

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 58, 5th Waning of Nayon 1379 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Wednesday, 14 June 2017



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi gives a speech at the Riksdag, the Swedish parliament, in Stockholm yesterday.
PHOTO: TT NEWS AGENCY/CHRISTINE OLSSON VIA REUTERS

State Counsellor addresses Swedish Parliament

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addressed the Swedish Parliament in Stockholm yesterday, sharing her fond childhood memories of the Scandinavian nation instilled by her mother, who told her of the impressive and extensive

care provided for all Swedish citizens, a wish that she has for Myanmar.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was invited to speak to the Riksdag, Sweden's Parliament, and participated in a seminar for Nobel Peace Prize laureates. The

State Counsellor was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991.

"Care is the concept around which we would like to base our essential services to our people in Myanmar. A state that cares for the basic needs of people through the assur-

ance of basic human rights, the provision of appropriate health and education facilities, and capacity building initiatives aimed at equipping them for the multifarious challenges of our rapidly changing world", she said.

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Education Ministry to remove hurdles to jobs for disabled

THE Ministry of Education will make arrangements to have undemocratic orders and instructions which are hindering disabled persons from acquiring jobs repealed or amended as needed after careful scrutiny, said the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye at the Pyithu Hluttaw yesterday. The 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 5th regular session 13th day meeting held at 10 am yesterday performed the tasks of answering 6 questions, submitting one report and one bill and discussing one motion put forward.

The Union minister made the remarks in his reply to the question raised by Daw Aye Mya Mya Myo of Kyauktan constituency. "The Ministry had not made any undemocratic orders which hinder the disabled from the acquisition of employment. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has described that labourers

must be physically healthy because employment (in that field) mostly involve manual labour," he said. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement has employed 64 disabled persons in posts suitable for them in its departments. Consultations are being made for employing disabled persons in other departments, organisations and private enterprises and vocational trainings are being conducted in vocational training schools opened under the department."

Union Minister added, "The Ministry of Health and Sports has been employing disabled persons who apply for jobs after scrutinizing in accord with rules and regulations of civil service depending upon the nature of jobs. Moreover, disabled people and disabled pensioners/ex-army men handed over by the Ministry of Defence are being employed according to their capacities. Had national committee on rights for



Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye. **PHOTO: MA**

disabled persons been formed, tax exemption will be carried out. Very soon, regulations on rights for disabled persons will be issued. After the emergence of rules and regulations, a national committee on rights for disabled persons is to be formed, and following that, rights for the disabled must be carried out in accord with rules and laws." U



U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance. **PHOTO: MNA**

Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance, replied to a question raised by U Bo Gyi of Chauk constituency, as to the Participatory Reforms in the Budget Process. "Most countries across the world are exercising a policy-based budgeting system, and drawing up the Medium Term Fiscal Framework systematically. The Ministry is

making ministries control budget deficit so as not to exceed 5 per cent of the GDP and draw budget deficits within the framework after designating normal expenditure framework and lump sum expenditure framework, without foreign monetary aid and foreign loans. Presently, regions, states, districts and townships planning and implementation committees had been formed for the transparency of development projects, for increased participation of the people and for people to be well convinced of the facts which local people can suggest and discuss."

The deputy minister added, "Township Development Supporting Committees and township development committees were formed with local town elders assigned as chairmen, so needs and requirements of their respective regions had been implemented in drawing up planning.

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Amyotha Hluttaw

2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 5th regular session 13th day meeting

Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

ROAD tarring in Chin State, construction project monitoring, and the status of the Inland Waterway Transport Bill were among the issues discussed at yesterday's Amyotha Hluttaw meeting in Nay Pyi Taw.

U Lal Min Htan of Chin State constituency 10 raised a question on plans to tar the road connecting Yayzwa town in middle of Chin State and Lailimpi town on the border with India and moving the road axis in a three-mile stretch where the grade of the road is steep. Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin said the 58-mile-long Yayzwa-Lailimpi Road is under the management of the Chin State government and Ks541.291 million is allocated from the FY 2017-2018 fund to widen a bend in the road where the road gradient is steep at a five-furlong stretch of road, widen a four-furlong stretch of road where land slides occur during the rainy season, tarring a two-mile stretch of road in Lialimpi town, constructing two reinforced culverts and four

retaining walls.

Yearly funds will be submitted in order to upgrade the road to an all-weather gravel surfaced road by FY 2020-2021 and will be implemented depending upon the availability of funds. After the road survey and design group of road department (head office) conducts a survey of the three-mile stretch between mileposts 36 and 39 where the road gradient is steep, funds will be requested in FY 2018-2019 and appropriate action will be taken when the fund is allocated said the Deputy Minister.

Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin then responded to a question by Dr. Win Myint Chit of Bago Region constituency 8 on transparently publishing the bills of process and bills of quantity for people to monitor the construction processes of the planned roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, clinics and markets in townships for regional development.

