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Peace makers discuss agreed points in detail at the sixth dialogue between the Delegation for Political Negotiation of the UNFC and the Peace Commission in Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG**

State Counsellor: ‘confident in steps to peace’

DPN, Peace Commission meet for sixth time to try and achieve ceasefire agreement

By Ye Khaung Nyunt

THE Peace Commission and the Delegation for Political Negotiation of the United Nationalities Federal Council held their sixth meeting in Yangon yesterday, discussing nine points proposed by the UNFC for signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.

In his opening remarks at

the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre, Dr. Tin Myo Win, Chairman of the Peace Commission, conveyed the message of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to attendees about her confidence in taking steps towards peace as a result of political dialogue.

Khu Oo Ral, the leader of the Delegation for Political Negoti-

ation of the UNFC said he has high hopes for the sixth meeting with the Peace Commission, expressing his view that if they can create good opportunities in the dialogue, the situation will be less complicated in the future.

He also urged all participants of the dialogue to show their commitment to achieving peace in order to gain trust from

the people.

“If the coming third 21st Century Panglong want us with an equitable role, circumstances that we can participate (in the peace process) and building trust are needed. We view that that is our first step for the entire peace of the country,” he said.

The DPN also urged the Peace Commission to discuss

all points proposed by the DPN in detail, which were agreed to in principle during a 3 March meeting of the two sides.

Out of nine points, four points were discussed in detail at yesterday’s meeting, which ended at 2.30 pm. The remaining points will be discussed today, said U Hla Maung Shwe, from the Peace Commission. ■



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမာန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Pyithu Hluttaw member complains about bribes by immigration officials

Kyaw Thu Htet
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

At today's meeting, Hluttaw member U Win Win of Minbu, Magway Region said that he had received reports from constituents that Myanmar immigration officials were demanding bribes in return for mandatory national registration cards and family registration forms.

Hluttaw members also discussed amending the controversial Section 66 of the Telecommunications Law, which has been used to jail several journalists in recent months.

Members discussed wheth-



U Win Maw Tun, Deputy Minister for Education. **PHOTO: MNA**

er the penalty for the Telecommunications Law should be amended so that it would impose imprisonment of less than

three years and include a bail option. Members who wished to discuss the amendment were invited to register their names and their preferred changes to the law.

And finally, U Win Maw Tun, Deputy Minister for Education reported that an education college was opened in Kyaukpyu township, Rakhine State which would produce 600 teachers a year. However, U Win Maw Tun said that as yet there was not enough funding to provide a new educational college in Mrauk U district and to increase the number of teachers to an adequate level in proportion to students there. ■

Plans for rural medical clinics discussed at Amyotha Hluttaw

Thura Zaw
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe answered Amyotha Hluttaw members' questions about health services and new clinic construction projects during yesterday's regular meeting in Nay Pyi Taw.

In response to a question about health resources in Mon State, Dr. Myint Htwe said that Nout Auk Village in Kyonekwe village tract and Mwehauk Village in Kawkalawt village tract were not included in the current organisation setup of rural health care sub-clinics.

The Union Minister said that these communities may be considered for additional health service allocations during his ministry's 2018-2019 organisational assessment.

The Union Minister said



Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe. **PHOTO: MNA**

that in 2018 the ministry will build medical clinics in Nidon, Taunggalay and Kawtsap villages in Kyaikmaraw Township under a priority annual funding request. And he said construction would also begin on medical staff residences in Mikathit, Ahlapkone, Kada, Phanon, Mayangone and Oolay villages. The Union Minister also said the

Chin State Public Health Department plans to construct three rural health care clinics in Sami, Kanaung and Hmutanu, and six rural health care sub-clinics in Kyilay, Wetma, Buddhagama, Gayapyin, Shwelikewa and Myeik using 2018-2019 budget funds from the Department of Public Health. In other matters U Aung Thein of Bago Region said there has been an increase of unlicensed gambling establishments opening under the guise of an amusement center.

Many of these establishments use imported gaming machines. U Aung Thein said their presence was eroding the morals of local residence and causing concern among parents and city leaders where the gaming centers are present.

His motion urging the government to investigate and close down such gaming centers was tabled for a future meeting. ■

Top Korean lawmaker visits Myanmar

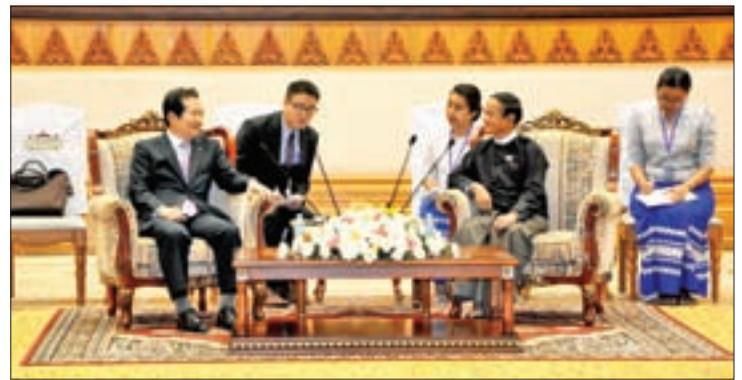
At the invitation of Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint, Republic of Korea National Assembly Speaker Mr. Chung Sye-Kyun arrived in Yangon yesterday on an official friendly visit.

The Korean leader was greeted at the airport by Yan-

gon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun, Deputy Speaker U Lin Naing Myint and the Minister Counsellor of Korea Embassy in Myanmar H.E. Mr Kim Jung Han.

The delegation proceeded to Nay Pyi Taw by air, arriving at the Nay Pyi Taw

International Airport in the afternoon, where Mr. Chung Sye-Kyun was greeted at the airport by Deputy Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat and Chairman of International Relations Committee U Zaw Thein.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint holds talks with Speaker of the National Assembly in Korea yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Speaker U Win Myint meets Speaker of the National Assembly in Korea

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint met yesterday with H.E. Mr. Chung Sye-kyun, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea and party at the Hluttaw Building Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. The lawmakers discussed bilateral relations, improving economic cooperation and investment, legislation and parliamentary collaboration. The men also shared experiences about their economies and how to implement technological improvements.

After discussing, the Pyithu

Hluttaw Speaker, the National Assembly Speaker and parties took memorial photo. Then, H.E. Mr. Chung Sye-kyun signed in the guest list of the Pyithu Hluttaw. Also present at the meeting were the Deputy Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Zaw Thein, Ethnic Affairs and Internal Peace Committee's Chairman U Khun Maung Thaung, Hluttaw representatives and officials of the Pyithu Hluttaw Office.

—Myanmar News Agency ■



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker host a dinner party in honour of delegation of parliamentarians led by Mr Chung Sye-Kyun. **PHOTO: MNA**

Speaker U Win Myint and wife host a dinner in honour of National Assembly Speaker of ROK

U Win Myint, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw, and wife hosted a dinner party in honour of delegation of parliamentarians led by H.E. Mr. Chung Sye-Kyun, National Assembly Speaker of Republic of Korea and wife at the Dinner Hall of Hluttaw Premises in Nay Pyi Taw at 7 pm yesterday.

First of all, the Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw and National Assembly Speaker of ROK, exchanged words praying for strengthening friendship between Myanmar and Korea and for co-operating more than ever between the two parliaments, enjoying the dinner together.

While having the dinner, artistes of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture entertained

the guests with Myanmar songs and traditional dances. Afterward, the two speakers presented the artistes with the flower basket.

Present at the dinner party were Mahn Win Khaing Than, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw, U T Khun Myat, Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw and wife, U Aye Tha Aung, Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw, chairmen of Hluttaw committees, Hluttaw representatives, and responsible personnel of Hluttaw Office. Together with the delegation led by Speaker of National Assembly of ROK, responsible officials from the embassy of ROK in Myanmar were present. —Myanmar News Agency ■

President U Htin Kyaw receives ROK National Assembly Speaker

President U Htin Kyaw received H.E. Mr. Chung Sye-kyun, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea and party at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, views on promoting cooperation and friendship between the two parliaments, increasing invest-

ments in Myanmar and regional peace matters were discussed.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat, Deputy Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Deputy Minister of President's Office U Min Thu and officials. — Myanmar News Agency ■



President U Htin Kyaw meets with a delegation led by Speaker of National Assembly of Korea. PHOTO: MNA

SC attends ceremony celebrating 60 years of Swiss-Myanmar diplomatic relations



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrives a ceremony to celebrate 60 years of Swiss-Myanmar diplomatic relations. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended a ceremony to celebrate 60 years of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and Switzerland in Nay Pyi Taw.

The ceremony organized by Embassy of Switzerland was held yesterday at the Sofitel Hotel (The Lake Garden Hotel). Present at the ceremony were the Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Hla Thein, and Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe, Dr Pe Myint, U Ohn Win, Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Dr Myint Htwe, Dr Win Myat Aye, U Ohn Maung and Nai Thet Lwin, National Security Advisor U Thaug Tun, Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board Dr. Win Thein, Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Mya Tun Oo, Nay Pyi Taw

Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Maw, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin, Switzerland Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Paul Seger and invited guests.

