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Thursday, 3 August 2017

Traders evaluate gem stones at the 54th Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium at Maniyadana Emporium Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

54th Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium opens

The 54th Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium kicked off yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw, attracting nearly 2,000 local entrepreneurs and 200 overseas businessmen.

At the emporium, which will be held until 11 August, 326 lots

of jewellery will be sold at the floor price of 500 euros and above per lot on 5 August through the open tender system. Included in these lots are 78 lots of jewellery by State-joint venture companies, 171 lots exhibited by private

companies, 47 lots by jewellery shops, 29 lots by private entrepreneurs, and one lot by a private company. Vice President U Henry Van Thio was among the officials who visited the emporium held at Mani Yadanar

Jade Hall yesterday morning, sponsored by Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium Central Committee, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

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Death toll from H1N1 reaches 13

With one more death from H1N1 influenza yesterday, the nationwide death toll has reached 13, or 4.5 per cent of persons confirmed to be infected, said Ministry of Health and Sports.

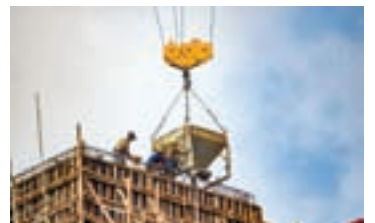
The ministry confirmed that a 35-year-old woman died yesterday from the H1N1 virus.

The statement of the ministry said that on Tuesday and Wednesday, 39 patients suspected of having H1N1 flu received laboratory testing. Of that group, 23 were confirmed to have contracted the virus. That brought the total number of confirmed cases of H1N1 in the country to

99. All are receiving treatment at hospitals.

So far, there is no infection to health staff or officials who are treating with the H1N1 patients. Meanwhile, Ministry of Health and Sports held a meeting in Nay Pyi Taw, discussing plans for formation of rapid response teams

to control the spread of the virus. The meeting also focused on giving treatment to patients at hospitals for infectious diseases, providing sufficient medical professionals to hospitals, using Tamiflu, vaccinating health staff and preventive measures against H1N1.—GNLM ■

**BUSINESS**

Real estate speculation inflates prices, suppresses market demand

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Pyithu Hluttaw

India-Myanmar trade zone, H1N1 discussed at Pyithu Hluttaw

A possible trading zone at the India-Myanmar border and the H1N1 virus was among the issues discussed at yesterday's meeting of the Pyithu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw.

U Naing Naing Win of Tamu constituency asked whether there was a plan to set up a trading zone to boost trade volume at the Myanmar-India border trading of Tamu Township. Deputy Minister of Commerce U Aung Htoo replied that the Tamu Trading Centre has been opened since 1995, and the annual trading value at that centre has been only US\$45 million. The centre accounts for only 0.6 per cent of the total trade volume of all border trading centres.

"To implement successfully the Tamu Trade Zone, the Kalewa-Kyigone-Tamu Road on the Myanmar side needs to be up-



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint. PHOTO: MNA

graded, and there is no peace and tranquility in Moreh of Manipur State of India which borders the Tamu District of Myanmar. Therefore, the Sagaing Region government sent their opinion that the trade zone should be established only when the area becomes peaceful and better in security" said U Aung Htoo.

U Aung Htoo concluded that due to the insufficient basic requirements and the poor potential of trading, setting up a trade zone in Tamu will not currently be implemented.

U Thein Tun of Kyaung Gone constituency put forward an important motion that says "Union Government is urged to

carry out educative awareness campaigns extensively at busy or crowded area such as schools, markets, factories, train stations, bus stations, ports, airports, etc. to contain the spread of disease caused by Seasonal Influenza A (H1N1). Regarding this motion, Dr U Than Aung Soe of Minhla constituency said educative campaigns are underway, and the experts from the World Health Organisation (WHO) also said not to be overly concerned about the H1N1 virus. What is the most important is to not go to the crowded places and to wash the hands often.

U Khin Cho of Hlaing Bwe constituency said in order not to become infected, vaccinations are needed.

"If H1N1 happens to combine with H5N1, which occurs in Dawei, genetic mutations can

take place and a new strain of virus will result. If it happens, it will be very dangerous for people. So people should stay vigilant", U Khin Cho said.

Lt. Colonel San Thida Khin, Tatmataw Pyithu Hluttaw Representative, said because of poor health knowledge of the people, low income, weakness in food knowledge and social systems and insufficient support of health knowledge, the spread of disease may become rampant and will be very dangerous if the spread of disease goes out of control. She supported the motion by urging the government to collect and distribute protective gear, medicine and aid and, if needed, to use money from the reserve fund so as to effectively control the disease. —Kyaw Thu Htet, Hmwe Kyu Zin/Myanmar News Agency ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw: treatment, not prison for drug users

Thura Zaw and
Mi Mi Phyo
MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

An amendment of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law that would provide treatment for drug users instead of incarceration was discussed at yesterday's meeting of the Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw.

Lieutenant Colonel Aung Kyaw Zaw, Tatmadaw Hluttaw Representative, was one of 10 Hluttaw representatives who discussed a possible change to the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, suggesting that drug users should be viewed as people in need of treatment, not legal punishment. He suggested drug users should be sent to rehabilitation centres to receive proper counseling, rehabilitation and treatment. He also said if this change were to be made, then the government would need to conduct a nationwide survey on drug users as well as determine whether there are enough rehabilitation centres, sufficient financial support from the government and an adequate num-

ber of medical personnel.

U Htay Oo of Yangon Constituency (2) voiced his agreement but said that drug users should be fined a penalty equal to twice the amount of the original penalty fees for a second offence and a prison sentence of 1 to 3 years for third and subsequent offences. He also said if the amendment to the law is made, then it should also be applied to drug users facing punishment. The Speaker announced the discussion will be carried over to the Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee for further review.

In other action, an electrical power line between Kyaiklet and Hlinethaya in Ayeyawady was discussed.

Daw May Than Nwe of Ayeyawady Constituency (11) asked whether the construction of a 230 KV electrical power line from Kyaiklat to Hlinethaya and its two substations would be completed in the current financial year.

Dr Htun Naing, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Power, replied that installation of pylons along the path from Kyaiklat to Hlinethaya is 67.5

per cent complete, but there is insufficient budget to continue the project. The budget cost for continuation has been proposed in the 2017-2018 funding plan, and if it is passed, then the project is expected to be completed by June 2018. The substation in Kyaiklet is 82 per cent complete, but construction of the substation in Hlinetharyar has been delayed due to disagreements on compensation with farmers who own land along the project's route. Regional administrators and Hluttaw representatives have successfully negotiated with the farmers, they said.

Lastly, Dr. Khin Ma Gyi of Kachin Constituency (8) asked the Hluttaw about strengthening embankments along the Nantyin stream and Moekaung stream in Moekaung Township. U Kyaw Myo, the Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications, answered that there are no plans to strengthen the embankments in the current fiscal year due to budget constraints. The embankment is currently made of bamboo.

The next session of the Amyotha Hluttaw will be held today. ■

Pyithu Hluttaw Dy Speaker receives environmental protection official



Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat holds talks with Executive Director of the NPO in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

PYITHU Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat received Mr. Akio Kawakami, Executive Director of the NPO Asia Environmental Technology Promotion Institute yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

The pair discussed potential for cooperation between Japan and Myanmar and the Japan-Myanmar Vocational Training Institute (JMVTI) Aung San Project led by NPO.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Economic, cultural rights workshop held in Nay Pyi Taw

WORKSHOP on international covenant on economic, social and cultural rights were held at the Kempinski Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, which was to be held for two days on August 2 and 3. At the workshop, U Kyaw Moe Tun, Director-General of the International organizations and Economic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Director of USAID, Ms Teresa McGhie made addresses respectively. The workshop was attended by representatives from covenant-related

ministries, Union Attorney-General's Office, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission and invited guests and professionals.

Myanmar signed in the ICESCR on 16th July 2015, carrying on its tasks of approving its participations. The present workshop being held under the support of USAID over the proposal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs helped Myanmar's approved participation in the ICESCR very soon, it was learnt.—Myanmar News Agency ■

President accepts credentials from Ambassadors of Pakistan and Ethiopia

Dr Khalid Hussain Memon, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, presented his credential to U Htin Kyaw, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw at 2:30 pm yesterday.

Mr. Asfaw Dingamo Kame, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, also presented his credential to U Htin Kyaw, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw at 3:05 pm yesterday. Present on the occasions were Deputy Minister for the President's Office U Min Thu, Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Zeya and Director-General U Thant Sin of the Protocol Department. —Myanmar News Agency ■



President U Htin Kyaw accepts credential presented by Mr. Asfaw Dingamo Kame, Ambassador of Ethiopia to Myanmar. **PHOTO: MNA**



President U Htin Kyaw accepts credential presented by Dr. Khalid Hussain Memon, Ambassador of Pakistan to Myanmar. **PHOTO: MNA**

Ethics training for judges begins



U Htun Htun Oo, Union Chief Justice. **PHOTO: MNA**

A ceremony for the start of the introduction to judicial ethics for judges was held yesterday at the Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw, with the Union Chief Justice issuing a solemn address.