The deputy minister said the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and Sports, state and region governments form tender assessing committees and use the tender system



Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin. **PHOTO: MNA**

to construct roads, small bridges, schools, hospital, clinics and markets. Estimates are reviewed in stages and submitted to the assessing committee for confirmation and quality control groups inspect to ensure quality workmanship, said the deputy minister.

Explanations will be provided when details of the work are requested. The practice of responding to questions by locals on particulars like invitation for tenders and signing an agreement with the tender winning companies, assessment and



Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw. **PHOTO: MNA**

confirmation by the assessing committee on the drawings, estimates, bills of quantity of the construction company and monitoring the work being conducted according to the estimates were being made, said the deputy minister. Instructions were issued to the construction companies to put up sign boards at work sites displaying the work type, quantity, approved fund, design, department and implementing company's name.

The deputy minister further added that instructions were issued for the tender assess-

ing committees to form work assessing committees to monitor the works and to invite and explain the work particulars to the respective Hluttaw representatives.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw and Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin then replied to questions on constructing roads, bridges, dikes, taking action according to article 19 of farm land act and collection of tax raised by U Shayrel Shu Maung of Kayah State constituency 2, U Kyaw Than of Rakhine State constituency 10, Daw Ei Ei Pyone of Ayeyawady Region constituency 8 and U Kyaw Kyaw of Rakhine State constituency 4.

Next, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than notified the Hluttaw of Pyithu Hluttaw sending back with amendment the Amyotha Hluttaw approved Inland Waterway Transport Bill and enrollment for discussion was announced.

2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 5th regular session 14th day meeting will be held on 15 June it is learnt. ■



President U Htin Kyaw shakes hands with Austrian Ambassador Mr. Enno Drogenik. PHOTO: MNA

Outgoing Austrian Ambassador calls on President

President U Htin Kyaw met Austrian Ambassador Mr. Enno Drogenik, who had completed his tour of duty in Myanmar, at the Presidential Palace yesterday. The Ambassador is based in Bangkok.

Present at the meeting were Deputy Minister U Khin Maung

Tin from the Ministry of State Counsellor's Office, Permanent Secretary U Kyaw Zeya of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Director-General U Khin Latt from the Ministry of President's Office, Honorary Consul for Austria U Aung Than Htay and officials.— Myanmar News Agency ■

State Counsellor addresses Swedish Parliament

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“We look to our people to join us in our efforts to build a solid foundation for a caring state that will be able to contribute significantly to peace, stability and progress not just in our region but throughout the world”.

But before essential services can be assured for the people of Myanmar, the State Counsellor said peace must be attained, with the long path toward peace being blazed by the meetings of the Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong.

“Myanmar is a very young and yet incomplete democracy, and as we are a land of great diversity, the peace process in which we are engaged is extremely complex and challenging. There is a vital need to build up mutual trust and respect out of the tangled legacy of long-standing conflicts, some of which go back to the day we gained independence nearly 70 years ago. Our goal is a stable, democratic federal union, which will guarantee security, freedom and progress for all our people”, she said.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi made a point to mention Rakhine State, a region that has experienced discord and violence in recent months and for which she has received criticism.

“The need to bring peace and harmony to the Rakhine is one of our many challenges, multi-faceted in its need for a

steady building of tolerance and friendship, for the full protection of rights that only a truly democratic system can guarantee and for sustainable development that will ease the tensions imposed by limited resources”, she said.

The State Counsellor also touched upon the need for updating the country's constitution.

“Threading through all these endeavours is the vital need to align our Constitution and other laws with acceptable norms of democratic governance, never losing sight of our final goal: a true democratic Federal Union”, she said.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is on an overseas goodwill tour that has included stops in Canada, where she met with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and Sweden, where she has met with Urban Ahlin, Speaker of the Swedish Parliament, and Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi also visited the Nobel Museum in Stockholm.

“When peace comes to our land”, the State Counsellor said in the conclusion to her speech to the Swedish Parliament, “I hope that our friends from all over the world who have stood by us in our times of adversity will celebrate our triumph as though it were their very own”. (The full text of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's speech is available at www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com)—GNLM■

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with Swedish PM Mr. Stefan Löfven

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met with Swedish Prime Minister Mr. Stefan Löfven Monday afternoon in Rosenbad – the Prime Minister's Office – in Stockholm.

During the meeting, matters relating to improving bilateral relations, continued assistance from Sweden on overcoming the challenges faced by Myanmar during the transition period, national reconciliation and peace process in Myanmar, stability and development of Rakhine State, increasing cooperation under a new strategic framework set up by Sweden for Myanmar's development, exchanging high-tech know-how and creating markets in the agriculture sector, and cooperation in the trade, education and transport sectors were discussed.

After the meeting, the State Counsellor and the Prime Minister of Sweden met with the media and shared the meeting's outcome and responded to questions.

Later, the State Counsellor met with Mrs. Isabella Lövin, Sweden's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where they discussed matters relating to sectors selected for cooperation under a new strategic framework for Myanmar's development and media freedom.