Musical performances were given at the opening ceremony by youths from Mr. Roger's Orphanage (Yangon) and the Kachin Baptist Church, led by Mr. Sebastian See-Schierenberg, Ms. Katherine Lewiston, U Aung Moe Kyaw and Daw Darli Khin Zaw.

Afterwards, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi gave a keynote speech on the 60 years of relations between Switzerland and Myanmar. The State Counsellor then gave commemorative bouquets to the musical performers followed by a banquet dinner. — Myanmar News Agency ■

H1N1 – 510 undergoing treatment, 194 identified positive and 20 fatalities as of 10 August

Eleven new seasonal influenza patients were identified between Wednesday and Thursday afternoon, bringing the total number of known H1N1 cases in Myanmar to 194 people.

The virus is blamed for 20 fatalities since the most recent outbreak began and 510 people are currently undergoing treatment for symptoms consistent

with H1N1.

In Yangon, 66 influenza patients are being treated at Waibagi Specialist Hospital; the others are at hospitals scattered throughout Myanmar.

In the face of such a serious outbreak, the Ministry of Health and Sports has increased its health education outreach on the disease, displaying stickers

and posters on mass transit and other public spaces

The ministry announced yesterday that children, elderly people, and others with compromised immune systems, including people with AIDS, kidney disease, tuberculosis and diabetes were especially susceptible to H1N1 infection.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Trading resume in Maungtaw after repair of broken dock in Bangladesh

Trade across Myanmar's border with Bangladesh has resumed after a dock structure in Bangladesh was repaired yesterday.

"Trading boats didn't return to Maungtaw side yesterday and there were some delays in Maungtaw. The dock was broken for a short time only as repair was immediately conducted and trade resumed normally today" said U Tun Kyaw, the Staff officer of Maungtaw border trade

station.

U Khin Maung, a trader from Sittway said "Boat departure was halted for a day after hearing about the broken dock but when it was repaired and normal trade has resumed. We mainly export ginger, rice, plum, dried plum and turmeric." U Khin Maung said that the sailing time is about 10 hours from Sittway and weather conditions need to be observed before

crossing the sea.

It only takes about two hours to cross the Naf River into Bangladesh from Maungtaw border trade station.

In July of fiscal year 2016-2017 trade value exported from Maungtaw border trade station was about US\$470,000. During the same period this year trade value exported was \$1.32 million, an increase of \$850,000.—A One Soe, Myo Thu Hein ■



Workers load sacks of rice into a boat at Maungtaw Border Trade Station. PHOTO: A ONE SOE

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FILE PHOTO - People wait to see the sunset from the top of Shwesandaw Pagoda in the ancient city of Bagan February 13, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Construction of sunset watching locations 100 % finished in Bagan-Nyaung-U

Authorities with the Irrigation and Water Resources Management Department completed construction of lookout points for tourists in Bagan-Nyaung-U, according to an article in the City News Daily yesterday.

The purpose of the lookout points was to give visitors an alternative to climbing up tem-

ples and other structures that were being eroded by tourists scrambling to get a view of sunsets or perspectives for photos.

Previously, authorities granted sunset watching at five pagodas in Bagan region. But after an earthquake in last August, some pagodas with viewing sites were damaged and only two pagodas, Shwe-

sandaw and Taung Gu Ni, were made available.

With the number of tourists in Bagan increasing, authorities decided to build new viewing platforms in Bagan. Authorities are also planning to install electric lamp posts in Nyaung-U and to widen several main roads. — City News ■

Nay Pyi Taw locomotive factory to manufacture 20 locomotives annually

A US\$48 million locomotive factory will begin operating in Nay Pyi Taw in December and will manufacture 20 locomotives annually, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

The locomotive factory is the result of a Myanmar-Chinese contract in 2013 and construction started in 2014. The loco-

motive factory will be operational in December.

The locomotive factory will manufacture engines between 300 horsepower and 2,000 horsepower. The locomotives will have an automatic computer control system.

Four-hundred-fifty people will work at the factory including

expert engineers from Myanmar and China. Eventually, the factory will be run only by the Myanmar engineers. About half of the 400 locomotives currently running in Myanma Railway are considered to be outdated. Out of 1,200 passenger coaches, one fourth of them are in need of replacement.—GNLM ■

Two missing and one abducted in Maungtaw Township

Two villagers in Zay Kone Tann village were missing after they were last seen carrying fish from a boat at the mouth of Alethanyaw Creek in Maungtaw Township on 8 August.

On the morning of 8 August, Mahmut Char and Kalar Mhar in Zay Kone Tann village left home to carry fish from a

boat berthed at the mouth of Alethanyaw Creek in Lay Yin Kwin Village and didn't return home.

The police are investigating after the case was filed to Alechaung Police Station.

Similarly on 9 August, a villager in Pann Taw Pyin village was abducted by villagers

from the same village. In this case, a man was on his way to Maungtaw when he was abducted by seven Pann Taw Pyin villagers.

The security forces are investigating the matter and is searching for the missing people and suspected abductors.—Myanmar News Agency ■

MIC branches to be opened in Chin and Rakhine states

Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) branch offices will be opened in Chin and Rakhine states in October, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

The MIC branch offices will be opened in every township in FY2017-2018.

According to the MIC new law, the MIC commission branch offices have been granted to open in every state and region. Also, MIC branch offices have been granted to give permission to the local and foreign investments which do not exceed Ks 6,000 million and US\$ 5 million.

MIC offices in States and Regions have seven members each including the chief ministers concerned. To implement the process, MIC has been providing training workshops to local officials.

MIC will permit only investments which create better job opportunities for the local people, raise government revenues, fulfill the domestic demand and follow MIC rules and regulations.—GNLM ■

Htwe Oo Myanmar participates in BKK Festival

The Htwe Oo Myanmar traditional puppet troupe will participate in the Recreation Festival which will be held in Bangkok, Thailand on 12 and 13 August, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

At the festival, 13 Asian countries including 10 ASEAN members will attend.

The Htwe Oo Myanmar traditional marionette troupe will perform the puppet shows usually performed in theatres and they will also demonstrate the process of crafting and assembling traditional puppets, dolls and marionettes. They will also lead a game of Shwe Sun Nyo (a traditional hide-and-seek game).—GNLM ■



South Korea-born Canadian pastor Hyeon Soo Lim stands during his trial at a North Korean court in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in Pyongyang December 16, 2015. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

North Korea releases jailed Canadian pastor amid standoff with US

SEOUL/TORONTO — North Korea freed a Canadian pastor serving a life sentence on humanitarian grounds, the Canadian prime minister and North Korea's KCNA news agency said, just hours after the United States warned it would counter any threat from the North with "fire and fury."

There was no clear connection between the release of Hyeon Soo Lim and the heightened rhetoric between Washington and Pyongyang.

A statement from Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's office on Thursday said that Lim had been freed and "will soon be reunited with his family and friends".

His case was taken up by a delegation led by the country's

national security adviser that had gone to North Korea earlier in the week, it said. Sweden's embassy in Pyongyang, which represents several Western nations in the insular nation, had also helped, the statement said.

"Operational security considerations prevent us from discussing the matter further," it said.

Lim, who served in one of the largest churches in Canada, had been sentenced to hard labour for life in December 2015 after North Korea accused him of attempting to overthrow the regime.

"Strategically, North Korea perhaps hopes to engender some goodwill from Canada as tensions rise," said Charles Burton, a former Canadian diplomat in China. "They hope that Canada presents

some moderating influence on the Trump administration.

"(But) I do not think it is directly connected to the tensions the US president has ratcheted up. North Korea is concerned he would die in prison."

North Korea has in the past attracted the attention of Washington and visits by high-profile Americans with the detention and release of US citizens.

KCNA said Lim had been released on "sick bail" by the country's Central Court for humanitarian reasons.

Lim is expected to return to Canada later on Thursday and will be hospitalised on arrival at his wife's request, a source familiar with the matter said. His family is arriving separately. — Reuters ■

S Korea delays measurement of electromagnetic wave near THAAD site

SEOUL — South Korea's defence ministry delayed the planned measurement of electromagnetic wave and noise near the site where the US Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) missile defence system is deployed, according to local media reports. The defence ministry originally planned to measure the level of noise and electromag-

netic wave on Thursday near the THAAD site together with the environment ministry.

An unnamed defence ministry official told local reporters that the plan was postponed due to several situations on the site.