U Htun Htun Oo, Union Chief Justice, said if judges in Myanmar do not abide by judicial ethics, legal action will be taken against them. "It is necessary to legislate new ethics on judicial affairs and to implement newly legislated ethics, hence the cooperation with the technical aids of the (ICJ) International Commission of Jurists, United Nations Development Programme. As a result, the manual of judicial ethics compatible with international standards for judges in Myanmar came into practice. Presently-issued judicial ethics for judges in Myanmar to abide by is designed to designate

standards on judicial behaviour for judges and to give guidance in performing judicial affairs." "Principles included in judicial ethics are compiled as a norm, aiming at for executive and legislative authorities, lawyers and the public to be able to assess the performances of the judicial sector. For issuing such judicial ethics judges, judicial staff as well as justice-related persons will come to be well convinced of the judicial system. And we firmly hope for the emergence of a just, fair and strong judicial system by bolstering necessary supports." Present at the ceremony were Chairman Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, Union Supreme Court judges, Region and State high courts' chief judges, Hluttaw representatives, department heads, invited guests from civilian and international organisations, professors on law faculty in universities in Yangon Region, lawyers and responsible persons from the Union Supreme Court Office.

Afterward, a workshop on implementation of judicial ethics and a meeting on discussion of judicial ethics for judges in Myanmar was begun. —Myanmar News Agency ■

54th Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium opens

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Present at the emporium were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ye Aung, U Ohn Win, Dr Myo Thein Gyi, U Win Khaing, Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, Union Auditor-General U Maw Than, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung, Hluttaw representatives, departmental heads, Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association Chairman, Vice-Chairman and members, invited guests and responsible officials. Upon arrival at the emporium, Vice-President U Henry Van Thio was told about the background history of the Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium, its aims and objectives, and restrictions on the exhibitions. The Vice-President was also shown a video depicting the history of the emporium by central committee personnel. He then toured the showrooms and sale depots on exhibit.

As for jade and minerals, there are 20 lots of fine jade works owned by the State, 20 lots of State-owned crude jade, 2,900 lots of crude jade by State-joint ventured companies, 3,545 lots of crude jade owned by the private sector, 16 lots of other mineral crude gems, 25 lots of



Vice President U Henry Van Thio looks at jade stones displayed at the 54th Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

fine jade works by the private sector, three grand cots decorated with jade, and 32 lots made of other gems, for a total of 6,561 lots on exhibit. Of them, 6,481 lots will be sold at 4,000 euros and above of the floor price, while 80 lots will be sold at 1,000 euros and above of the floor price through the open tender system, from 6 August to 11 August, it has been learnt. The entry fee to the emporium is US\$100 or its equivalent in My-

anmar currency for a foreigner, Ks60,000 for a local jewellery entrepreneur, Ks60,000 for a company agent, Ks30,000 for a gem or jewellery lot keeper and Ks30,000 for a service-person. Foreign merchants from China, India, Japan, Singapore, Thailand and Australia as well as local merchants competed to buy gems lots through the tender system in the 53rd emporium in June last year.—Myanmar News Agency

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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gnlmdaily@gmail.com
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Middle Paunglaung hydropower to generate hundreds of millions of KWH by 2021

THE construction of the Middle Paunglaung hydropower project will be completed in financial 2020-2021, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

The Middle Paunglaung hydropower project and the Upper Paunglaung hydropower project are expected to generate 1.4 billion kilowatts per hour, annually, according to the Ministry of Electricity and Energy. The electricity generated will be transmitted throughout the national power grid. Myanmar is currently developing a number of large hydropower plants, many of which have received assistance from international development agencies.

According to the estimated calculation, the Paunglaung River is capable of generating 2 billion kilowatts per hour, annually.—GNLM ■



The aerial view of Upper Paunglaung hydroelectricity power project in Pyinmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MINISTRY OF ELECTRIC AND ENERGY**

Myanmar Aviation Development Organisation Formed

A new non-governmental organisation to provide expert and technical advice to Myanmar's aviation industry was announced yesterday at the Aviation Institute on Airport Road, Mingalardon Township, Yangon Region.

The non-profit agency is intended to convene aviation committees and task forces to improve air safety, airline traveler experiences and help to implement international industry standards in Myanmar. The

group also intends to play a role in training future aviation industry workers and executives.

Officials from Myanmar's Department of Civil Aviation, the Ministry of Transport and Communications, aviation company

executives and others attended the gather. For further information about the new organisation, interested parties can call 09 421100111 or email kml1983.a@gmail.com. —GNLM ■

No chicken hatchling import from 3 August

CHICKEN hatchling import at Myawady on Myanmar-Thailand border will be stopped from 3 August and effective actions will be taken against illegal imports it is learnt.

At an educational talk held about bird flu in Bayintnaung Market in Myawady on 1 August Dr. Khine Soe Win of Myawady District Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department said, "Chicken hatchlings were legally imported for chicken farms before the current outbreak of bird flu.

The chicken hatchling providing companies were informed and after the final import on August 2, official imports will be stopped. There is no outbreak of bird flu in Kayin State and import from Thailand had a health certificate from Thailand's

Department of Livestock Development that includes information about the chicken farm and medications used. Furthermore, we use Rapid Test Kit and the chicken hatchlings are permitted to be imported only when the result is negative."

He added that there is a matter of illegal import of frozen and live chickens that will be handled by effective seizures while talks will be held on flu prevention and bio-security in chicken farms.

Locals should not worry as announcements will be made when the flu is detected and if there is any unusual occurrences people should contact responsible persons and our department said Dr. Khine Soe Win.

The educational talk was

attended by head of Myawady District Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Dr. Khine Soe Win, head of District Consumer Affairs Department U Thein Zaw and officials, dis-

trict and township maternal and Child Welfare Association members, officials and shop owners of the market and local populace. – Htein Lin Aung (IPRD) ■



Vehicle carrying chicken cages. **PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)**



Labourers work at a construction site for a building. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH**

Real estate speculation inflates prices, suppresses market demand

REAL estate professionals said that property rates are artificially high because of widespread speculation and price manipulation, according to a report in yesterday's edition of the Myawady Daily.

"We do not see many those investors with an aim to reap profit upon resale in the mar-

ket," said U Than Oo, the vice president of the Myanmar Real Estate Services Association. "Investors have turned to other sectors. The downtown market is likely to remain on the rise. Price manipulation will cease if the market keeps going with the actual buyers and tenants" instead of speculators.

Government authorities warned some real estate dealers that their property will be subject to confiscation if they purchase and hold land in commercial zones with no intention of developing those properties within a reasonable period, real estate agent U Chit told Myawady Daily.—GNLM ■

External trade rose by US\$1.58 billion this FY

External trade from 1 April to 21 July was estimated at US\$9.45 billion, an increase of \$1.58 billion over the last fiscal year, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Sea trade during that period was \$7.28 billion compared to land trade of \$2.16 billion.

Exports were \$3.8 billion and imports were \$5.6 billion, resulting in a trade deficit of \$1.7 billion. Total exports increased by \$645 million while imports increased \$941 million. Agriculture trade declined by \$36 million against last fiscal year.

Myanmar's neighbours – China, Thailand, India and Bangladesh – are among its most active trading partners. Sino-Myanmar trade is conducted at Muse, Lweje, Chinshwehaw, Kanpikete and Kengtung gates; Myanmar-Thai border trade through Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Maese land points of entry; Indian-Myanmar trade through Tamu and Reed; Bangladeshi-Myanmar trade at Sittway and Maungdaw. —Htet Myat ■

UMFCCI plans to boost industrial sector, SMEs

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) announced a plan in yesterday's Myawady Daily to grow the industrial sector to 40 per cent of gross domestic product, compared to its current level of 27.5 per cent of GDP. Currently,

agriculture accounts for the largest share of Myanmar's GDP at 30 per cent. Various service sectors comprise 46 per cent of GDP. UMFCCI President U Zaw Min Win said that Myanmar's small and medium enterprises will play a vital role in industrial development. —GNLM ■

Commerce Ministry drafting laws to protect domestic production

The Commerce Ministry is drafting a new legislation to protect domestic production against competition from imports.

The ministry is also drafting related legislation to prevent non-competitive import practices such as "dumping," whereby foreign companies undercut Myanmar domestic producers by flooding market sectors with cheap surplus

goods, often of inferior quality.

The laws are intended to regulate import product quality and protect local producers from price gouging.

Import values between 1 April and 21 August this fiscal year were US\$5.6 billion, an increase of \$941 million compared to last fiscal year.

Import values of capital goods were estimated at \$2 billion, comprising machinery,

construction tools including steel, products used in telecommunication, vehicles and auto parts and others.