Afterwards, the State Counsellor met with Mr. Os-



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Sweden's Prime Minister Stefan Löfven hold talks at the Government Rosenbad in Stockholm yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

car Stenstrom, Sweden's State Secretary for Ministry of Trade, and representatives of Swedish companies H&M, Ericsson and Scania to discuss the economy and increasing investment.

The State Counsellor also met with Mrs. Ann Linde, Sweden's Minister for EU Affairs and Trade, at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and discussed matters relating to workers' rights, employee-employer relations, the market for agricultural produce and cooperation in a mass-transit system.

The State Counsellor then attended a ceremony to accept the Olof Palme International Prize 2005.

At the ceremony, Sweden's Minister for EU Affairs and Trade gave a speech in

honour of the State Counsellor and Chairman of Olof Palme International Prize Mr. Pierre Schori explained the reason for awarding the prize, after which the State Counsellor gave a speech of thanks.

In the evening, the State Counsellor and party attended a dinner hosted by Mrs. Ann Linde.

Yesterday, the State Counsellor met with Myanmar nationals living in Sweden at the Grand Hotel and explained in detail about the national reconciliation and peace process in Myanmar and the work done for national development. She gave answers to questions raised and took photos together with the Myanmar nationals.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.comPrinted and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.gnldaily@gmail.com
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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Regional TVET Conference -2017 kicks off in Nay Pyi Taw

Regional Technical and Vocational Education and Training—2017 was held at 9 am yesterday at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II, with the intention of upgrading cooperation in the sectors on technology, vocation and training between ASEAN Countries and acquiring more agreements with each other.

At the conference, U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor made a welcome speech, followed by opening speeches by Ms Gisela Hammerchmicit, BMZ Germany, Regional Director and Ms Ayako Inagaki, ADB Philippines, Human and Social Development Division, Southeast Asia Department Director, showing the Video Clip sent by Mr Vongthep Arthakaialvantee, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN Secretariat.

Present at the conference were Union Ministers Dr Myo Thein Gyi, U Khin Maung Cho, Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun, parliamentarians, international representatives on the sectors in technology, vocation and training.

At the conference, long-term development on the sectors in technology, vocation and training in ASEAN Region, knowledge sharing of the intellect in the region, needs and skills of labour



Regional Technical and Vocational Education and Training—2017 held in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

market, skills and inventions on advanced technology needed for innovating techniques which will help economic progress, long-term cooperation between entrepreneurs, policies to be laid down by the government in cooperating with private sectors, producing trainees on the sectors of rules and regulations, technique, vocation and training, upgrading the standards, improving the assessments, strengthening the cooperation between entrepreneurs and private sectors, needs for cooperation between vocational training schools and companies and capacity building will be discussed.

The conferences were held in the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in 2012, in the Republic of Indonesia in 2014 and in Lao People's Democratic Republic in 2015.

The present TVET Conference 2017 was held under the co-sponsorship of Education Ministry, the Ministry of Germany Economic Cooperation and Development and Asian Development Bank under the title, "Making developments in prioritized projects which are related to the sectors of technique, vocation and training for the sustainable development in ASEAN region."

By holding the conference,

experiences and intellects will be able to be exchanged among high-ranking officials from the sectors of technology, vocation and training in ASEAN countries. Simultaneously, strengthening cooperation websites, making cooperation between countries adaptable and helping to upgrade reforms in TVET according to their respective countries, based on discussions and experiences from previous conferences will result in.

TVET Conference—2017 will be held till 14 June in Nay Pyi Taw and the delegates to the conference will pay a visit to Yangon on 15 June.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Fire Service Dept: 151 fire incidents in 2017

MYANMAR recorded 151 fire incidents during the first five months of 2017 causing six deaths and Ks 245 million in damage, according to Myanmar Fire Services Department figures published in the Myawady newspaper yesterday.

The fires injured 19 people and left 242 people homeless. One-hundred-seventy-nine

homes and two warehouses.

The costliest fire of 2017 was the fire of Union Garment Co. factory in Shwe Lin Ban Industrial Zone in Hlinethaya Township which destroyed an estimated Ks 61 million in property.

Between January and June there were seven fires in Nay Pyi Taw, 13 in Yangon, 18 in Mandalay, 21 in Sagaing,

five in Taninthayi Region, 10 in Bago Region, 17 in Magway Region, nine in Ayeyawady Region, 12 in Kachin, one in Kayah, two in Kayin, four in Chin State, eight in Mon State, 10 in Rakhine State and 14 in Shan State.

Fires were caused by several factors, according to government data, including negligence, natural causes and

electrical malfunctions.

For example, in Sagaing Region, which had the highest occurrence of fires recorded seven fires due to negligence, three electric fires, four arson fires and one lightning fire.

Nine homes and two warehouses were destroyed in Sagaing causing Ks 25 million in property losses.—200 ■

Dragon fruit growers in Pyin Oo Lwin reap profits

DRAGON FRUIT growers have made good earn in Pyin Oo Lwin. Most of the cultivators are growing the dragon fruits at their farms and beside their houses. The dragon fruits are growing very well in the cold climate of Pyin Oo Lwin.