Officials of the defence and environment ministries were planned to move by helicopter into the former golf course in

Seongju county, North Gyeongsang province, but the chopper failed to take off due to a bad weather, according to local media reports. They sought to move by chopper as residents and peace activists are blocking a sole entrance road to the site to prevent more THAAD elements from being deployed in their hometown.—Xinhua ■

Governor vows not to allow restart of Tokai No. 2 nuclear plant

MITO, (Japan) — Ibaraki Gov. Masaru Hashimoto said Thursday he will not consent to the restart of the sole reactor at the Tokai No. 2 nuclear power plant in Tokaimura, which went offline in March 2011 just as a nuclear disaster unfolded in neighboring Fukushima Prefecture.

Hashimoto's pledge, coming on the day his campaigning for a seventh term as governor officially got under way, goes further than his previous position on the issue, in which he had set conditions for a restart.

"I will not approve a restart," Hashimoto said at an event marking the start of his official campaign for the 27 August gubernatorial election. "I will steer in the direction of not accepting nuclear power," he told his supporters.

The issue of restarting the nuclear power plant, which sits on the same Pacific coast as the tsunami-ravaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, is among the contentious issues in the election.

Hashimoto, 71, is pitted against two contenders: Kazuhiko Oigawa, a 53-year-old former company executive backed by the Liberal Democratic Party and the Komeito party, and Makomi Tsuruta,

a 52-year-old head of a non-profit group supported by the Japanese Communist Party.

Back in July, Hashimoto set conditions for a restart of the power plant's sole reactor, saying, "We will not give consent to restarting unless the safety of the plant and the evacuation plan for it are shown to be viable."

The Japan Atomic Power Co. reactor was shut down automatically as a powerful earthquake hit Japan's northeast and caused a tsunami that went on to trigger multiple reactor meltdowns at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in neighbouring Fukushima.

The aging reactor will face the prospect of decommissioning if it cannot clear a safety screening by regulators by November 2018, when 40 years will have passed since it began operating.

Tougher safety rules introduced in the post-Fukushima years prohibit in principle the operation of nuclear reactors beyond 40 years. But extending a unit's life for an additional 20 years is possible if operators make safety upgrades and pass regulators' screening. —Kyodo News ■

Osprey aircraft to take part in Japan-US drills in Hokkaido

TOKYO — The US Marine Corps will likely fly Osprey aircraft in joint drills with the Ground Self-Defence Force in Hokkaido despite the Japanese government's call for a halt following a fatal crash off Australia last week, a Defence Ministry source said Thursday.

The source said none of the aircraft deployed at the Futenma air base in Okinawa will fly on the first day of drills on Thursday but arrangements are being made for their participation in the exercises running through 28 August.

All six of the Futenma-based MV-22 Ospreys had originally been scheduled to participate in the drills, before the crash of one of them off the eastern coast of Australia

on Saturday that left three US Marines dead.

The crash rekindled concern about the safety of the tilt-rotor aircraft among local residents and officials not only Okinawa but Hokkaido.

On Wednesday, the US Marine Corps said in a statement that it had determined that Ospreys are "safe to fly," resuming operations after a 48-hour pause.

Commenting on the statement, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said Thursday it showed the US forces' "determination to ensure" the safety of the aircraft.

Suga added the Defence Ministry is "in negotiations with the US side" regarding the joint drills.—Kyodo News ■



World's first quantum satellite is launched in Jiuquan, Gansu Province, China, on 16 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Chinese quantum satellite sends 'unbreakable' code

BEIJING — China has sent an "unbreakable" code from a satellite to the Earth, marking the first time space-to-ground quantum key distribution technology has been realised, state media said on Thursday.

China launched the world's first quantum satellite last August, to help establish "hack proof" communications, a development the Pentagon has called a "notable advance".

The official Xinhua news agency said the latest experiment was published in the journal *Nature* on Thursday, where reviewers called it a "milestone".

The satellite sent quantum keys to ground stations in China between 645 km (400 miles) and

1,200 km (745 miles) away at a transmission rate up to 20 orders of magnitude more efficient than an optical fibre, Xinhua cited Pan Jianwei, lead scientist on the experiment from the state-run Chinese Academy of Sciences, as saying.

"That, for instance, can meet the demand of making an absolute safe phone call or transmitting a large amount of bank data," Pan said.

Any attempt to eavesdrop on the quantum channel would introduce detectable disturbances to the system, Pan said.

"Once intercepted or measured, the quantum state of the key will change, and the information being intercepted will

self-destruct," Xinhua said.

The news agency said there were "enormous prospects" for applying this new generation of communications in defence and finance.

China still lags behind the United States and Russia in space technology, although President Xi Jinping has prioritised advancing its space programme, citing national security and defence. China insists its space programme is for peaceful purposes, but the US Defence Department has highlighted its increasing space capabilities, saying it was pursuing activities aimed at preventing adversaries from using space-based assets in a crisis.—Reuters ■

Malaysian low-cost airline operates regular flights to Cambodian coast city

PHNOM PENH — Malaysian low-cost airline, AirAsia, opened regular flights between Malaysia's Kuala Lumpur and Cambodia's Sihanoukville on Wednesday, a Cambodia Airports' press release said.

"The new connection demonstrates an increasing awareness of Cambodia's diversified tourism offers and, in particular, a surging demand

for the country's beach spots," the release said.

A water cannon salute greeted the opening route of AirAsia with a full flight of 180 passengers on board after the aircraft landed at the Sihanoukville international airport, it said.

The new service operates on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, it said.—Xinhua ■

South Korea urges DPRK to stop threatening rhetoric

SEOUL — South Korea on Thursday urged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to stop letting out a threatening rhetoric that runs against the consensus of the international community.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Cho June-hyuck told a press briefing that the DPRK's recent threatening rhetoric, which went too much, ran against the general opinion of the international society, urging Pyongyang to immediately stop it. Cho said the DPRK should make a right choice and come to the way to denuclearization, urging the DPRK to rapidly respond to the South Korea-proposed initiative for improved inter-Korean relations and for building constant peace on the Korean Peninsula.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in declared the so-

called "Korean Peninsula Peace Initiative" in early July in Berlin, Germany in a bid to enhance ties with the DPRK through economic cooperation and the exchange of sports, culture and personnel.

As follow-up measures, Seoul proposed to Pyongyang for holding talks about military affairs to stop all hostile acts near the military demarcation line (MDL) dividing the two sides, while offering a separate Red Cross dialogue on humanitarian issues. Pyongyang has been mum about the dialogue overtures, while issuing a warning against the United States to fire missiles near the waters off the US island of Guam in the Pacific.

The spokesman said South Korea would make all diplomatic efforts to make the DPRK come to the dialogue table to ease tensions and denuclearize the peninsula.—Xinhua ■

Death toll rises to 20 after strong earthquake

JIUZHAIGOU, (Sichuan) — The death toll has risen to 20, with 431 injured, after a 7.0-magnitude earthquake in southwest China's Sichuan Province Tuesday night, local authorities confirmed Thursday.

Among the injured, 18 are in serious conditions, according to the provincial government.

Seventeen of the seriously injured have been transferred to the cities of Chengdu and Mianyan for treatment.

More than 50,000 tourists, including 126 foreigners, were evacuated following the quake, which struck Jiuzhaigou County at 9:19 p.m. Tuesday at a depth of 20 kilometers.

Jiuzhaigou is a popular tourist destination in the mountains on the eastern edge of Qinghai-Tibet Plateau.

It is part of the Aba prefecture and is known for its ethnic minority communities, mountainous landscape, and stunning scenery.—Xinhua ■



People injured in Jiuzhaigou earthquake are transferred to the Central Hospital of Mianyang City, southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 9 August 2017. PHOTO: XINHUA

Only If Buddha Sasana flourishes brightly like the Sun

Khin Maung Oo

Myanmar is a country in which Buddhism is professed by most of its citizens, to be exact, 87.9% of the country's population according to the 2014 census. Buddha Sasana, that is, Buddha's Teachings are greatly valued, and monks and the people, the followers try their best to propagate Buddha's Teachings by following the noble practices of the Buddha strictly and keeping the precepts.

In building an edifice in all its grandeur, a strengthened foundation is needed for long-lasting survival. Likewise, it is essential to strengthen the study of Buddhist Scriptures "Pariyatti," the foundation of Buddha's Sasana for the eternal survival of Buddhism in this universe. As long as the Buddha's sermons preached by monks can be heard, we—the lay persons, can fulfill the other two religious duties—Patipatti and Pariveda, practising to liberate our-

selves from all sufferings and propagating Buddha's Teachings in the world.

Accordingly, Paryatti is of great importance. It is the foundation of the Buddha Sasana. Buddhist monks have to learn the Buddhist scriptures by heart. Buddhist Scriptures includes the Suttas meant to give moral lessons to the people through parables and stories, Vinaya means the code of conduct for monks and Abhidhamma means the deep and profound teachings of the Buddha dealing with "Mind, matter and Nibbanna". Some western scholars refer to the Abhidhamma as Buddhist psychology. So long as the above said Three Baskets of Buddhism - Sutta, Vinaya and Abhidhamma exist, Buddha's Sasana will be with us. On the other hand, if they will disappear from our sight, Our Lord Buddha and His Teachings will no longer be seen in this universe.