Raw industrial materials imports earned \$2.2 billion, including petroleum products, plastic raw materials, fertilizers, chemicals, etc. Pharmaceuticals is the largest consumer product sector import, with an estimated worth of \$1.3 billion.—Ko Khant ■

Locally produced wood plastic composites manufacturers seek export market

The Myanmar Plastic Industries Association is seeking new export markets for locally produced Wood Plastic Composites (WPC), according to a yesterday's report of Myawady Daily newspaper. Usage of wood plastic composites can mitigate deforestation by recycling wood

and using farmed lumber. Wood composite sheets are resistant to rot, decay and termite infestation. Wood composites can last up to 30 years. Wood composite products are made up of 70 per cent of saw dust and 30 per cent of plastic. Myanmar's wood composites utilizes Germany's tech-

nology. A ton of wood composite sheets cost about Ks1.8 million per ton domestically compared to about Ks3.4 million a ton in international market. Local wood composite production started in 2015 and is used for ceiling, floor, door frames and other structural elements. —GNLM ■

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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- Market Place by City Mart (6.5 Mile)
- Market Place by City Mart (Damasidi Road)
- City Mart (Aung San Stadium)
- City Mart (47th street)
- City Mart (Yankin)
- City Mart (China Town)
- City Mart (Myay Ni Gone)
- City Mart (FMI)
- City Mart (Junction Square)
- City Mart (Junction Maw Tin)
- City Mart (Sule Square)
- City Mart (Star City - Thanlyin)
- City Mart (Waizayandar)
- City Mart (Hledan)
- City Mart (Myanmar Plaza)
- Ocean North Point (9 mile)
- Ocean Shwegoneline

Ocean City City Mart Supermarket

French prosecutors investigate aide to Malaysia PM over submarine deal

PARIS/KUALA LUMPUR — French financial prosecutors have put a former aide to Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak under formal investigation as part of a probe into the 2002 sale of submarines to Malaysia, a French judicial source said on Wednesday. Razak Baginda has denied wrongdoing. He advised Najib, who was defence minister at the time, on the purchase of two Scorpene-class submarines from French state-controlled warship builder DCN International (DCNI) in 2002.

DCNI then became a new entity called DCNS, which in turn rebranded itself as Naval Group this year. French defence company Thales owns around a third of Naval Group.

“The inquiry by the French is welcomed as Dr Razak Baginda has not committed any crime of corruption or breached any laws in the matter,” the former aide said in a statement sent to Reuters.

Two French former defence industry executives were placed under investigation last month as part of the same probe into alleged kickbacks from that submarines deal.

In France, being put under formal investigation means there is serious or consistent evidence that points to likely involvement of a suspect in a crime. It does not necessarily lead to a trial.

The investigation began after Malaysian human rights group Suaram alleged that the sale resulted in some \$130 million of commissions being paid to a company linked to Najib. The Malaysian government has denied any allegations of corruption concerning the submarine sale. —Reuters ■

Indian hotels to train staff to spot signs of sex trafficking

MUMBAI — Hotels in Mumbai and other Indian cities are to train their staff to spot signs of sex trafficking such as frequent requests for bed linen changes or a “Do not disturb” sign left on the door for days on end.

The group behind the initiative is also developing a mobile phone app – Rescue Me – which hotel staff can use to alert local police and senior anti-trafficking officers if they see suspicious behaviour.

“Hotels are breeding grounds for human trade,” said Sanee Awsarmmel, chairman of the alumni group of Maharashtra State Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology.

“(We) have hospitality professionals working in hotels across the country. We are committed to this cause.”

The initiative, spearheaded

by the alumni group and backed by the Maharashtra state government, comes amid growing international recognition that hotels have a key role to play in fighting modern day slavery.

Maharashtra, of which Mumbai is the capital, is a major destination for trafficked girls who are lured from poor states and nearby countries on the promise of jobs, but then sold into the sex trade or domestic servitude.

With rising property prices, some traditional red light districts like those in Mumbai have started to disappear pushing the sex trade underground into private lodges and hotels, which makes it hard for police to monitor.

Awsarmmel said hotels would be told about 50 signs that staff needed to watch out for.

These include requests for

rooms with a view of the carpark which are favoured by traffickers as they allow them to vet clients for signs of trouble and check out their cars to gauge how much to charge.

Awsarmmel said hotel staff often noticed strange behaviour such as a girl’s reticence during the check-in process or her dependence on the person accompanying her to answer questions and provide her proof of identity.

But in most cases, staff ignore these signs or have no idea what to do, he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

The Rescue Me app — to be launched in a couple of months — will have a text feature where hotel staff can fill in details including room numbers to send an alert to police.

Human trafficking is the world’s fastest growing criminal enterprise worth an estimated

\$150 billion a year, according to the International Labour Organization, which says nearly 21 million people globally are victims of forced labour and trafficking.

Last year, major hotel groups, including the Hilton and Shiva Hotels, pledged to examine their supply chains for forced labour, and train staff how to spot and report signs of trafficking.

Earlier this year, Mexico City also launched an initiative to train hotel staff about trafficking.

Vijaya Rahatkar, chairwoman of the Maharashtra State Women’s Commission, said the initiative would have an impact beyond the state as the alumni group had contact with about a million small hotels across India.

The group is also developing a training module on trafficking for hotel staff and hospitality students which could be used across the country.—Reuters ■

Thai court acquits ex-PM Somchai over 2008 protest crackdown

BANGKOK — Former Thai Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat and his then deputy were on Wednesday acquitted of malfeasance in office in connection with a deadly crackdown on antigovernment protesters in 2008.

The ruling handed down by the Supreme Court’s Division for Holders of Political Positions said police had implemented proper security measures at various levels to enable Somchai’s government to deliver policies in keeping with the then Constitution.

But the blockade by demonstrators in front of parliament was not a peaceful gathering, leading to chaos and the crackdown by police. The incident left two protesters dead and 471 others injured.

The court said the evidence and facts indicated that the four defendants did not neglect their duties in maintaining order during the protest.

Somchai voiced his satisfaction with the court’s ruling.

Aside from Somchai, who is the brother-in-law of ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, the defendants also included former Prime Minister



Former Thai Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat (C) arrives at the Supreme Court in Bangkok on 2 August, 2017. He was acquitted of malfeasance in office in connection with a deadly crackdown on antigovernment protesters in 2008. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, who was Somchai’s deputy at the time, former National Police chief Patcharawat Wongsuwon and former metropolitan police chief Suchart Muenkaew.

The two senior police officials were in charge of the crackdown operation while Chavalit was the deputy prime minister who oversaw security issues.

The crackdown was con-

ducted on 7 October by police to disperse protesters of the People’s Alliance for Democracy who blocked Somchai and his Cabinet members from entering the Parliament.

Somchai, Thailand’s 26th prime minister, was in power for only a short period during which he never performed his duty at Government House as the PAD protesters, known as “Yellow

Shirts” besieged the compound.

He stepped down from the position in December 2008 after the People’s Power Party was dissolved by the Constitutional Court for election fraud, with Somchai and the party’s executives banned from politics for five years.

Chavalit served as prime minister between 1996 and 1997.—Kyodo News ■

Abe mulls picking Onodera as defence chief

TOKYO — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is considering picking senior lawmaker Itsunori Onodera for defence minister when he reshuffles his Cabinet on Thursday, sources close to the matter said.

Onodera served as defence minister for a little less than two years from December 2012 when Abe returned to power.

Among other posts, Abe is expected to replace Tamayo Marukawa, minister in charge of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, according to the sources. Abe,

who serves as the ruling Liberal Democratic Party president, plans to change LDP Diet affairs chairman Wataru Takeshita in an overhaul of party executives to be conducted in step with the Cabinet reshuffle, according to the government and party sources.

The prime minister will carry out the first reshuffle in a year in an attempt to push up the plunging approval ratings for his Cabinet in the wake of influence-peddling allegations against him.

Abe has decided to re-

tain core members such as Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Taro Aso and Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga as well as LDP Secretary General Toshihiro Nikai, other sources have said.

The new Cabinet will be officially launched after an attestation ceremony at the Imperial Palace, while the ruling party will officially decide on the new senior posts in a meeting on Thursday morning.

Abe is thinking of replacing Marukawa, who is a second-term upper house lawmaker and pre-

viously served as environment minister, as she failed last year to attract the minimum number of new LDP members required of each party lawmaker, among other reasons, the sources said.

Takeshita, who once served as disaster reconstruction minister, may take a new party post, according to the sources. Meanwhile, Bunmei Ibuki, a former lower house speaker, has rejected a request from Abe to become education minister, the sources said. —Kyodo News ■



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe arrives at his office in Tokyo on 2 August, 2017, a day before his scheduled reshuffle of his Cabinet and the leadership of his Liberal Democratic Party. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Japan arranging ministerial talks with top US, China diplomats

TOKYO — Japan's foreign minister is to hold talks with counterparts from the United States and China next week, aiming to strengthen efforts to tackle North Korea's nuclear and missile threats, government sources said on Wednesday.

The current Japanese foreign minister, Fumio Kishida, will be removed in a Cabinet reshuffle on

Thursday, according to Liberal Democratic Party sources, with his replacement expected to meet US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

The talks will occur on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations forum in Manila from Sunday, they said.

The top diplomats of Japan and the United

States are likely to call on China to impose tougher sanctions such as restricting oil exports to North Korea, which launched intercontinental ballistic missiles twice last month, the sources said.

Tokyo is expected to ask Beijing to play an active role in restraining Pyongyang.

China has expressed willingness to resolve is-

sues surrounding North Korea through talks. Kishida met with Tillerson and Wang in April in New York.

The series of ASEAN ministerial gatherings are scheduled to be held through Tuesday in the Philippine capital.