They have to grow perennial crops only one year and they will grow for ten years.

"The cost of growing dragon fruits is high but they can make good profit. We have to make concrete pillars to grow the dragon fruits. Most of the

people from Pyin Oo Lwin grow the dragon fruits on a manageable scale. The dragon fruit plants are blossoming in four months. We don't need to water in the raining season.

But, we have to put the natural fertilizer to the drag-

on fruit plants. We are selling the dragon fruits for Ks 700 per one. But they are sold for Ks 1,000 in the market," said U San Win, a dragon fruit grower from Phaung Taw village, ward 15, Pyin Oo Lwin township.—The Mirror ■

By May Thet Hnin

RUBBER prices in Myanmar have declined due to global economic instability, particularly in durable goods markets and petroleum which are closely linked to rubber said U Khaing Myint, the general secretary of Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association.

Since May, a tonne of Myanmar rubber sold for about US\$1,400 whereas the rubber price hit US\$1,800-2,000 per tonne in April, according to interviews by the Global New Light of Myanmar.

Seventy per cent of global rubber production is used in the automobile industry and as auto production declines so does the demand for, and the price of, rubber. Rubber prices are also related to global petroleum prices and the dollar exchange rate.

In addition to these global factors, regional forces are pushing Myanmar rubber prices down. Currently, rubber production Thailand is increasing and the strong Japanese yen is driving the entire rubber market toward higher grade rubber rather the relatively poor quality product produced by Myanmar, said U Khaing Myint.

China usually buys about 70 per cent of all Myanmar rubber. The other 30 per cent is shipped to Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Viet Nam, India, Korea and Japan. Myanmar's rubber market suffers from a lack of technology, modern farming and processing practices and inefficiencies built into the rubber supply chain due to relying on

Global economic instability drives the rubber price to decline



A worker hangs rubber sheets to dry. PHOTO: LIN LIN TUN

networks of small holder farms. In Myanmar brokers and purchasers from the central rubber depot purchase rubber from rubber farms. And then, the brokers sell the rubber onward to export companies, which ship the rubber to other companies that apply processing techniques and oth-

er refinements to increase its value. Due to Myanmar's lack of technical capacity and its low grade rubber production, Myanmar rubber sells for at least \$500 less per tonne than standard international rubber prices said U Khaing Myint.

"We have to put all of our

efforts into Myanmar's rubber so as to keep up with international rubber quality," he said. "The rubber farm owners and the labourers engaged in this rubber industry have to join hands so that Myanmar's rubber can meet international criteria. Both the government subsidies and

technical assistance are also required in a bid to fulfill the needs of small-scale farm owners."

The rubber association has organised regional workshops to enhance rubber quality in cooperation with Japan for the past four years. The workshops focus on start of the industry production processes in line with protocols established by the International Organisation for Standardisation. They also promote sustainable enterprise and human rights principles including prohibitions on child labour and environmental stewardship, U Khaing Myint said.

Most of the rubber businessmen in Gyogaung village, Hlaingbwe Township in Kayin State are using traditional methods handed down one generation after another. They are far removed from international norms or any technical assistance, said Lin Lin Tun, a rubber farm owner from Hlaingbwe Township in Kayin State.

"We have a strong desire to get access to advanced techniques," he said. "Technical assistance is harder to reach for small-scale businessmen working on the outskirts of the town. We have to receive the techniques from rubber experts with the help of social network, Facebook. We are willing to attend the course to enhance rubber quality if possible."

Myanmar's rubber is mainly produced from Mon State, Taninthayi Region, Kayin State and Bago Region. There are more than 1.6 million acres of rubber land across the country while rubber latex is produced by over 700,000 acres of rubber land. ■

Myanmar gum karaya producers to expand production in three regions

MYANMAR gum karaya producers seek to expand the market of a lucrative vegetable gum karaya in Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay Regions, according to a report in yesterday's edition of Myanmar Alinn Daily newspaper.

The gum karaya (called Saekalamat in Myanmar) is an ingredient used in food, cosmetic, pharmaceutical, printing and textile products.

A consortium of Myanmar gum karaya producers is discussing the prospect of

establishing a company to collectively resolve export obstacles including high market prices, excessive price differentiation in different markets and ineffective logistical and organisational linkages between growers and merchants.

The group will also seek to benefit from increased technical assistance.

Gum karaya is cultivated on 5,000 acres in Magway Region, on 3,700 acres in Ayeyawady Region and on 8,000 acres in Sagaing Region.

More than 50,000 tonnes are shipped to foreign trade partners, annually, the merchants said.

Major Myanmar gum karaya export markets include China and Thailand.

China's demand has been growing for the last two years, said U Ohn Nyunt, the chairman of the group of Myanmar gum karaya producers.