In our country, we already have authenticated Buddhist scriptures. Only if

there are those who will teach and learn the Buddhist Scriptures in the country, will it flourish for long. Hence, we need to have Sanghas who will conduct lectures on Buddhist Scriptures. We also need to supply our monks with the "Four Requisites" - such as monasteries, robes, medicines and meals (Soon). The people provide the monks with the "Four Requisites" so that the monks can study the Buddhist scriptures in peace and without any worries.

Being lay persons struggling with daily routines and worldly matters for our survival, we find it difficult to study these Buddhist scriptures by ourselves. So, we have to follow the Buddha's teachings by keeping the scriptures in mind, after learning from the monks who had learnt a lot. In return, we need to donate offertories to our monks in reciprocation.

On a careful study about cultures, traditions, customs and language of a country or a race, we will find that

the respective religion controls and influences the country and its people. Myanmar culture, language and traditions are very much influenced by the Buddha's Dhamma. Without it, Myanmar's cultural heritages will disappear sorrowfully. Being well convinced of it, our successive national leaders have been holding religious examinations at different levels.

According to the Census and demographic data, Buddhist monks and those who profess Buddhism have decreased. So, we firmly believe that we should donate and support our Buddhist monks with necessary offertories, with a view to having Buddhist monks who can give us religious sermons, the main source of our literature and culture.

Only if Pariyatti flourishes will Patipatti and Pariveda spread and grow. Then we can be sure that the Buddha Sasana will shine very bright in the universe like the Sun forever. ■

Protect and Save the lives of Myanmar migrant workers abroad

By: Tommy Pauk

Hundreds and thousands of people from Myanmar have been staying and working as political refugees and economic migrants in various countries in different regions for over two decades. Protecting and saving the lives of Myanmar migrant workers abroad is our grave concern. Here in the sense that Myanmar migrant workers stand for all national brethren. Due to economic difficulties and unemployment problem in Myanmar, they venture earnings or job abroad. Currently, in the world, some people from developing countries are migrating to prosperous countries or industrialized countries in search for jobs. Even when they get job, they cannot enjoy the human rights and their lives are not protected by specific law in the host countries. Since they are illegally working in the foreign countries, their wages are less than the local workers' wages and they cannot enjoy social security. Myanmar migrant workers are considered the cheapest laborers or the working robots. Nevertheless, they have to work hard and endure the hardship and ill-treatment given by factory owners or the local bosses in the host countries. The people of all national races of Myanmar love to live and work in their native country - Myanmar. They do not wish to work away from home. In that case, the entire people of Myanmar ought to cooperate with the new government to solve the problem effectively and seriously.

During the successive Junta governments' eras, tens of thousands of people from Myanmar left for neighboring coun-

tries and First world to seek better and decent jobs legally or illegally. The people from both rural and urban collected money by selling their owned land plots, some properties and even borrowed money from the usurers for the brokerage charges in finding jobs abroad.

Unfortunately, some are cheated by so-called job brokers or fraudsters. Some job-seekers were cheated and lost their money just before they reached a certain country and some were cheated in a particular country after they had entered it legally. Such troublesome situations make every job-seeker disastrous. Still there are millions of Myanmar migrant workers working in various countries in various regions in the world. The poverty, unemployment problem, inadequate job creations, civil war and high cost of living are the root causes which lead some rural and urban people to become migrant workers. Their basic intent is to explore comfortable life or making a fortune indeed. The locals despise Myanmar migrant workers and treat like their slaves. Actually, there is no Myanmar migrant worker who does not love his or her motherland. Besides that, they are not really happy to work in any foreign countries but they have to endure the risky life in foreign countries to earn more money for supporting their family or the elderly parents or the children in Myanmar. Myanmar migrant workers those who work in the First world are treated unfairly by the government and the citizens of the First World.

Moreover, Myanmar migrant worker are always insecure about their stay in foreign countries. These days the

Overseas Labor Agencies in Myanmar recruit the laborers and send them on contract basis between the agencies and employers abroad legally. However, the wages, benefits, fringe benefits and other allowances do not meet the standard and norms of the labor rights in First World and the Third World. Myanmar migrant workers receive the lowest payment for their services though they are honest, hard working and efficient. The employ-

Now, the entire people of Myanmar demand protections for Myanmar migrant workers seriously as the country Myanmar has already been on the track of democratic endeavors and building democratic state.

ers seldom award bonuses to Myanmar migrant workers in the end of a calendar year. The stable economic development, modern infrastructure, hard currencies, job opportunities of some of the neighboring countries allure Myanmar migrant workers to earn more money or to make a living there avidly. The internal armed conflict is one of the root causes for becoming migrant workers as they cannot safely earn their living in their states in Myanmar. Consequently, they

fled from the civil war and worked in the neighboring countries.

Both political leaders and the succeeding governments in Myanmar since last five decades ought to share the blame for the crises of Myanmar migrant workers. Now, the entire people of Myanmar demand protections for Myanmar migrant workers seriously as the country Myanmar has already been on the track of democratic endeavors and building democratic state. All the citizens of Myanmar can have human rights equally among any other nationals home and abroad. Our prime concern is to save Myanmar migrant workers working abroad. More and more job opportunities must be created in The Republic of the Union of Myanmar so that the migrant workers will return home willingly. A number of Myanmar human resources are draining away to non-native countries indeed. The new government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar must call them back and create the adequate job opportunities for them. The incumbent government should lay down the firm and effective policies for rehabilitating the Myanmar migrant workers those who have already returned home. We all should welcome the returning Myanmar migrant workers with warmth and comfort. Gradually, Myanmar migrant worker are returning home with the great expectation for the guaranteed livelihoods and employment in Myanmar. Our firm belief is that when we attain constant economic development in Myanmar, the issue of Myanmar migrant workers can be solved totally. ■

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Thai military delegation



Defence Services C-in-C Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Lt. Gen. Parinya Khoonnasee of Thai Royal Army and party at Bayintnaung guest house in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a Thai delegation led by Lt. Gen. Parinya Khoonnasee of Thai Royal Army yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw for a series of senior level military talks between the two nations. Senior

General Min Aung Hlaing said that the meeting will enhance cooperation between the two nations' armed forces. He also said that Township Border Committee meetings, the Regional Border Committee meetings, the Senior Staff Talks and the

High-Level Committee meetings are regularly held between the two armed forces to strengthen bilateral relations and set an example for other nations in the region. He emphasized the importance of transparency and trust. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Ninth day of 54th Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium held

In Nay Pyi Taw, the 54th Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium continued its ninth day at Mani Yadana Jade Hall yesterday.

The jewelers from local and abroad observed the display lots in the Jade hall and submitted their prices for an open tender. A list of tender winners for 1100 lots of jade from lot numbers 4401 to 5500 were announced yesterday.

The open tender for lots numbers 5501 to 6561 was closed and the winners of the open tender will be announced in the morning of 11 August.

A total of 5,311 merchants and 1,893 gems companies from local and foreign attended the

ninth day of the emporium.

From the first day to the ninth day of the emporium, a

total of 4,282 lots of jade were sold from the displayed 5500 lots.

—Myanmar News Agency ■



Merchants appraise jade stones at the 54th Myanmar Gems Emporium at the Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Stimulant tablets seized in Namhsan

LAW enforcement officials seized more than 1,700 stimulant pills, estimated worth Ks 1.5 million during raids on two houses in

Namhsan Township, Shan State, yesterday.

Police also arrested two men at the raided houses,

U Than Oo, 48, and Myo Myint Aung, 19, on suspicion of drug crimes.—Thura Aung (IPRD) ■

Thura U Shwe Mann receives UNESCO's International Legal Advisor

Chairman of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Thura U Shwe Mann received Mr. Etienne Clement, International Legal Affairs Advisor of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) at the Hluttaw Affairs Building (I-11) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In the meeting, they discussed cultural and archaeological laws in Myanmar and efforts to enforce and make public those laws.

Under current laws protecting Myanmar antiquities, artifacts more than 100 years old are protected and cannot be sold or transferred without permission from relevant departments such as the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, the Myanmar Police Force and the Customs Department.

Also present at the meeting were U Khin Maung Oo, member of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission and officials.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Thura U Shwe Mann shakes hands with UNESCO's International Legal Advisor Mr. Etienne Clement in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Additional pieces of Y-8 plane crash discovered

PIECES of aluminum believed to be parts of the fuselage of a Chinese-made Y-8 Myanmar military transport plane that crashed into the Andaman Sea on 7 June with 116 people

aboard were found yesterday.

Tatmadaw naval vessels, military divers and civilian fishermen have continued to search for wreckage at the crash site.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Additional debris of Y-8 plane found 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

WORLD
BRIEFSIslamic state claims
responsibility for
attack on Egyptian
police car

CAIRO — Islamic State has claimed responsibility for an attack on a patrol car on Wednesday that killed four Egyptian policemen in North Sinai, the militant group's AMAQ news agency said on Thursday.