North Korea's Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho is expected to take part in the ASEAN Regional

Forum, a major venue for regional security dialogue, on Monday.

Pyongyang successfully test-fired ICBMs on 4 July and last Friday, posing a possible game-changing challenge to the security of the United States and the rest of the world. Experts suggest the US mainland is now within striking range. —Kyodo News ■

US exploration firm offers to resume MH370 search, families say

KUALA LUMPUR — A US seabed exploration firm has offered to take on the search for Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370, families of passengers and a Malaysian government minister said on Wednesday, in a bid to solve one of the world's greatest aviation mysteries.

The Boeing 777 disappeared in 2014 en route to Beijing from the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur with 239 people aboard.

Analysis of radar and satellite contacts suggested someone on board may have deliberately switched off the plane's transponder before diverting it thou-

sands of kilometres out over the Indian Ocean.

Australia, Malaysia and China called off a A\$200 million (\$159.16 million), two-year search for the plane in January, amid protests from families of those onboard.

Grace Nathan, a Malaysian lawyer whose mother Anne Daisy was on the plane, told Reuters the US company, Ocean Infinity, had offered to resume the search for free, and had asked for a reward only in the event that the aircraft was found.

Deputy Malaysian Transport Minister Aziz Kaprawi confirmed in a

text message to Reuters that authorities had received the offer, but said no decision had been made on whether it would be accepted.

A spokesman for Ocean Infinity declined to comment. The company, on its website, said it had the world's most advanced fleet of autonomous underwater vehicles for use in seabed mapping, survey and search.

Last year, Australia and Malaysia rejected investigators' recommendations to extend the hunt by 25,000 sq km (9,653 square miles) north of the original search area in the south-

ern Indian ocean, saying the new location identified was too imprecise.

But Voice370, a support group for MH370 passengers' next-of-kin, said that Australian researchers had recently narrowed the likely search field to less than 25,000 sq km after extensive modelling and review.

The families, which launched a campaign to privately fund their own search in March, said they had suspended their plans, hoping that governments involved "would respond favourably and expeditiously" to Ocean Infinity's offer.—Reuters ■

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Objective outlook on Human Rights

Khin Maung Oo

IF we need to scrutinize, criticize and assess something, we are required to do objectively without any prejudice over it just after thinking in every way we like. Failing that, it would be an unreasonable criticism influenced by bias or unfairness.

A press statement made by Ms. Yanghee Lee, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, on 21st July just after her mission ended in Myanmar was found to have included unsubstantiated allegations. As regards her statement, the Ministry of the Office of the State Counselor, Republic of the Union of Myanmar issued a press release regarding her statement that Myanmar was disap-

pointed with the Special Rapporteur's end of mission statement. Before her official visit to Myanmar, the UN Human Rights Council passed at its 34th Session passed a resolution that called for the dispatch of an international fact-finding mission to Myanmar. The resolution was based on unsubstantiated allegations. Additionally, the establishment of the fact-finding mission would do more to inflame, rather than resolve, the complex and challenging situation that confronts the country.

Though it has been hoped that the statement of the Special Rapporteur would have taken into consideration the difficulties encountered in resolving the problems which are legacies of internal conflicts, isolation and underdevelopment piled up during

several decades, the Special Rapporteur's statement contained a lot of general allegations and many factual errors. Being a mission that came here with wrong opinions conceived initially, it issued a statement which was not acceptable to the Myanmar Government. In reality, it should make a correct assessment, as an international organization which represents the whole human society.

It is regretful that the organization has neglected the national reconciliation and peace process of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar which has been doing its best to bring peace and stability to the country against all odds. It is a fact that Myanmar has been cooperating with the United Nations. Regarding

human rights, it should assess and decide based upon the actual situations in the whole country. The statement should be the kind which helps to find just solutions to the problem after studying actualities happening in the Rakhine State. Otherwise, it can be said to be just biased allegations made based on one-sided perspectives.

Whatever it is, the emergence of a peaceful Democratic Federal Republic is the ultimate goal of Myanmar citizens. Forging a lasting nationwide peace is our first priority.

The government is committed to building a Democratic Federal Republic based on the principles of freedom, equal rights, and justice for the whole populace including all national ethnic brethren. ■

The 50th Anniversary of ASEAN and ASEAN Traditional Dance Competition

Hnin Myat Thu (Culture)

THE 50th anniversary of ASEAN, falls in 2017 is a milestone for ASEAN as well as the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Myanmar also meets 20th anniversary of ASEAN membership in 2017. It has remarkable potential to show up the evolutions and achievements of ASEAN throughout the past 50 years, emphasizing the inter-cultural harmony among ASEAN countries, and inspiring ASEAN people to take part in ASEAN integration now and in the future.

"Culture" is a vital role for emphasizing the above-cited points as well as the foundation of the ASEAN spirit. As a result, promoting the ASEAN spirit through cultural celebrations during the 50th anniversary of ASEAN in 2017 is the continuing efforts within ASEAN sectors.

Moreover, the ASEAN strategic Plan for Culture and Arts 2016-2025 cites that the culture sector will "encourage a multi-stakeholder approach in promoting an ASEAN spirit and identity to increase appreciation for the ASEAN Community's histories, cultures, arts, traditions and values."

On 8th August 2017, ASEAN will meet its 50th anniversary. The celebration of the 50th anniversary is also an opportunity to raise the awareness of ASEAN people about the ASEAN community. Due to this regard, activities at the regional and national levels are being planned by the ASEAN countries to celebrate the achievements of the ASEAN people.



One of the elements of the ASCC Blueprint 2025 is to realize "a dynamic and harmonious community that is aware and proud of its identity, culture, and heritage". In order to create a dynamic and harmonious community during the Milestone event of ASEAN, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture of Myanmar will be celebrating the cultural event, "ASEAN Traditional Dance Competition" on 7th August, 2017 at the National Theater (Yangon). To celebrate 50th anniversary of ASEAN, "The ASEAN Traditional Dance competition" will carry out with the following aims:

- To attract audiences to high-visibility of ASEAN's cultural event
- To communicate with people through the cultural dynamism of the ASEAN community
- To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN
- To promote awareness of ASEAN
- To realize the importance of

Performing Arts especially in Dance

- To implement programmes formulated in the plan of action on ASCC Blueprint

Since Dance is a very ancient art form, and originated from prehistoric time, it was used as a tool of social interaction that promoted cooperation as well as used for the method of expression. In order to promote the mutual understanding between ASEAN, the "ASEAN Traditional Dance Competition" is the cultural event which aims to reveal the traditional dances of ASEAN Member States. Through this competition, the different style of traditional dances of ASEAN countries can be introduced to the public. This is one of the significant ways to promote the awareness of ASEAN to the public and a chance to raise knowledge and understanding of people about the ASEAN.

To facilitate the awareness of ASEAN and its traditional dances, this dance competition will foster the dissemination of the wealth culture of the ASEAN member countries. It can

also increase awareness about the culture of ASEAN member countries as well as the ASEAN awareness which is truly cross-cutting issue in ASEAN. In this regard, culture is a potent medium to drive ASEAN message not only just about the cultural vibrancy of the region but also in promoting inter-cultural dialogue.

To be making it sure, the message of ASEAN inter-cultural understanding would be communicated to the public. The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture takes the responsibilities to communicate with a wider public by giving the message of ASEAN as one community by highlighting the cultural dynamic of ASEAN.

"ASEAN Traditional Dance Competition" not only brings the spotlight of the 50th anniversary of ASEAN but also fosters tolerance and acceptance among ASEAN people, and promotes solidarity in the region. This event will also facilitate the participation of a wide variety of audiences and participants (i.e. people at all ages, gender, income and races).

The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture of Myanmar is pleased and honored to invite everyone at all genders, races, nationalities and religions to witness the commemorative event for the 50th anniversary of ASEAN "ASEAN Traditional Dance Competition", which will be held on 7th August 2017, at the National Theater (Yangon) by highlighting the role of culture for raising ASEAN awareness and promoting inter-cultural understanding for years to come. ■

Senior General arrives in Tokyo

A Myanmar Tatmadaw Friendship Delegation led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, arrived at Haneda Airport in Tokyo on Tuesday.

The Senior General and party was welcomed at the airport by Mr Yohei Sasakawa, chairman of the Nippon Foundation, Japan, executive director Mr Yuji Mori, U Thurein Thant Zin, Myanmar Ambassador to Japan and his wife, Myanmar military attaché (Army, Navy, Air) Brigadier-General Saw Min and his wife, and families from the Myanmar Embassy.

Yesterday morning, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party visited the Maruyama Seiman noodle factory in Tokyo, then boarded a Shinkansen bullet train for Nagaoka at 11:25 am local time, arriving at Nagaoka at 1.00pm. They were welcomed by Mr. Hideo Watanabe, the chairman of the Japan-Myanmar Foundation.



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing observes Komeri Home Center, touring display stalls in the Centre in Tokyo. **PHOTO: MNA**

While in Nagaoka, the C-in-C of Defence Services and party arrived at Komeri Home Center, touring display stalls in the Centre. The Senior General then visited the museum of Admiral Yamamoto Isoroku, a Japanese Marshal Admiral of the Navy and the commander-in-chief of the Combined Fleet during World War II, studying the Admiral's

history and his belongings exhibited in the museum.