The price of 4.5 ounces (approximately one Myanmar "viss") of gum karaya ranges from Ks15,000 to Ks40,000. — Zar Lin Thu (AMIA) ■

Pea prices down this year

PEA growers and merchants are suffering from low prices this year, according to new Ministry of Commerce statistics published in yesterday's edition of Myanmar Alinn newspaper.

Pigeon pea prices are hovering around Ks20,000 per basket compared to Ks50,000 last year. A ton of pigeon peas currently sells for about Ks640,000.

Mung bean prices started to decline in May and reached a record low of Ks27,800 per basket this week, half the price last year. India is the main buyer of Myanmar's mung bean and pigeon peas. India market also saw decreasing prices for mung

beans in the past three consecutive weeks. The decrease in Myanmar's mung bean price is attributed to low demand in India during harvest season. A ton of mung beans is currently worth Ks852,000, according to Myanmar Alin daily newspaper. India constitutes 70 per cent of Myanmar pea exports. The remainder is exported to China, Viet Nam and European Union countries.

Peas are mostly cultivated in Sagaing and Magway Regions. A total of 1.43 million tons of various peas were exported in the FY2016-2017, according to Commerce Ministry statistics. — Ko Khant ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi gives address at the meeting with Myanmar community in Sweden on Tuesday in Stockholm, Sweden. Before the meeting with them, the State Counsellor also delivered an address at the Swedish parliament, sharing her fond childhood memories of the Scandinavian nation instilled by her mother. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives CALD Chairman

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint received Mr. Abhisit Vejajiva, Chairman of the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats (CALD), based in Manila, the Philippines, at 3pm in the hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Dur-

ing the meeting, they discussed matters relating to democratic reform.

Also present were Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat and officials from Pyithu Hluttaw's office. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Speaker U Win Myint receives Mr. Abhisit Vejajiva, Chairman of the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats (CALD). **PHOTO: MNA**

Yangon Gov't collaborates with Int'l Organisations for squatter relocation plans

THE Yangon Region Government announced it will collaborate with international organisations to relocate squatters away from the state-owned land.

At the press conference on the government's one-year performance held on 9 June, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein said they are interested in resettlement efforts for the squatters and are discussing resettlement plans with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). The government is compiling a list of squatters that will aid them in choosing an area of land for the resettlement programme.

The Yangon Region Government started compiling a list of squatters in September 2016 starting in Dagon Myothit (South) Township and has completed surveys in many other townships. The government has also issued temporary identity cards to the squatters

The number of squatters trespassing in development committee lands was initially thought to be around 300,000 people the survey revealed there is actually over 400,000 squatters. The squatters can be roughly divided into five categories, including squatting of homeless people for housing

needs, squatters renting housing to each other and squatting for commercial purposes.

U Phyo Min Thein said although the population of squatters has exceeded their estimated numbers, they are investigating into whether most of them are actually homeless people or not. He said the government will allow media agencies to participate in the investigations if needed and that people lying to the government to be included in the squatters' list will be dealt with accordingly with the law. The Chief Minister said there have been increased incidents of squatters along the entrance of the Yangon highway. Some of them are selling state owned plots of land knowing that these lands may be included in future city expansion projects. From the government's side, they have been issuing warnings and taking preventive measures to combat people selling state owned lands. The Yangon Region Government has allotted Ks 64billion to City Bank, which is under the Yangon City Development Committee's administration, for use in housing projects to solve the homeless squatter problems. The regional government conducted a survey from May to June 2016 to map the areas occupied by squat-

ters. They were able to analyze 423 areas in 19 townships with collaboration from UN-Habitat. When conducting the survey consideration was given to the socio-economic conditions of the squatters, the period of their illegal residence, the possibility of natural disasters, their effects on the local ecosystem and prioritizing which squatters should be relocated first. The collected information will be used in planning housing projects for the squatters.

The Chief Minister said temporary housing and job opportunities will be given to squatters but the government will take legal action against squatters registered in the survey if they were to be found trespassing on other state owned land again.

The police force will accompany officials conducting survey in the squatter territory for security purposes. The Chief Minister said in a press conference on 25 May 2016 that those who fail to comply will be pressed charges under Section 188 and will be removed from the squatter list.

After cyclone Nargis in 2008, the number of squatters in Yangon increased as people migrated to the city to find jobs. —Zaw Gyi (PaNiTa) ■

Dry ration delivered to police families, locals in Rakhine State

Five philanthropic organisations teamed up and delivered aid to police families and people on 9th June affected by Cyclone Mora in northern Rakhine.

The group includes Shwe Latt Myar philanthropic group and Yarkkhita Swan Arr young philanthropic group.

The ceremony to hand over the aid to the people affected by Cyclone Mora was held in the meeting room of No.1 Border Police detachment in Maungtau Township on 9 June.

At the occasion, U Win Maung Maung on behalf of the five philanthropic groups handed over the aid to Police Col Nyan Myint Kyaw, deputy director supervisory in the supervisory department. Then,

Police Brig-Gen Thura San Lwin presented documents of honour to the donors.