Authorities in Arish, the capital of North Sinai province, were on the hunt for gunmen who fired at the patrol car, state news paper Al-Ahram reported on Wednesday. Attacks on security forces have been frequent in Egypt since the army, led by general-turned-President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, ousted Muslim Brotherhood President Mohamed Mursi in 2013 after mass protests against his rule.—Reuters ■

Two gov't soldiers, five
Abu Sayyaf members
killed in S Philippines

ZAMBOANGA CITY, (the Philippines) — At least seven people were killed, including two government's soldiers and five Abu Sayyaf members, when marines encountered Thursday dawn a group of Abu Sayyaf gunmen in a town of Sulu island in southern Philippines, a security official said. A marine was also wounded during the encounter where troops recovered several high-powered rifles, including a super sniper rifle from the Abu Sayyaf group.—Xinhua ■

Iran's Rouhani
appoints 3 female vice
presidents

TEHRAN — Iran's President Hassan Rouhani has picked three women as vice presidents of the country, local media reported on Thursday. Following his swear-in ceremony on Tuesday, Rouhani has appointed Masoumeh Ebtekar as vice president for women and family affairs, Laya Joneidi as vice president for legal affairs, and Shahindokht Molaverdi as presidential aide for civil rights affairs. Masoumeh Ebtekar has served in Rouhani's last term as vice president for environment.—Xinhua ■



The party Christian Democratic Union (CDU) presents a new poster for the upcoming election campaign with a headshot of German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Berlin, Germany, on 7 August 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Merkel support slides six weeks before
election, SPD rival even weaker

BERLIN — German Chancellor Angela Merkel, about to return from holiday, has seen her popularity fall by 10 points just six weeks before an election in which she hopes to win a fourth term.

An Infratest dimap poll published late on Thursday showed that 59 per cent of voters think Merkel is doing a good job, down 10 points from the previous month. She trailed her finance minister Wolfgang Schaeuble, who was down 1 point at 64 per cent.

However, Merkel has little to fear as her Social Democrat (SPD) rival Martin Schulz hit a new low of 33 per cent, down four

points from last month.

The SPD has accused Merkel of stifling debate by failing to take a stand on issues and leaving much to her ministers.

Last week, she stayed on holiday rather than attend a summit of ministers and carmaker bosses aimed at mending the auto industry's tattered reputation after an emissions scandal.

They agreed to change engine software on 5.3 million diesel cars to cut pollution and avert diesel bans.

Two thirds of Germans think politicians have too lenient approach towards the sector, the poll showed.

“Merkel is rightly accused of staying out of the emotional debates in the election campaign,” wrote a commentator in Bild daily, also mentioning issues like the deportation of dangerous migrants, security and asylum fraud. “People want clear statements,” it said.

An attack last month by a 26-year old migrant in Hamburg which left six people hurt shook Germans. The man, born in the United Arab Emirates, was supposed to leave the country but did not have the right identity papers. Despite all this, Merkel's conservatives, who currently share power with the SPD in a

“grand coalition”, look on track to win the 24 September vote. The main question for most experts is whether she will repeat her coalition with the SPD or seek another partner, possibly the pro-business Free Democrats (FDP).

Some 49 per cent of those asked said they wanted the next government to be led by Merkel's conservative bloc, comprising her own Christian Democrats (CDU) and the Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU). The poll put Merkel's conservatives down 1 point at 39 per cent and the SPD up one but, on 24 per cent, still way behind.—Reuters ■

Cuba starts investigation into alleged incidents concerning US diplomats

HAVANA — The Cuban Foreign Ministry said Wednesday it had started an “exhaustive” investigation into the bizarre incidents which the United States said had caused physical symptoms in its diplomats serving here.

The matter had also resulted in the US expulsion of two Cuban diplomats from Washington

in late May.

Earlier on Wednesday, US State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert told reporters that the exact nature of the incidents was unclear, but that the affected Americans had returned to the United States for non-life-threatening “medical reasons.” She didn't give the

number of the Americans affected. “We don't have any definitive answers about the source or the cause of what we consider to be incidents,” she said, adding that “we take this situation very seriously.” Reports said the affected Americans, who first reported in fall of 2016 that some incidents were causing physical symp-

oms, suffered a severe hearing loss. The Cuban Foreign Ministry statement released late on Wednesday said Havana complies strictly and seriously with its obligations under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961 regarding the protection and security of diplomatic agents.—Xinhua ■

Aid groups say Yemen airport closure hinders aid, traps patients

DUBAI — Fifteen aid groups on Wednesday called on warring parties in Yemen to reopen the country's main airport, saying a year-long closure was hindering aid and preventing thousands of patients from flying abroad for life-saving treatment.

Yemen has been torn apart by a civil war in which the exiled government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, backed by a Saudi-led military coalition, is trying to push back gains made by the Iran-aligned Houthi group.

The Houthis control most of the north, including the capital Sanaa and its international airport while the Saudi-led coalition controls the airspace. Any reopening would need an agreement between the two sides, which blame each other for Yemen's humanitarian disaster.

"The official closure of Sanaa airport, one year ago today, effectively traps millions of Yemeni people and serves to prevent the



Houthi militants ride on a vehicle on the runway of the international airport of Yemen's capital Sanaa, on 5 May 2015. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

free movement of commercial and humanitarian goods," the statement signed by groups including the International Rescue Committee and the Norwegian Refugee Council said.

Yemen has had more than

400,000 suspected cases of cholera in the past three months in an epidemic that has killed 1,900 people, the World Health Organisation said in late July.

The aid groups said: "The current cholera outbreak and

near-famine conditions in many parts of Yemen make the situation far worse. The importance of unhampered delivery of humanitarian aid cannot be overstated."

Yemen's health ministry estimates that 10,000 Yemenis

have died from critical health conditions for which they were seeking international medical treatment, the statement said, adding it was unable to verify the figure.

It said this was roughly equivalent to the number of people that have died as a direct result of the fighting and represented the hidden victims of the conflict.

Citing United Nations figures, the statement said an estimated 7,000 Yemenis had gone abroad from Sanaa each year for medical treatment before the conflict. Now the number needing life-saving healthcare was around 20,000 Yemenis over the past two years because of the violence, it said.

"Yemenis awaiting critical medical treatment abroad now have to find alternative routes to leave the country, which include a 10-20 hour drive to other airports, often through areas where active fighting takes place," the statement added.— Reuters ■

Women recruits prepare to join Syria's Raqqa battle

HASAKA, (Syria) — Women fighters danced to Kurdish songs in a village in northern Syria on Wednesday after completing their military training to join the battle against Islamic State.

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), an alliance of local militias supported by a US-led coalition, had given the 210 women a 15-day course in armed combat.

Trainers taught the women weapons handling, tactics and first aid.

"The goal ... is to stand up against Daesh, to stand up to them and tell them that the woman is strong," said new recruit Layla Hussein, using the Arabic acronym for Islamic State.

Jihan Sheikh Ahmed, the SDF spokeswoman for the Raqqa campaign, said the women would be mainly deployed to the battlefield against Islamic State in Raqqa. Another course will start in two months, she added, and there will be more as the demand continues. Hussein said her training had included ideology sessions. The SDF is dominated by the Kurdish YPG militia, which follows the leftist ideology of Abdullah Ocalan, the leader of the

Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) that has fought a three-decade insurgency in Turkey.

The spokesman for the U.S.-led coalition initially said all the women who had been trained in that group were Arab but later said it was checking that information. A witness to the ceremony said some of the new fighters were Kurdish.

"Since the beginning of the revolution and continuing on until now, the main casualties of war have been women," said Sarya Mahmoud, a trainer and commander in the YPJ, the all-female brigade in the YPG.

The female fighters give hope to women in the towns they liberate, Mahmoud said, "because we're going to free them and give them the volition they lost years ago, not just from Daesh, but from the male mentality and the government mentality."

The new SDF fighters came from different parts of northern Syria, including Deir al-Zor, Raqqa, and Aleppo, and will be deployed directly to Raqqa, where the SDF launched a campaign to seize the city from Islamic State forces in early June.—Reuters ■

Islamic State still a threat as Mosul residents return to city in ruins



An Iraqi boy sells water in front of destroyed houses on a street in Western Mosul, Iraq on 7 August, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

MOSUL, (Iraq) — Abu Ghazi stood smoking a cigarette outside what used to be his home in Mosul's Old City, where only the sound of the footsteps of a few soldiers on patrol and twisted pieces of metal and fabric flapping in the wind disturb the eerie silence.

"They should just bulldoze the whole thing and start over," he said, gazing at the rows of collapsed buildings with their contents strewn across the upturned streets. "There's no saving it now, not like this."

Hundreds of yards away on Wednesday Federal Police shot dead a senior Islamic State judicial officer after storming an underground tunnel where he was hiding, on Makkawi Street.