On display at the museum are Admiral Yamamoto Isoroku's possessions and photos, a remaining wing of the aircraft that was shot down in which he was travelling, a seat on board that had been occupied by the admiral and historical records. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Govt, KOICA to build a modern rice mill

A high-capacity rice mill capable of processing 2.5 metric tons of paddy per hour will be built by the government with the assistance of Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA),

according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

The rice mill will include four rice drying machines and four storage silos. The facility will be constructed in Sein Sar

Pin village, Zayathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw.

KOICA will grant US\$3.5 million to purchase the rice mill, the refining machines and the drying machines. —GNLM ■

Workshop on Principle and Law of Investment for Ministries held

A workshop on the principle and law of investment for related ministries was held at the Kempinski Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning under the co-sponsorship of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration,

the International Finance Corporation (IFC), Australian Aid and UKaid.

At the workshop, U Set Aung, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance, made an opening address followed by U Aung Naing Oo, Direc-

tor-General of DICA, explaining Myanmar Investment Law. Deputy director general U Thant Zin Lwin then spoke about facts worth noting for the ministries, and director Daw Tin Aye Han, explained rules and regulations.

A question and answer period followed.

In attendance at the meeting were the Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance, the Myanmar Investment Commission Secretary, the Director-General of Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, permanent secretaries and deputy permanent secretaries of related ministries. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Workshop on the principle and law of investment for ministries held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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

Union Minister visits libraries in Meikhtila and Wundwin townships

DR PE MYINT, Union Minister for Information, visited the Information and Public Relations Department in Meikhtila District yesterday, which included inspections of libraries, reading rooms and a museum.

The Union Minister and party observed how people were utilising the Meikhtila library, the systematic placement of books and periodicals in the library, artistic works painted by children in the children's reading room, competition of children in the contest of reading ability, audio installation for use in the community centre and arrangements for

holding ceremonies.

Dr Pe Myint arrived at the office of Wundwin Township IPRD later in the afternoon, inspecting the People's Library, the children's reading room and the museum. The Union Minister instructed officials to accumulate more traditional tools and equipment which were being exhibited in the small museum that is part of the library, as well as to compile concise excerpts of dates of scripture, authors' or compilers' names and subject matter for the museum's ancient palm-leaf writings. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint inspects the People's Library, at Wundwin Township (IPRD). **PHOTO: MNA**

9,750 Amphetamine pills seized from Bangladeshi man in Maungtaw

SECURITY forces arrested a Bangladeshi man who carried stimulant tablets at the end of Sabal Pin Yin Creek in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State, yesterday morning.

A navy boat patrolling in Maungtaw intercepted a suspected boat with three on board in territorial water of Myanmar near Maungtaw and two man-

aged to escape to Bangladesh and one was arrested by the forces.

The security forces arrested Saw Lein with 9,750 yaba pills worth of more than K19 million.

He has been transferred to the Special Anti-drug Squad of Maungtaw Township. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Forum on Myanmar Democratic Transition to be held

FORUM on Myanmar Democratic Transition will be held from 11 to 13 August at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw.

The three-day forum organized by Ministry of Information will focus on political, economic and social issues. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Kremlin highlights contradictions in White House's statements on US sanctions



PHOTO:TASS

MOSCOW — There are some contradictions in the statements on the US sanctions against Russia that the White House has been making, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

When commenting on US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson's statement in which he

said that neither he nor US President Donald Trump were happy about the action by the US Congress to put new sanctions in place, Peskov said:

"We see some contradictions in the statements that the White House has been making."

The US Secretary of State

said earlier that the US can't let the sanctions "take us off track of trying to restore the relationship."

US Vice President Michael Pence also stated that Trump supported new sanctions and intended to sign the bill passed by the Congress.

The Kremlin spokes-

man noted that taking into account the current state of Russian-US relations and the upcoming meeting between the two countries' top diplomats, expected to be held on the sidelines of the ASEAN summit in Manila, there were no plans for a new meeting between Putin and Trump.—Tass ■

Tillerson to travel to Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia: State Dept

WASHINGTON — US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson will travel to the Philippines, Thailand and Malaysia from 5 August to 9 August, the State Department said on Tuesday.

Tillerson will participate in meetings of diplomats of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Manila, and discuss "denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, maritime security, and counterterrorism," the State Department said.

In Thailand, Tillerson will pay his respects to the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who died in 2016, and discuss the US-Thai relationship with officials there. In Malaysia, he will discuss bilateral relations with officials.— Reuters ■

Qatar signs navy vessels deal with Italy for 5 bln euros

DOHA — Qatar has signed a 5 billion euro (\$5.91 billion) deal with Italy for seven navy vessels, Qatar's foreign minister said on Wednesday. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani made the announcement at a news conference with his Italian counterpart Angelino Alfano in Doha.—Reuters ■

No deal yet in German crisis talks with car industry— source

BERLIN — Talks between German politicians and carmakers were still continuing on Wednesday, an insider source said, even after the auto industry association VDA said it agreed to cut emissions by updating the software of 5 million diesel cars.

A source close to the negotiations said the talks between several cabinet ministers, regional premiers and auto bosses were still ongoing and had broken into several groups. A news conference is scheduled for 1400 GMT.

Earlier on Wednesday, the VDA said carmakers will install new engine management software in 5 million cars to make exhaust filtering systems more effective and bring down emissions of nitrogen oxide by 25 per cent to 30 per cent in those cars.—Reuters

Russian military denies Reuters report on Syria losses

MOSCOW — Russia's Defence Ministry on Wednesday denied a Reuters report about a rise in the losses suffered by Russia in its military campaign in Syria, calling it "a lie from beginning to end", Russian news agencies reported.

"This is not the first time

that Reuters is attempting to discredit by any means Russia's operation aiming to destroy Islamic State terrorists and return peace to Syria," the agencies cited Defence Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov as saying.

The exclusive report, pub-

lished by Reuters on Wednesday and based on accounts from families and friends of the dead and local officials, estimates the actual death toll among Russian soldiers and private contractors was at least 40 so far this year, higher than official figures.

That tally over seven months exceeds the 36 Russian armed personnel and contractors estimated by Reuters to have been killed in Syria over the previous 15 months, indicating a significant rise in the rate of battlefield losses.—Reuters ■

Venezuelan election turnout figures manipulated by 1 million votes — election company

LONDON — Turnout figures in Venezuela's Constitutional Assembly election were manipulated by at least one million votes, Smartmatic, a company

which has worked with Venezuela since 2004 on its voting system, said on Wednesday.

"We know, without any doubt, that the turn out of the

recent election for a National Constituent Assembly was manipulated," Smartmatic CEO Antonio Mugica said at a news briefing in London.

"We estimate the difference between the actual participation and the one announced by authorities is at least one million votes."—Reuters ■



US troops assess the damage to an armoured vehicle of NATO-led military coalition after a suicide bomber's attack in Kandahar province, Afghanistan on 2 August, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Suicide bomber targets NATO-led convoy in Afghanistan, casualties confirmed

KABUL — A suicide bomber attacked a convoy of international troops near the airport in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar on Wednesday, a security official said, and the NATO-led military coalition confirmed there were casualties.

“We are working to gather additional information as quickly

as possible and will release more details as appropriate,” the coalition said in a statement.

A local security official said the attacker drove an explosives-laden vehicle into the convoy. No further details were immediately available.

A Reuters witness at the scene said military helicopters

landed at the site at least four times. The airport in Kandahar is home to a major military base for international troops helping Afghan security forces.

The coalition maintains nearly 13,000 troops from 39 countries as part of a mission to train, advise and assist Afghan troops, who are struggling

to contain a resurgent Taliban insurgency. US military commanders in Afghanistan have asked for several thousand additional troops, but the request is stalled in Washington, where President Donald Trump has expressed scepticism over extending the American commitment. —Reuters ■

Islamic State attacks Syrian army east of Homs — monitors

BEIRUT — Islamic State militants attacked Syrian government forces and their allies in countryside east of Homs and Hama on Wednesday, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Heavy fighting raged around the mountainous Jabal al-Shomariya area in Homs province, and the government side was carrying out air strikes there, the British-based monitoring group said.

Pro-Damascus media outlets quoted a military source saying warplanes had hit targets in the eastern Hama countryside, which borders Jabal al-Shomariya to the north.

Islamic State has been losing ground to government forces further east, close to its stronghold of Deir al-Zor province and al-Sukhna, the last town it holds in Homs province.

Several sides in Syria's crowded battlefield are fighting Islamic State, including Syrian government forces backed by Russia and Iran, and US-backed, Kurdish-dominated forces around its Raqqa stronghold. —Reuters ■

UAE says measures against Qatar do not violate WTO agreements

DUBAI — Economic sanctions imposed on Qatar by three fellow Gulf states do not violate World Trade Organisation agreements, a United Arab Emirates official said, after Doha launched a wide-ranging legal complaint at the Geneva-based body this week.