The donation is for the families from No. 1 Border Police detachment and local residents in Kyeeakanpyin village (south and north) affected by Cyclone Mora, said U Win Maung Maung.

The philanthropic groups also donated to reconstruct the damaged Pagoda near the police detachment. The groups donated 50 rice bags to the Rakhine State government for the local people from townships in Rakhine State affected by Cyclone Mora. This is a fifth donation to natural disaster victims in Rakhine State reaching a total of Ks 80 million.—Min Thit/ Myanmar News Agency ■



The officer of border guard police force in Maungtau presents the certificate of honour to a philanthropic group. **PHOTO: YEHTUT**

Japan, US officials affirm need for China to act on N Korea

TOKYO — A senior US State Department official and a key aide to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe agreed on Tuesday that China's role is important in tackling the development of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles by North Korea.

Thomas Shannon, US undersecretary of state for political affairs, affirmed with Shotaro Yachi, head of the secretariat of Japan's National Security Council, that nuclear tests and pursuit of intercontinental ballistic missiles will "over time, make North Korea a global threat," he told reporters after their meeting in Tokyo. While Shannon did not say whether they discussed further sanctions on North Korea or on companies in China deemed to be assisting North Korean activities, he said the officials agreed that the international community needs to convince Pyongyang

the programs "do not create any hopeful path to the future."

"We underscored the important role that China can play in this process, and also the important role that the UN Security Council and other organizations within the international community can play in bringing this message home to North Korea loud and clear," he said.

Shannon, who also met Vice Foreign Minister Shinsuke Sugiyama in the morning, is set to meet South Korean officials in Seoul after leaving Tokyo on Tuesday evening.

He said he will make sure that a specific date for next month's meeting of Japanese and US foreign and defense ministers, the first "two-plus-two" security talks since President Donald Trump took office, is fixed when he returns to Washington later this week.—Kyodo News ■



Thomas Shannon, US undersecretary of state for political affairs, meets with reporters in Tokyo on 13 June, 2017. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Ivanka Trump fashion brand halted talks on deal with Japan firm



File photo taken April 25, 2017, shows Ivanka Trump, a daughter of US President Donald Trump, attending a meeting in Berlin. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

NEW YORK — The operator of Ivanka Trump's fashion brand has halted business negotiations with major Japanese apparel company Sanei-International Co due to concerns over potential conflicts of interest, according to a letter from the operating company made public Monday.

Trump serves as an adviser to her father, President Donald Trump, and potential conflicts of interest between the Trump family's businesses and public duties have been an issue of concern since he took office.

According to the letter from

an executive of Ivanka Trump Operations LLC, dated 17 May and addressed to a ranking member of the US House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary, the company and Sanei agreed in principle on a potential transaction in August 2016. However, the company notified Sanei in January that it "decided not to pursue further negotiations" as it has learned Sanei-International's parent company had ties to the Japanese government.

Ivanka Trump resigned her positions at the business in January and subsequently placed it in

a trust out of concerns for a conflict of interest with respect to the business's potential expansion into a foreign market, according to the letter.

Information disclosed by Sanei's parent company TSI Holdings Co showed TSI's largest shareholder was the state-owned Development Bank of Japan as of the end of February.

The New York Times reported Monday that lawmakers say they "remain concerned" about Ivanka Trump possibly using the White House to further her private interests.—Kyodo News ■

Thai PM set to speed up Thailand-China railway project

BANGKOK — Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha confirmed on Tuesday he will use Article 44 next week to accelerate the Thailand-China railway project.

Speaking at Government House following a weekly cabinet meeting, Prayut said he will certainly use the Article 44 absolute power to solve legal snags involving the construction of an initial stretch of the 252 km high-speed train project between Bangkok and Nakhon Ratchasima province.

That is part of the rail project primarily designed to link southwest China's Yunnan province with northeastern Thailand via northern Laos.

He said that the delay in the Thailand-China railway project due to legal difficulties had already been discussed by his cabinet members and that Article 44 will be enforced next week.

He said he had not intended to use his absolute power which, he said, was eventually needed to put forward the railway project.—Xinhua ■

Suspected North Korea drone spied on US anti-missile system: South Korea officials

SEOUL — A suspected North Korean drone had taken photographs of an advanced US anti-missile battery in South Korea before it crashed on its way home, the South Korean military said on Tuesday.

The drone, mounted with a camera, was found last week in a forest near the border with North Korea. It was similar in size and shape to a North Korean drone found in 2014 on an island near the border.

"We confirmed that it took about 10 photos," of the anti-mis-

sile system, known as the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD), a South Korean Defense Ministry official said by telephone. The drone was suspected to be from North Korea, the official added.

South Korea is hosting the anti-missile defence system in the Seongju region, about 250 km (155 miles) from the border with North Korea, to counter a growing missile threat from the North.

"We will come up with measures to deal with North Korean drones," said an official at South

Korea's Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who also declined to be identified as he is not authorized to speak to the media.