Similar stories have been reported by aid workers and residents of West Mosul in the past few days.

"West Mosul is still a military zone as the search operations are ongoing for suspects, mines and explosive devices," a military spokesman said.

"The area is still not safe for

the population to return."

However, in nearby Dawrat al Hammameel, with machines whirring in his workshop, Raad Abdelaziz said he has encouraged neighbours to return despite the still very real danger weeks after the government declared victory over the jihadists.

Just this week, his nephew, Ali, saw a militant emerge from under a house and try to injure some civilians before he was caught and handed over to the Federal Police. But Abdelaziz, whose factory was up and running just two weeks after he returned to Mosul with his family, persists: We want people in the neighbourhood to come back to their jobs."

He is already filling orders for water and gas tanks from residents intent on rebuilding. "Life is already coming back gradually," he said. Like Abu Ghazi and Raad Abdelaziz, dozens of those displaced by the fighting have returned to West Mosul, which saw some of the fiercest fighting in nine-month battle to rout the militants from their stronghold in Iraq's second-largest city.—Reuters ■



Emergency services attend the scene after a bus crashed into shops in Lavender Hill in Clapham, London, Britain, on 10 August 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

London double-decker bus crashes into building, passengers injured

LONDON — A double-decker bus crashed into a building in south London, British police said on Thursday, injuring a number of people and trapping two passengers inside. The Metropolitan Police said they had been called to reports of a collision on Lavender Hill, near London's busy Clapham Junction

train station. "The driver has been taken to a south London hospital. A number of passengers were treated by LAS (London Ambulance Service) at the scene," police said in a statement. "Two passengers remain trapped on the upper deck. The road is currently closed to traffic." —Reuters ■

Hong Kong cleans up 93 tonnes of palm oil; beaches smothered by spill

HONG KONG — Hong Kong stepped up efforts on Wednesday to clean up a massive palm oil spill, with authorities scooping up more than 90 tonnes of foul-smelling, styrofoam-like clumps in one of the worst environmental disasters to blight the territory's waters.

Dead fish, shells, rocks, plastic bottles and other rubbish could still be found coated with globules of palm oil on beaches across the Chinese-controlled territory six days after the spill caused after two vessels collided in the Pearl River estuary.

The government said it had scooped up 93 tonnes of oil waste, most of it congealed, and the amount left floating on the sea surface had fallen significantly.

Stretches of some of Hong Kong's most popular beaches were still smothered with white clumps of jelly-like palm oil on Wednesday and an accompanying sour

stench. The spill has sparked outrage among some residents and environmentalists and comes just a year after mountains of rubbish washed up on Hong Kong's beaches, with labels and packaging indicating most of it had come from mainland China. The government has closed 13 beaches since Sunday, a day after it said it had been informed of the spill by mainland authorities. The Marine Department confirmed the collision happened on Thursday. Environmental groups have said the size of the spill could bring severe ecological consequences, although the government said preliminary tests showed few traces of oil in affected areas. Samantha Lee, conservation manager at the World Wildlife Fund in Hong Kong, said 1,000 tonnes of palm oil spilled into the water after the vessels collided, out of a total of 9,000 tonnes. — Reuters ■

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Venezuelan opposition to present candidates in December regional elections

CARACAS — Venezuela's opposition alliance, the Democratic Unity Roundtable (MUD), announced Wednesday that it will present candidates at regional elections set for 10 December.

The announcement was made by opposition leader Andres Velasquez in the National Assembly (AN). "We have agreed by consensus to pre-register candidates for regional elections," said

Velasquez, adding that the MUD would not leave any electoral area without representation.

The position of the bloc "will be accompanied by the decision to deepen social pressure," he said, referring to the four months of street protests led by the MUD against President Nicolas Maduro and the National Constituent Assembly, which it sees as unconstitutional.

"We will have the

back of those who have sacrificed against this government," he continued.

All the MUD candidates for regional elections will be chosen by "internal agreement," while states in which there is no consensus will see primary elections.

Velasquez pointed out that the MUD would be unified to avoid their candidates running against each other.—Xinhua ■

Rising rivers flood homes in southern Venezuela

PUERTO ORDAZ, (Venezuela) — Rising rivers have flooded homes in southern Venezuela, affecting more than 15,000 people and forcing some 500 to leave their homes, according to civil protection officials.

The Orinoco and Caroni have risen in recent days following a period of intense rains, leaving many homes waist-deep in water. "It's the first time in 37 years that the water has reached the door (of the house)," said Edilia Torres, 64, a homemaker, who lives along the Caroni river in Guayana City, home to the country's state-run mining industries in Bolivar state. —Reuters ■

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Tech-savvy farmers a new hope for Japan's shrinking agriculture sector

YAMAMOTO-CHO, (Japan) — A new breed of younger, business- and tech-savvy farmers are transforming Japan's shrinking agriculture sector with cutting edge techniques and marketing strategies, giving new hope to an industry in slow decline.

Hiroki Iwasa, a 40-year-old IT entrepreneur with an MBA, grows strawberries in seven high-tech greenhouses where computers set the temperature and humidity to optimum growing conditions and ensure the rows of bushes are sprayed with water at precise times.

He markets his "Migaki Ichigo" brand strawberries directly to fancy department stores in Tokyo, where they go for as much as 1,000 yen (\$9) apiece, as well as to customers in Hong Kong, Singapore, Tai-



A farmer using rice planting machine conducts rice transplanting in Ryugasaki, Japan, on 26 June 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

wan and Thailand, where Japanese produce has an excellent reputation.

Such changes, while small, come as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pushes to reform Japan's hidebound farm industry where small-plot holdings

still dominate, the average farmer is aged over 66 and the sector's contribution to the economy has fallen by 25 per cent since its peak in 1984.

They should also make Japan more resilient if the United States tries — as

Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer has hinted — to pry open markets such as rice and beef that are protected by tariffs.

Iwasa was running an IT company and getting an MBA in Tokyo when his coastal hometown of

Yamamoto in the north-eastern prefecture of Miyagi, an area famous for strawberries, was hit by the March 2011 tsunami.

He rushed to help with relief efforts and later saw an opportunity to combine his tech skills with the specialized know-how of a local farmer.

He now heads 6-year-old GRA Inc, which has 20 full-time employees and 50 part-timers, including four dedicated to managing overseas orders.

"Farmers' intuition and experience may not always result in a good harvest. So it's crucial that we capture that as explicit knowledge in technology and automation, and use that to increase productivity," Iwasa said. "Also nurturing professional farm managers is needed."

By leasing surrounding land, Iwasa expanded

his farm to two hectares (five acres), which is about 10 times the size of an average strawberry farm in Japan.

Such larger-scale agri-businesses, many using new technologies, are the future of Japanese farming, says Kazunuki Ohizumi, professor emeritus at Miyagi University, who has been studying farming trends in Japan for decades.

"Large-sized farmers are the ones to revitalize Japan's agriculture, which will be changed significantly," he said. "Of course, IT, robots and artificial intelligence are needed, which will generate jobs to handle such technologies."

Japan is already seeing a shift toward company-run farms, whose numbers have jumped from 8,700 in 2005 to 20,800 last year.—Reuters ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SENTOSA STAR VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SENTOSA STAR VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.8.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W 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.

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CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ALLY VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ALLY VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.8.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.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 EVERGREEN SHIPPING
LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV BANGPAKAEW VOY. NO (20)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGPAKAEW VOY. NO (20) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.8.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AIPT-3 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 BAY LINE SHIPPING PTE
LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RATNA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RATNA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.8.2017 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV THANLWIN STAR VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV THANLWIN STAR VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.8.2017 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 CONTINENTAL SHIP-
PING PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

Vacancy Announcement

Myanmar Digital News is an online news network publishing daily both in Myanmar and English. We need a native English editor to rewrite and edit news stories and articles. The right candidate should be able to stay in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar and will be provided with accommodation. Salary is negotiable. If you're interested, please email your cv together with a cover letter to recruitment@myanmardigitalnews.com not later than 31 August 2017.

Bruce Springsteen Broadway-bound for solo 'words and music' show

LOS ANGELES — Bruce Springsteen is headed to Broadway for an eight-week solo theater run that he says will feature "just me, the guitar, the piano and the words and music."

"Springsteen on Broadway" will start 3 October in a 960-seat theater, in stark contrast to the vast stadiums the singer-songwriter plays on his world tours, promoters said on Wednesday.

Springsteen, 67, is expected to perform songs from across his 40-year career, interspersed with readings from his 2016 memoir "Born to Run."