The UAE, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain cut ties with Qatar — a major global gas supplier and host to the biggest US military base in the Middle East — on 5 June, accusing it of backing militant groups and arch foe Iran, allegations Doha denies.

Qatar made the formal protest at the WTO on Monday by “requesting consultations” with the three countries, triggering a 60-day deadline for them to settle the complaint or face litigation at the WTO and potential retaliatory trade sanctions.

“The sanctions imposed by the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain did not contradict the agreements of the WTO,” UAE state news agency WAM quoted Juma Mohammed al-Kait, an assistant undersecretary in the Economy Ministry, as saying late on Tuesday.

In what appeared to be the first response to the Qatari move, he said the boycott — which included the severing of diplomatic and travel ties — was in line with articles 21 and article 14 of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), which allows such moves in the case of security exceptions.

The boycotting countries have previously told the WTO they would cite national security to justify their actions against Qatar, using an the almost un-

precedented exemption allowed under the WTO rules.

Kait said the agreements did not prevent WTO member states from using economic sanctions to protect basic security interests, or from carrying out the commitments in the United Nations Charter to maintain peace and security, WAM reported.

The WTO suit does not include Egypt, the fourth country involved in the boycott. Western-backed efforts by Gulf state Kuwait to mediate have yielded little progress so far. The disputed trade restrictions include Gulf bans on trade through Qatar's ports and travel by Qatari citizens to the three Gulf countries, blockages of Qatari digital services, closure of sea borders and the closure of airspace to Qatari aircraft. —Reuters ■

Kuwait denies its waters used for Iran supplies to Houthis

DUBAI — Kuwait on Wednesday denied a Reuters report that Iran was using the Gulf Arab state's waters to smuggle weapons and equipment to Houthi forces in Yemen.

“The State of Kuwait refuted news by the Reuters news agency regarding Iran's exploitation of Kuwaiti waters to deliver arms and military assistance to the Houthis in Yemen,” a Foreign Ministry statement said.

“A source at the ministry said that the country's waters were under the total control of the Kuwaiti navy and coast guard, adding that there were no reports of suspicious marine movements or activities,” said the statement, carried by the official Kuwait news agency.

The ministry urged international media to investigate such matters “more thoroughly”.

On Tuesday, Reuters cited sources familiar with the matter as saying that Iran's Revolutionary Guards had begun using a new route across the Gulf to funnel covert arms shipments to their Houthi allies in Yemen's civil war.

In March, regional and Western sources told Reuters that Iran was shipping weapons and military advisers to the Houthis either directly to Yemen or via Somalia.

This route however risked contact with international naval vessels on patrol in the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. —Reuters ■

Go West, US VP Pence tells Western Balkans

PODGORICA — The future of the Western Balkans is as part of the West, US Vice President Mike Pence said on Wednesday during a visit to Montenegro two months after it joined NATO in defiance of Russia.

Pence arrived in the tiny Adriatic republic on Tuesday on the final leg of a European tour designed to reaffirm Washington's commitment to the security of Eastern Europe in the face of an emboldened Russia. Montenegro, an ex-Yugoslav republic with a population of 680,000 and an army of 2,000, joined the NATO military alliance in June, eight months after it accused Russian spies of orchestrating an attempted coup to derail the accession. Moscow dismissed the accusations as anti-Russian hysteria and warned of retaliation against Montenegro's "hostile course".

On Wednesday, Pence underscored Washington's commitment to Euro-Atlantic ties, a commitment many in Europe have questioned with the rise to power of President Donald Trump who had lambasted NATO as "obsolete" and argued in favor of better relations with Russia.



US Vice President Mike Pence and Montenegrin Prime Minister Dusko Markovic look at each other ahead of their meeting in Podgorica, Montenegro on 2 August, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

"We truly believe the future of the Western Balkans is in the West," Pence told reporters, "and we look forward to reaffirming the commitment of the United States to build the relationships that will strengthen the ties between the European community, the Western Balkans and the United States of America."

On Tuesday evening, speaking at a dinner with Montenegrin Prime Minister Dusko Markovic, Pence said "your courage particularly in the face of the Russian pressure inspires the world and I commend you for that."

The West says Russia is increasingly engaged in the former Yugoslavia, particularly among fellow Orthodox Christians in Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia and Bosnia.

Serbia, in particular, has become a focus of Russian attention as it pursues an increasingly difficult balancing act between European Union membership aspirations and a popular affinity for Russia.

Russia had strongly opposed NATO accession for Montenegro, whose deep-water Adriatic ports can support naval operations in the Mediterra-

nean. Pence arrived in Montenegro from Georgia, which fought a brief war with Russia in 2008 over the breakaway enclave of South Ossetia. He also visited Estonia, telling leaders of the Baltic states they could count on US support if they faced aggression from Russia. Pence was due to take part on Wednesday in a summit of the Adriatic Charter, comprising NATO members Montenegro, Croatia and Albania as well as Bosnia and Macedonia. Leaders of Serbia, Slovenia and Kosovo will also be present. —Reuters ■

Italian parliament gives green light to Libya naval mission

ROME — Italy's parliament authorized on Wednesday a limited naval mission to help Libya's coastguard curb migrant flows, which have become a source of growing political friction ahead of national elections expected early next year.

An Italian official said Rome planned to send two boats to Libyan waters, with Defence Minister Roberta Pinotti saying the vessels would only provide technical support and would not infringe on the north African country's sovereignty.

Italy announced the operation last week, saying it had been requested by Libya's UN-backed government. It initially hoped to send six ships into Libyan territorial waters, but the plans had to be scaled back following protests from Tripoli.

"(We will) provide logistical, technical and operational support for Libyan naval vessels, helping them and supporting them in shared and coordinated actions," Pinotti told parliament on Tuesday ahead of Wednesday's vote.

"There will be no harm done or slight given to Libyan sovereignty, because, if anything, our aim is to strengthen Libyan sovereignty," she added,

stressing that Italy had no intention of imposing a blockade on Libya's coast.

The lower house voted by 328 to 113 in favour of the mission. The upper house was also expected to back the measure when it votes later in the day.

After a surge in migrant arrivals on boats from Libya at the start of the year the numbers of newcomers has slowed in recent weeks and the Interior Ministry said on Wednesday that 95,215 people had reached Italy so far this year, down 2.7 per cent on the same period in 2016.

Some 2,230 migrants, most of them Africans fleeing poverty and violence back home, have died so far this year trying to make the sea crossing.

The total number of migrants who have arrived in Italy over the past four years is some 600,000, putting Italy's network of reception centres under huge strain and causing increasing political tensions. Italy is due to hold national elections by next May, with voting widely expected in early 2018, and the migrant issue is expected to top the political agenda. Rightist parties accuse the center-left government of doing nothing to halt the influx. — Reuters ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BATAM VOY. NO (018)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BATAM VOY. NO (018) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.8.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR SOLO VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR SOLO VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.8.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BALI VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BALI VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.8.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SILKAGO LOGISTICS
PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

Philippine president to ask Congress for 20,000 new troops to fight extremists

MANILA — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has asked Congress for funds to recruit 20,000 new soldiers to battle rising threats from pro-Islamic State militants in the country’s restive south, senators said on Wednesday.

Duterte called an urgent meeting with a group of senators on Tuesday night, sharing with them the latest intelligence reports on plans by Muslim extremists to attack three cities on the southern island of Mindanao.

“He wanted to relay to us that he needs 20,000 more soldiers for the entire Armed Forces of the Philippines,” said Senate majority leader Vicente Sotto.

“He wants to make sure that in his tenure, he will be able to resolve

the problem of peace and order.”

Three other senators said the president was serious about the scale of the security threat and asked Congress for support to fund his plan to upgrade the military’s equipment and intelligence capabilities. They declined to say which three cities could suffer the same fate as Marawi, where Islamist rebels have battled the military for nine weeks since laying a siege on 23 May, with the intent to establish a “wilayat”, or Islamic State province.

A large area of Marawi has been devastated by almost daily artillery shelling and aerial bombings to try to dislodge militants holed up in the commercial center who are believed to be holding as many as 100

hostages. More than 600 rebels and soldiers have been killed in the unrest.

Duterte last month submitted to Congress a budget of 3.76 trillion Philippine pesos (\$15 billion) for next year, including 145 billion pesos for the defence.

“We’re willing to help,” said Senator Panfilo Lacson, adding that soldiers were battle-weary after two months of fighting in Marawi.

“We need fresh legs, so in legislation we can help by fast-tracking the budget to increase the troop ceiling.”

He said the president also asked to boost the police force by 10,000 men, recruiting more to be deployed as commandos to help the military fight insurgents.—Reuters ■



The 7th Meeting of the BRICS Trade Ministers is held in Shanghai, east China on 1 August, 2017. Trade ministers of BRICS nations are discussing trade facilitation, economic and technological cooperation, capacity building and the multilateral trade system at their annual meeting in Shanghai, according to China’s minister of commerce. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

BRICS nations vow to fight protectionism

SHANGHAI — Trade ministers from BRICS countries pledged to rise against protectionism and safeguard the multilateral trade system after concluding their annual meeting in Shanghai on Wednesday.

The member countries, Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, are also members of the WTO, playing a major part in global economic governance, according to a statement released after the meeting.

