at Flushing Meadows, said. "It became very painful at Wimbledon, where unfortunately I had to retire against Berdych."

He said surgery would not be necessary, however.

Djokovic has endured a difficult 12 months on the court, losing all the grand slam titles he held simultaneously after winning the 2016 French Open. He also lost his world number one ranking to Andy Murray at the end of last year.

In May he split with his entire coaching team, having parted with Boris Becker at the end of last year.—Reuters ■