North Korean drones are known to have flown over South Korea several times.

North Korea has about 300 unmanned aerial vehicles of different types including one designed for reconnaissance as well as combat drones, the United Nations said in a report last year.

The North Korean drones recovered in South Korea were probably procured through front

companies in China, with parts manufactured in China, the Czech Republic, Japan and the United States, it added.

The neighbours are technically at war after the 1950-53 Korean War ended in a truce and not a peace treaty.

South Korea and the United States agreed last year to deploy the THAAD unit in response to North Korea's relentless development of its ballistic missiles, and nuclear weapons, in defiance of UN sanctions.—Reuter ■

Remove fears that have kept two communities apart

By Tha Sein

A curfew imposed recently in Maung-taw and Buthidaung Townships, Rakhine State with a view to ensuring the prevalence of peace and stability in the region is a welcome move. The curfew should be helpful as an early warning in case of any signs of further violence in the northwest part of the country. A shift from attacking soldiers and police to targeting local people has become a potential turning point with more people killed and many others who have gone missing.

The government has decided to enforce the law rigorously, which would be a supporting mechanism for reining

in violent acts. The terrorist threat continues to evolve with new groups taking the place of previous ones, and each brings with them their own brand of violence. The curfew is a direct response to an upsurge in terrorist activities, which are more than enough to create a climate of fear to shake public confidence which may affect people's everyday lives.

The 9-10-2016 violent armed attacks which put the government on a heightened state of alert reminds us how complicated the situation in the border is. In the context of the scope and nature of these attacks, what is happening in the deep West cannot be seen in isolation, with an increase of

atrocities perpetrated by a terrorist group in order to increase its leverage and gain more international attention.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in meeting with Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven said that a United Nations decision to send an international fact-finding mission to look into allegations of abuse by security forces against Muslims in Rakhine State was not in keeping with the needs of both communities, and they did not feel it was in line with the needs of the region where they were trying to establish harmony and understanding and to remove the fears that have kept the two communities apart.

As regards communal tensions

in the region, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had also released a statement that the presence of an international fact-finding mission would do more to inflame rather than resolve the issue and it was also not in accord with the situation on the ground and prevailing situations.

To be fair, new models of collaborative and inclusive governance are required to successfully address the simmering communal tensions. At a time when the world is watching what is going on in the country with grave concern, we have reacted positively to the call of the people in distress and took proactive steps to bring peace and harmony in the region. ■

Let us
listen
together,
with open
hearts forever



By **Thabyay** 

IT is heart-breaking to hear a series of true tragic stories of modern-day slavery presented by a group of young people.

The young man and women who escaped from human trafficking in person shared their own experiences with deepened sadness and heart-felt grievances. The Forum for the victims of Human Trafficking in Person under the title "Let us all listen together, with open hearts forever" was organized at Horizon hotel in Nay Pyi Taw in the morning of 9th June. In this event both male and female youths (victims) were actively cooperating in the combat against human trafficking by taking part in enactment demonstrating and narrating their own experiences in the

hands of human traffickers.

The scripts and plots of the true story play of modern-day slavery came out from the discussion and suggestions made by 34 attendants to the forum held from 5 to 9 June.

"Human Trafficking has been growing rapidly and now becomes a serious and common issue for most of the countries. Actually human trafficking is a capital offence to human rights and it is rampant and affects most in underdeveloped and developing countries." said the Police Brigadier General Myint Htoo of Myanmar Police Force at the opening ceremony of the forum.

The forum for capacity building for the victims of human trafficking in person was held by Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in cooperation

with an NGO World Vision – Myanmar.

The meeting was attended and discussed by the responsible personnel from Myanmar Police Force, Social Welfare and related departments, World Vision, other friendly organizations, survivors from human trafficking and special invited guests.

"As human trafficking usually takes place as transnational crime, cooperation among the countries is crucial to the suppression and eradication of human trafficking. Therefore, Myanmar has actively taken part in the combat on human trafficking in accordance with the regional and international agreement" added Police Brigadier General Myint Htoo.

Myanmar has been the signatory of the agreement contract on prevention of human trafficking by land, by water

and by air, of United Nation Convention on fight against transnational crime and later agreement on prevention of human trafficking.

The law of Prevention of Human Trafficking in Person was ratified on 13 September 2005 and Central Committee and three working Committees were formed in accordance with the law. The fight against human trafficking was implemented at the national level with 2 terms of 5 year project from 2007 to 2016 and it is now undertaking with greater momentum. Now the third 5 year term from 2017 to 2021 is being implemented.

"By holding such a forum the survivors from the scourge of human trafficking can share their bitter experiences and

SEE PAGE-10

Money donated for victims of plane crash

Cash assistance was given yesterday by the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and a Union Minister to the families of the victims of the Y-8 military transport plane that crashed last week.