Ministers agreed to firmly oppose protectionism and pledged to annul any protective measures, calling on other countries to follow suit.

They also encouraged more countries to participate in the WTO, urging the institution to show

more commitment to receiving the least developed countries.

“Safeguarding the multilateral trade system and the rise against protectionism serves the common interests of emerging and developing economies,” Zhong Shan, China’s minister of commerce, said on Tuesday.

“As the host nation of this year’s meeting, China has confidence in implementing the consensus reached by leaders of BRICS nations. The Shanghai meeting will pave way for the leaders summit later this year,” he said. China, which took over the BRICS presidency this year, will host the Ninth BRICS Summit in September in Xiamen, southeast China’s Fujian Province.—Xinhua ■

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

MYANMAR
South East Asia Disaster Risk Management Project
Project ID. P160931
Assignment Title: Component 2 Preparation of Detailed Engineering Designs and Bidding Documents for Drainage Infrastructure Improvements for the 6 Downtown Townships of Yangon (Lanmadaw, Latha, Pabedan, Kyauktada, Botahtaung and Pazundaung) and Construction Management and Supervision of the Works
Reference No. C2 CS1

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has applied for financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the South East Asia Disaster Risk Management Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds to finance the Works for drainage infrastructure improvements for six townships (Lanmadaw, Latha, Pabedan, Kyauktada, Botahtaung and Pazundaung) of Yangon City and the cost of Consulting Services.

The Consulting Services (“the Services”) shall consist of two Stages: Stage 1 covering Detailed Design; and Stage 2 covering Contract Management and Construction Supervision. A single proposal (technical and financial) covering both stages will be requested. Separate contracts will be awarded for each stage with award of the contract for Stage 2 being conditional on satisfactory performance on Stage 1. Stage 1 shall include carrying out hydrological and hydraulic studies; hydrological modelling; preparation of Drainage Plans; Detailed Engineering Designs for storm water drains, storm water retention basin/s and other Sustainable Drainage System (SuDs) measures, river outfalls and outlet structures to incorporate screens, storm water pumps, standby generators, automatic tidal gates, a SCADA system and other related ancillary equipment; a cost benefit analysis of the drainage plans, preparation of an environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) in conformity with an existing Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF); detailed cost estimates; identification of a List of Priority Investments; proposals for procurement packaging and preparation of Bidding Documents for a number of priority bid packages using World Bank Procurement Guidelines and Standard Bidding Documents. Stage 2 shall cover Contract Management and Construction Supervision of the works including assisting YCDC with overall coordination and during the Defects Liability Period of the works.

The duration of services for Stages 1 and 2 are estimated at about eight (8) months and thirty six (36) months respectively not including Defects Liability Period. Defect Liability Period is expected to be 12 months.

The budget available for the priority drainage infrastructure improvement works is around US\$65 million.

The Yangon City Development Committee will be implementing the Project and now invites eligible consulting firms (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

The short listing criteria: (1) at least 10 years working experience in storm water management including the development of urban drainage systems and plans incorporating retention basins and other Sustainable Drainage System (SuDs) methodologies to attenuate floods, and outlet structures incorporating storm water pumps and ancillary equipment, automatic tidal gates and SCADA systems in both developed and developing countries, (2) experience in the design and implementation of large scale urban storm water management systems, (3) experience in conducting hydrological studies, including hydrological modeling, topographical surveys, etc. (4) availability of experienced and qualified staff (but not individual experts’ biodata), (5) proven experience in carrying out similar assignments within the past 5 years.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank’s Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants [under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants] by World Bank Borrowers dated January 2011 and revised in July 2014. (“Consultant Guidelines”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub consultancy to enhance their qualifications. The “association” may take the form of a joint venture or a sub consultancy. In case of a joint venture (JV), all members of the JV will be evaluated jointly for the purpose of short listing and shall be jointly and severally liable for the assignment and shall sign the contract jointly in case of award is made to that JV. Interested consultants should clearly indicate the structure of their “association” and the duties of the partners and sub consultants in their application. Unclear expression of interests in terms of “in association with” and/or “in affiliation with” and etc. without indicating the status of the partnership and designation of the lead partner may not be considered for short listing.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours [9.30a.m to 4.30p.m, Monday to Friday].

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by Thursday, August 17, 2017 before 3:00 pm.

EDRB in Yangon City Hall
Contact Person: U Nyan Thar
Engineering Department (Roads & Bridges)
3th Floor, Yangon City Hall,
Kyauktada Township, Yangon,
Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Tel: ++95 1 371126
Fax No. : 951-371126, 01-371126
E-mail: ycdcedrb@gmail.com

Princess Diana's revelations about sex and sorrow to be aired on British TV

LONDON — Recordings of Princess Diana speaking candidly about her sex life with Prince Charles and her sorrow at the spectacular collapse of her marriage will be broadcast on British television on Sunday.

Diana, first wife of the heir to the British throne, died aged 36 in Paris on 31 August, 1997, after the limousine carrying her and lover Dodi al-Fayed crashed in a tunnel as it tried to escape paparazzi who were chasing them on motorbikes.

Diana was just 19 when she was betrothed to Charles in 1981, but the marriage broke down. Diana blamed Camilla Parker Bowles, Charles's lover who later became his wife, for the collapse of the marriage.

In a documentary planned to coincide with the 20th anniversary of Diana's death, broadcaster Channel 4 will show footage of her speaking about her marriage during privately recorded sessions with an adviser on public speaking.

The footage includes Diana speaking about her sex life with Charles.

"It was just so odd. I don't



Britain's Princess Diana and Prince Charles look in different directions during a Korean War commemorative service in November 1992. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

know there was no requirement for it from his case," Diana says. "Sort of once every three weeks."

"And then I followed a pattern, he used to see his lady once every three weeks before we got married," she said.

Diana also relates how she approached Queen Elizabeth to discuss the failing marriage.

"She said, 'I don't know what you should do, Charles

is hopeless'. And that was it," Diana said. She also said Charles's father, Prince Philip, had given him permission to have an affair if the marriage did not work.

The footage of Diana was filmed at Kensington Palace in 1992 and 1993 by speech coach Peter Settelen.

After a lengthy court battle, the tapes were handed to Settelen.



Britain's Prince Harry and the late Diana, Princess of Wales are seen in an undated photo released by Kensington Palace on 24 July, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Segments of the tapes were aired in the United States by channel NBC. In 2007, British broadcaster the BBC also tried to use the tapes for a documentary, but the film was scrapped.

Marcus Rutherford, Settelen's lawyer, said his client had tried to keep the tapes private but that this privacy was broken during the court battle.

"Peter was not her priest, doctor, therapist or lawyer,"

Rutherford said in an emailed statement, defending his subsequent decision to release them.

"It is very clear that Diana herself wanted the world at large to know about the causes of the problems in her marriage," he said.

Friends of Diana have criticized Channel 4 for what they said was a violation of privacy. — Reuters ■

Harry Potter' author Rowling apologizes over Trump tweets

LONDON — "Harry Potter" author JK Rowling has apologized to the family of a wheelchair-bound boy for tweets in which she accused US President Donald Trump of ignoring his proffered hand at a media event.

Rowling branded Trump a "monster of narcissism" after footage of a 24 July news conference on healthcare showed the president seemingly ignoring the three-year-old's hand, but shaking other people's as he left the event.

Footage of Trump's entrance to the event, however, showed the president stop to greet the boy and have a brief exchange before he began speaking.



British writer JK Rowling, author of the Harry Potter series of books, poses during the launch of new online website Pottermore in London, England on 23 June, 2011. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Saying she had discovered that what she had seen was not an accurate representation of the encounter, Rowling tweeted: "I very clearly projected my own sensitivities around the issue of disabled people being overlooked or ignored onto the images I saw".

The author's apology was directed at the boy and his family, and made no mention of Trump.

Rowling, who has over 11 million Twitter followers, is frequently critical of Trump and his administration on her social media feed.

In the three days that elapsed between her original tweets on 28 July and her apology, Rowling had been the subject of online criticism, much of it from Trump supporters, for her comments on the incident. —Reuters ■

'Fun Mom Dinner' cast says film mirrors real bonds between mothers

LOS ANGELES — A raunchy comedy about four women on a night out that takes an unexpected turn resembles real life connections that mothers form with each other after having children, the lead actresses of "Fun Mom Dinner" said.

"Fun Mom Dinner," out in US theaters on Friday, stars Toni Collette, Bridget Everett, Molly Shannon and Katie Aselton as moms with kids in the same preschool class.

The foursome's night out begins with some gossip and tapas, and quickly spirals into an alcohol-fueled, weed-filled outing that makes them appreciate motherhood.

"I think it is wanting to find a group of people

who you can commiserate with and also support each other and wanting to find someone with a similar situation," Aselton said in an interview.

"If your friends aren't naturally moms already at that point, you end up reaching out to people that you wouldn't maybe normally reach out to ... that can sometimes create these incredible bonds," she added.

Directed by Alethea Jones and written by Julie Rudd, the film boasts a female-led team that the actresses said led to a unique on-set experience.