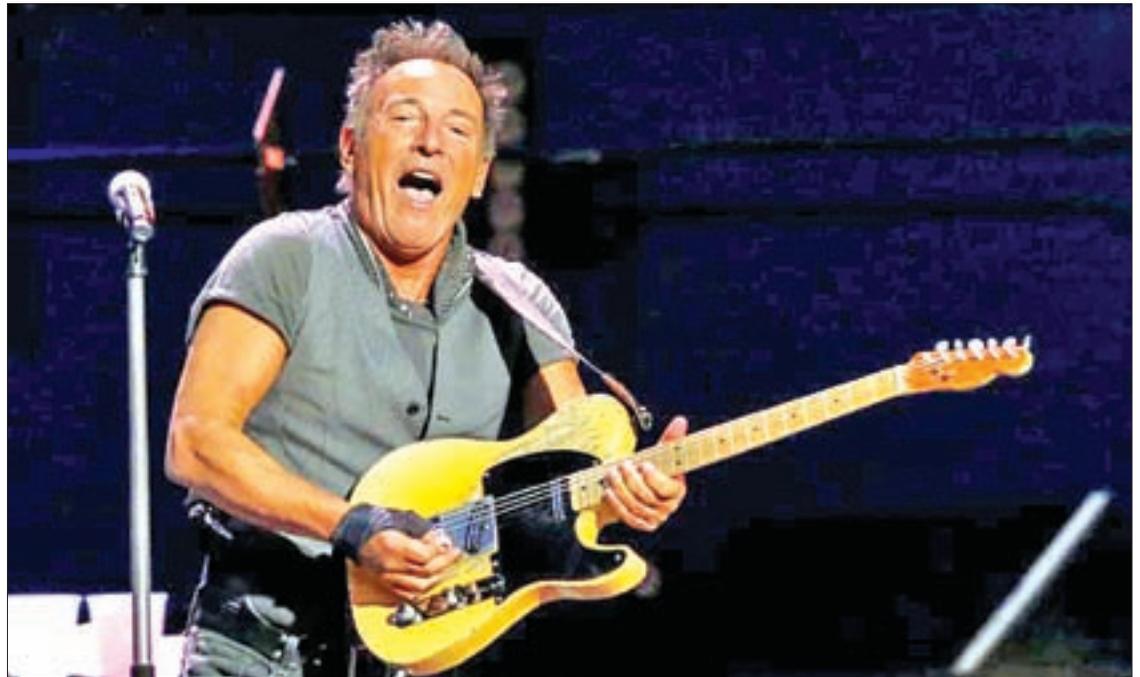
"I wanted to do some shows that were as personal and as intimate as possible," Springsteen said in a statement. "Some of the show is spoken, some of it is

sung. It loosely follows the arc of my life and my work."

New Jersey-born Springsteen and his E Street band have become one of the most iconic US rock bands of the past 40 years, releasing music like "Thunder Road" and "Glory Days" that capture the dreams and disappointments of ordinary working Americans.

Springsteen's 2016-17 world tour with the E Street band was one of the top 10 music tours of the last five years, grossing more than \$306 million, according to touring publication Pollstar.

Tickets for the Broadway show, which runs until Nov. 26, go on sale to pre-registered fans on 30 August.—Reuters



Bruce Springsteen performs during The River Tour at the LA Memorial Sports Arena in Los Angeles, California, US, on 17 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Country's 'Rhinestone Cowboy' Glen Campbell dies after Alzheimer's battle



American country music artist Glen Campbell performs during the Country Music Association (CMA) Music Festival in Nashville, Tennessee in 2012. PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Singer-guitarist Glen Campbell, the "Rhinestone Cowboy" who went on a farewell tour to play hits such as "Wichita Lineman" and "Gentle on My Mind" before Alzheimer's disease robbed him of talents, died on Tuesday at the age of 81. Campbell died in Nashville at an Alzheimer's facility surrounded by his family, his publicist Sanford Brokaw said.

"It is with the heaviest of hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved husband, father, grandfather, and legendary singer and guitarist, Glen Travis Campbell, at the age of 81, following his long and courageous battle with Alzheimer's disease," his family said in a statement posted on the singer's official website. Campbell announced in June 2011 that he was suffering from Alzheimer's.

The "Gentle on My Mind" singer then embarked on a nationwide farewell tour that ended in November 2012. Campbell began his career as a well-regarded recording session guitarist in Los Angeles before becoming a fixture on the US music charts, radio and television in the 1960s and '70s. He won six Grammy Awards and had nine No. 1 songs in a career of more than 50 years. He released a final studio album in June 2017, called "Adios," that was recorded after the tour wrapped up. The tour was captured in a documentary aired in 2015 by CNN, "Glen Campbell: I'll Be Me," that movingly captured him struggling with the disease. His song "I'm Not Going to Miss You" from the movie's soundtrack won a Grammy Award for best country song.—Reuters ■

Oscar-winning Coen brothers to bring Western anthology series to Netflix

LOS ANGELES — Oscar-winning filmmakers Joel and Ethan Coen are transitioning to the small screen with a new Western anthology for Netflix Inc, the online streaming company said on Wednesday, the latest talent to join the platform's growing roster.

The Coen brothers, known for witty crime thrillers such as "Fargo" and "No Country For Old Men," will write and direct "The Ballad of Buster Scruggs," a six-part anthology series set in

the American frontier and starring Tim Blake Nelson as Buster, Netflix said in a statement.

The series will debut in 2018, and comes after the success of cable network FX's anthology series "Fargo," an expansion of the Coen brothers' 1996 film of the same name. The Coens are executive producers on the "Fargo" series but did not write or direct any episodes.

The news follows on the heels of Netflix's announcement this week that David Letterman

was returning to television with a six-part interview series for the streaming platform due next year, and the acquisition of comics publisher Millarworld.

It also comes after Disney, the world's biggest entertainment company, said this week that it would stop providing new movies to Netflix starting in 2019 in order to launch its own streaming service and capture digital viewers who are dumping traditional television.—Reuters ■

Calvin Harris tops Forbes list of highest-earning DJs for fifth year

LOS ANGELES — Scottish musician Calvin Harris ruled Forbes' annual list of electronic cash kings on Tuesday as he was named the highest-paid DJ for the fifth consecutive year, outpacing Dutch DJ Tiesto and newcomers The Chainsmokers.

Harris, 33, brought in \$48.5 million between June 2016 and June 2017, with earnings from residencies in Las Vegas and festival performances as well as from producing pop hits such as his latest summer track, "Feels" with Katy Perry and Pharrell Williams.

Tiesto, who topped the list in 2012, earned \$39 million and came



Musician Calvin Harris arrives at the 2015 Billboard Music Awards in Las Vegas, Nevada, US in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

in at No. 2, while The Chainsmokers earned \$38 million, bolstered by the chart-topping success of pop hits "Closer" with Halsey and "Something Just Like This" with Coldplay.

The list, which also includes veteran French DJ David Guetta and German producer Zedd, highlights a lack of diversity in the DJ field, whose 10 highest earners were male and mostly white, from the United States or Europe. Forbes said it compiles its annual earnings list from data gathered from Nielsen and touring trackers such as Pollstar and Bandsintown, as well as industry insiders and artists.—Reuters ■

Cuban graffiti artists bring social critique to Havana's walls

HAVANA — The graffiti of alien-like beings and balaclava-clad men appearing on Havana's dilapidated walls strikes a contrast with the upbeat political slogans and effigies of Cuban revolutionaries.

For a handful of young Cuban artists, these illicit creations are a means of touching on social issues in a coded way, ranging from fear of expressing oneself freely in public to growing materialism on the Communist-run island.

Graffiti was until recently uncommon in Cuba's tightly controlled public spaces.

Its emergence reflects greater scope for critical expression under President Raul Castro and increasing influence of international culture as the country slowly opens.

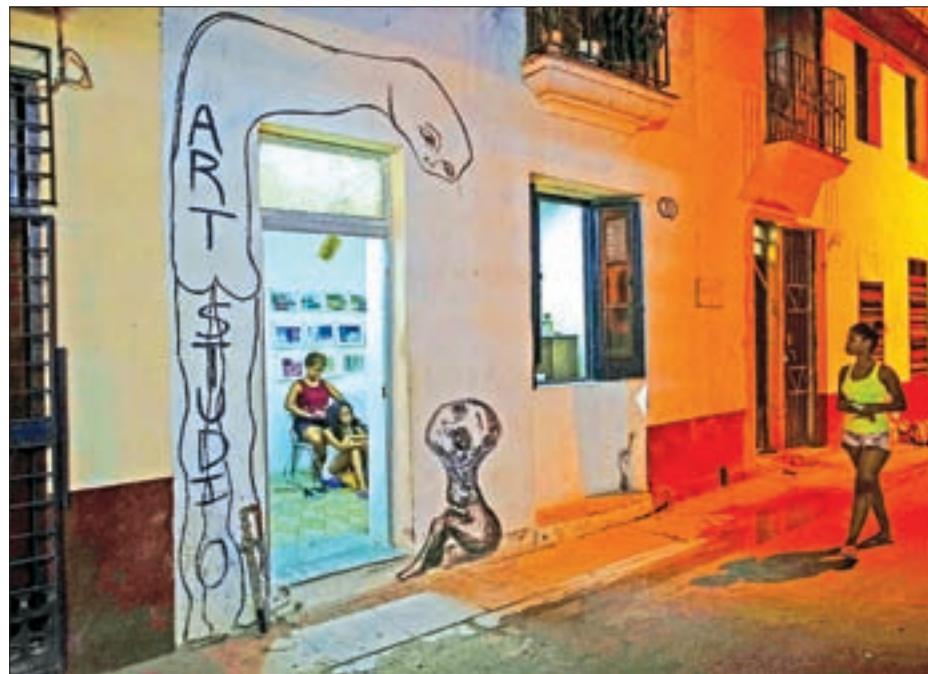
Like Cuba's young

bloggers, who are pushing the boundaries of what has been allowed in the media by starting news websites, its graffiti artists do not consider themselves dissidents and have been mostly tolerated by authorities.