Aselton described it as a "weird girls club," while Everett said it felt like a "coven." —Reuters ■

Russia to auction giant 51-carat polished diamond online

MOSCOW — Russian miner Alrosa said on Tuesday it plans to sell at an online auction in November a rare collection of polished diamonds produced domestically, including a giant 51.38-carat gem.

This huge, traditional round-cut diamond, whose 2.5 cm (1 inch) diameter is equal in size to the visible part of a human eye, bears the same name as the entire Dynasty collection.

According to Alrosa, which is state-controlled, it is potentially the most expensive diamond manufactured in the history of Russian jewelry because of its quality.

It took a year and a

half for Alrosa's specialists to create five polished diamonds for the collection from a 179-carat Romanovs rough diamond, extracted at one of the company's mines in Russia's far eastern Yakutia region in 2015.

The collection is dedicated to the Tsar Peter the Great, who built the city of St Petersburg, and the Romanov dynasty, which ruled Russia for 300 years, Alrosa, the world's largest producer of rough diamonds in carat terms, said in a statement.

The collection's name fits well with a surge in patriotism in Russia triggered by Moscow's an-

nexation of the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine in 2014 and Western sanctions against Moscow.

"There was a good reason to choose the name for the collection, which is connected with Alrosa's intention to revive the traditions and memory of renowned Russian jewelers famous for their craftsmanship and filigree since Russia's first cutting and polishing factory founded by Peter I (the Great) early in the 18th century," the company said.

Alrosa's decision to produce these polished diamonds and sell them online fits with a broader industry quest to find new

ways to the market and add value on the part of gem producers.

Alrosa and Anglo American's De Beers unit, which for the first time auctioned polished stones this year, produce about half of the world's rough diamonds.

The main 51.38-carat diamond has a 57-facet traditional round brilliant cut with triple excellent cut, D color and VVS1 clarity.

"As to overall characteristics, it is unprecedented in the history of Russia," Alrosa said. The other stones in the collection are a 16.67-carat round-cut diamond, a 5.05-carat



A photographer takes a picture of the main 51.38-carat diamond on display during Russian miner Alrosa's presentation of the Dynasty polished diamonds collection in Moscow, Russia on 1 August, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

oval diamond, a 1.73-carat pear-cut diamond, and a 1.39-carat diamond.

During a media presentation of the collection in a luxury hotel in Moscow, Alrosa's chief executive Sergey Ivanov said that the company planned to sell the whole collection

in one set. From his point of view, the starting price at the auction should be not less than \$10 million.

Alrosa also said that the collection would be shown in Israel, Hong Kong and then in the United States this autumn. —Reuters ■

Polar explorer certain Russia can obtain rights to Arctic shelf in 2020

MOSCOW — Hero of the Soviet Union and Russia, prominent Arctic explorer Artur Chilingarov expects the UN to recognize Russia's rights to the Arctic continental shelf within the next few years.

"After our expedition, Russia was actively gearing up for our second bid for the Arctic continental shelf, which it filed a year ago," he told TASS. "Now it's up to the UN and the commission on the law of the sea to decide.

That will take from three to five years, and, if there are no political maneuvers, as a scientist I believe that we will obtain worldwide rights for Arctic by 2020-2023, and that is 1.2 million square kilometres," Chilingarov stated.

Ten years ago, Chilingarov and a team of polar explorers descended to the Arctic seabed at the intersection of geographical meridians in the Mir-1 and Mir-2 bathyscaphes. The expedition was part of a program to explore the Arctic continental shelf



Larsen C ice shelf in Antarctica. **PHOTO: TASS**

and Russia's Lomonosov Ridge.

Paris Agreement

The Paris climate agreement ratified by Russia in April 2016 will help preserve the nature of the Arctic region, he went on.

The scientist recalled that climate change has had a profound impact on the Arctic region.

The area and thickness of the ice shell is decreasing, which makes research in the northern latitudes difficult. Although,

according to Chilingarov, the climate change process depends more on the glacial period cycles, he supports the idea of reducing emissions into the atmosphere.

"As Special Presidential Envoy for International Cooperation in the Arctic Region, I fully support the initiative to join the Paris agreement.

That should have a positive impact on the development of cooperation in the region," the scientist

said. Washington earlier decided to withdraw from the Paris agreement. US President Donald Trump said the move stemmed from the excessive financial burden for the country due to the need to comply with strict environmental standards.

According to the World Meteorological Organization, Washington's decision will lead to an additional 0.3-degree increase in temperatures by 2100. —Tass ■



Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(3-8-2017 07:00am ~ 4-8-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Paper Products... Plain but Pretty
07:47	Am	A Historic Town: 9 Pagodas
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Impressionist Myanmar Master Artist - U Lun Gywe
08:43	Am	Laser Cutting and Engraving
08:53	Am	Talented Musicians
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Myanmar Handicrafts
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Moe Ne' Keeps Its Tradition Alive
10:51	Am	Orchid Lover

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Wednesday 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 Visit to Kyauk Kyi
07:43	Pm	Shan Novices To Be...
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Pride of Myanmar - Bagan arts and handicrafts
08:41	Pm	Now In Yangon
08:47	Pm	Living in Off-Season

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

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

Myanmar U-22 loses 1-0 to Japan's Ryutsu

IN their second friendly match, the Myanmar U-22 football team was defeated by Japan's Ryutsu Keizai University FC by a score of 1-0. Myanmar used star players Aung Thu, Si Thu Aung and Hlaing Bo Bo in the match.

In the first half, Myanmar played responsively and got chances at goals at 11 minutes and 22 minutes by Myanmar attacker Aung Kaung Mann, but neither chance resulted in a goal.

Japan's team got the first goal at 20 minutes when Wata Tanami scored.

During the second half, Myanmar made more substitutions and changed tactics.

At the 55 minute mark, Myanmar's Hlaing Bo Bo received a golden opportunity to score, but his kick was just wide of the goal. Japan's team then placed more pressure on Myanmar, and the game ended 1-0.—Shine Htet Zaw ■



Players from Myanmar U22 and Ryutsu Keizai competing during the match. **PHOTO: SOE NYUNT**

Myanmar Lethwei and Poland Muay Thai rematch



Myanmar Lethwei star Soe Lin Oo and Poland Muay Thai star Sellar Dwight. **PHOTO: ZARNI**

MYANMAR Lethwei star Soe Lin Oo and Muay Thai star Sellar Dwight will have a rematch at Thein Phyu Indoor Stadium in Yangon on 6 August at 2pm.

In the previous match on 10 June, Sellar Dwight defeated Soe Lin Oo by point comparison. "I will fight to recover from the loss of the last match. I am focusing training on my strength and stamina. I have over one month to prepare. Before my audience, I am going to fight my best with my experience from the last match" said Soe Lin Oo.

The local fighting matches between Saw L Lay (Adventure) and Sein Myo Aung (Mandalay), Zwe Shwe Ko (T&T Thaton) and Sa Laing Chan MyaeKo (Htun Thwin Club), ShweK-

yaungThar (T&T Thaton) and Thet Paing Aung (Taung Kalay), Pait Htwe (T&T Thaton) and Aung Paing (Nagar Man), Hein HtunAung (T&T Thaton) and Kyaw Swar Win (United), ThweThit Maung (Aphyu Yang Thwe Thit) and ZarmaniThwe (Ayearthat), Chit Maung Maung (Taung Ka lay) and Chit Oo (a) Saw Min Naing (ShweThaung Yin), Lat Thee Moe (T&T Thatone) and Saw PhoeHtun (Thatee) will also be held on that day. The Myanmar Lethwei fighting competitions are supervised by Myanmar Lethwei Federation, sponsored by Victory Myanmar Group. Co.Ltd and organized by T&T Group. Tickets can be bought in advance at 09-764006920.—Aung Kyaw Oo ■

Coaching Certificate course launched in Myanmar

THE Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) opened a coaches training course for the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) yesterday, according to the MFF website.

The course aims at training coaches and developing their basic techniques and skills in football. It is designed to teach the

coaches to organise, direct and conduct basic coaching practices targeting young players.

The course will last 13 days and requires a minimum of 85 hours of study time for both the practical and theoretical sessions. In the final examination, students will be assessed on their practical coaching abili-

ties, knowledge of the laws of the game, in addition to learning and understanding of the theory contents of football.

There are 20 male and 3 female trainees. Malaysian instructor Mr. S Richard Sinapon will give the lessons. The course will be concluded on 14 August.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Grealish faces three months out with kidney injury

LONDON —Aston Villa midfielder Jack Grealish has been ruled out for at least three months after being admitted to hospital for a kidney injury he suffered in a friendly against Watford on Saturday, the Championship side's manager Steve Bruce said.

The 21-year-old was forced off after a collision with Watford midfielder Tom Cleverley and Bruce confirmed that Grealish could be in for a long spell on the sidelines.

"It will be at least three months and it could be much longer than that," Bruce told the BBC. "He's poorly at the moment, I went to see him in hospital.

"We're obviously disappointed with the injury. He's still in hospital and things aren't great.



Aston Villa's Jack Grealish. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

We hope that he has a speedy recovery, of course, as losing him is a blow to us."

Grealish has made 79 ap-

pearances for Villa's senior side since 2013 and played in 31 league matches last season.—Reuters ■