"I want to create a social conscience with my work, an awareness about what we are turning into," said Yulier Rodriguez, whose alien-like creatures often look malformed, with limbs protruding from heads, and malnourished.

"A large part of society is going down a dark path," said the 27-year old, criticizing Cuba's ailing, Soviet-style economy that forces Cubans to turn to illegal activities to get by.

Locals joke, for example, that the only reason to work for the state, given the average monthly wage



A woman walks past an art gallery decorated with a graffiti by Cuban Artist Yulier Rodriguez in Havana, Cuba, on 7 August 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

of \$30, is to steal produce to sell on the black market.

Inspired by British and American street artists Banksy and Jean-Michel Basquiat, Rodri-

guez said his creatures

often have no mouth, representing Cubans' reluctance to publicly express their discontent for fear of reprisals, such as losing

jobs.

The same idea is behind the balaclava-clad men of artist Fabian Lopez, whose alias is 2+2=5, meaning some-

thing is not quite right.

The 20-year old stepped into the spotlight recently for a graffiti showing his character holding Donald Trump's head, reflecting Cubans' anger over the US president's attitude towards opening US-Cuban relations.

Havana officials quickly painted over the image.

Like other graffiti artists, Lopez faces more practical challenges. In the absence of common spray paint, for instance, these artists use industrial spray paint designed for metals in limited colours.

"The other day I finished a work with oil when the black paint ran out," said Lopez, who creates as many as seven graffiti a day, keeping a record of them on Instagram.— Reuters ■

mitv Myanmar International
Programme Schedule

(11-8-2017 07:00am -12-8-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Discovering Tribes "Lisu: Their Life and Customs"
07:38	Am	Sagaing: Youth Leader
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Strolling Along A Memory Link - U Pein Bridge
08:43	Am	Products of Myanmar - Pottery Business
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Attractions around Hopong Hill Station
09:35	Am	Promoting Living Standards Along with the Development in Rakhine State (1)
09:54	Am	Will you feed the pigeons?
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Promoting Living Standards Along with the Development in Rakhine State (2)
10:36	Am	The Green Corner (Episode - 5) Plastic Chandelier

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:27	Pm	My Travel In This Exceptional Place, Inle Lake
07:48	Pm	He can do it
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Bogalay Tint Aung: A Man of Versatility (Part-4)
08:55	Pm	Now in Yangon

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm)-Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am)-Thursday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am)-Today Repeat(07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(For Detailed Schedule - www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

Tobu Railway revives steam train service after half-century hiatus

UTSUNOMIYA, (Japan) — Tobu Railway Co. began operating its first steam train service in 51 years on Thursday, on a short stretch of track in the tourist site of Nikko in Tochigi Prefecture, eastern Japan.

A train pulled by a small C11-type steam locomotive will cover a 12-kilometer section between Shimoimaichi and Kinugawa-Onsen stations on the Kinugawa Line mainly on weekends and holidays. The journey will take about 35 minutes.

Ahead of the service's launch, an opening ceremony was held at Shimoimaichi Station with transport minister Keiichi Ishii among the attendees.

"We hope the steam train will grow into a permanent tourist attraction," Tobu Railway President Yoshizumi Nezu said in his remarks.

The Tokyo-based rail-



A steam locomotive emits smoke at Shimoimaichi station in Tochigi Prefecture, eastern Japan, on 10 August 2017, as Tobu Railway Co. began operating its first steam train service in 51 years on a short stretch of track in the tourist site of Nikko in the prefecture. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

way operator abolished its steam locomotive service in 1966 but decided to revive it now with the aim of revitalizing the Nikko and Kinugawa areas, whose main tourist spots include the Nikko Toshogu shrine, a UNESCO World Herit-

age site.

The locomotive was leased from Hokkaido Railway Co., with other railway operators providing passenger cars and turntables.

The turntables are installed at Shimoimaichi

and Kinugawa-Onsen stations.

The train is named "Taiju," and a gold-rimmed signboard at the front of the locomotive features the name in large kanji characters.—Kyodo News ■

Myanmar U-18 to play Inter Milan youth FC today

MYANMAR U-18 will play a friendly football match against Inter Milan youth FC at Thuwunna Stadium today at 6pm.

Inter Milan youth team's players arrived Myanmar on 9 August and have been staying in Novotel Yangon Max Hotel.

Myanmar U-18 key players include midfielders Aung Moe Thu, Lwin Moe Aung and Zaw Min Htut and striker Wai Yan Oo.

Myanmar will be headed by Head Coach Rabah Benlarbi and the Inter Milan youth team will be headed by technical director Daniele Bernazzani for the match.

Inter Milan youth players are mainly from Italy and France national youth teams. Italian player David Merola who not only participated in the youth team, but also was selected as a national team player, will also be included in today's match. The second friendly match of Myanmar and Inter Milan will be held on 13 August.—KyawZin Lin ■



Myanmar youth players celebrating their victory at an international match. PHOTO AFF

Myanmar Lethwei to be broadcast worldwide

THE World Lethwei Championship, featuring Myanmar's national fighting sport, will be broadcast globally under an agreement with the Myanmar Letkhamaung Company and the Fight Network, on 9 August.

The World Lethwei Championship has been held in Yangon, Myanmar since August 2015. The event follows a modified set of lethwei rules and includes judging and no injury timeouts.

The new partnership has already held fights in Yangon on 3 March at Mingalardon Event Zone and on 10 June at Thuwunna Stadium. Fight Network is a Canada-based English-language fighting sports channel.

Lethwei matches will be available on the channel nationwide in Canada, on select carriers in the U.S., and globally in over 30 countries across Europe, Africa and the Middle East. The network also offers its service on Roku, Apple TV and Amazon Fire devices across North America.—KyawZin Lin ■

Pliskova begins number one reign with ragged win

TORONTO — Karolina Pliskova began her reign as world number one with a ragged 6-3, 6-3 second round win over Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova on a blockbuster Wednesday when eight of the top

10 ranked players were in action at the Rogers Cup.

Pliskova, playing in her first tournament since her shock second round defeat at Wimbledon, struggled with a misfiring first

serve and was guilty of some lapses in concentration.

However, the lanky Czech was never seriously threatened as she disposed her 19th ranked Russian

opponent in a tidy 70 minutes.

"I had a little bit (of nerves) before the match but during the match I felt much better especially at the end," Pliskova said in a courtside interview.—Reuters ■

Captain Ki set for South Korea call-up despite knee injury

SEOUL — South Korea coach Shin Tae-yong has said he will name captain Ki Sung-yueng and Son Heung-min in his squad next week for the crunch World Cup qualifiers against Iran and Uzbekistan despite their injuries.

Swansea City midfielder Ki underwent surgery for a knee injury he sustained in the 3-2 defeat away to Qatar in June and is not expected to be fit again until mid-September.

That would rule him out of the home game against Iran on 31 August and the final away game against Uzbekistan on 5 September.—Reuters ■



Liverpool reject second Barcelona bid for Coutinho

LONDON — Liverpool have rejected a second bid worth 100 million euros (\$117.29 million) for midfielder Philippe Coutinho from Spain's Barcelona, according to British and Spanish media reports. Barcelona are keen to sign the Brazilian playmaker, who joined Liverpool from Inter Milan for 8.5 million pounds (\$11.03 million) in 2013, and have already had an initial bid worth 80 million euros rejected by Liverpool last month. The 24-time Spanish league champions increased the offer to 85 million euros plus 15 million in add-ons

but Liverpool have rejected the second bid, maintaining their stance that the player is not for sale. Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp has repeatedly said that the 25-year-old, who was a key player for the Anfield outfit last campaign, would not be sold and the club's position is boosted by Coutinho's signing of a new five-year contract last season.

Media reports indicate that Barcelona are targeting Coutinho and Borussia Dortmund's Ousmane Dembele as replacements for Brazil forward Neymar, who joined Paris St Germain last week for a world record transfer fee of 222 million euros.—Reuters ■

Liverpool's Philippe Coutinho. PHOTO: REUTERS