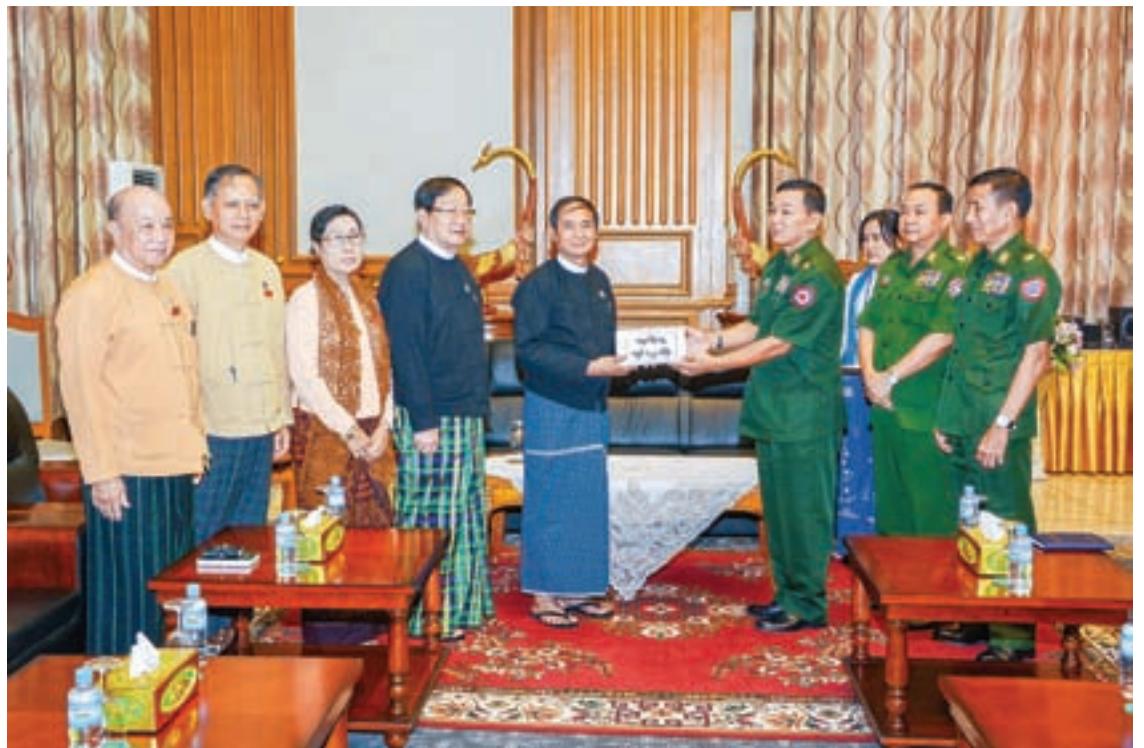
U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for Transport and Communications, handed over Ks 122 lakh to the Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win at the Defence Ministry. Meanwhile, Lt-Gen Wai Lwin (retired) and wife Daw Swe Swe Oo presented Ks 10 lakh to the Ministry of Defence.

At the hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw, a donation ceremony

was held for the victims of the plane crash yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the ceremony, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint provided Ks 122 lakh to families of the victims. Pyithu Hluttaw representative Brig-Gen Maung Maung accepted cash donations.

Also present at the ceremony were Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat, Chairmen of Pyithu Hluttaw Committees, military personnel Pyithu Hluttaw representatives and officials of the Pyithu Hluttaw.— Myanmar News Agency ■



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint hands over cash donation for families of the victims of plane crash to Brig-Gen Maung Maung in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Three more bodies from downed plane found

A search and recovery operation for the military transport plane that crashed into the Andaman Sea on 7 June continued yesterday with the discovery of 3 more bodies bringing the total number of bodies recovered to 86.

A statement by the office of the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services said that ground troops and volunteers

searching along the Maungmakan-Mayingyi beach area discovered two male and one unidentifiable gender bodies. The remains were sent to Dawei Tatmadaw Hospital for identifications. Yesterday, 13 identified bodies, 9 males and 4 females were cremated bringing a total of 48 bodies being given a proper burial.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Education Ministry to ...

FROM PAGE-2

And in making plans, regions, states, districts and township planning and implementation committees had been formed for local people to take part in discussions in making plans with their respective duties designated. Instructions had been made to perform the tasks after inviting Hluttaw representatives to take part in the meetings of planning committees. As for the Ministry of Planning and Finance, it always lays stress on the transparency of the budget. From the financial year 2015-2016 Citizen's Budget has been

issued annually. According to Open Budget Survey—OBS), Myanmar's result was zero in 2012 with in 2015 it reached 2. We firmly believe that OPS for FY 2017 will develop."

Afterward, Dr Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, U Soe Min, vice-Governor of Myanmar Central Bank and U Saw Vellitine, member of the Union Civil Service Board replied to the queries raised by U Kan Myint of Thayet constituency, Daw Zin Mar Aung of Yankin constituency, U Pe Du of Prusho constituency and U Phyo Zayar

Thaw (a) U Zayar Thaw of Zabethiri.

Then, as regards the motion submitted by U Khin Cho of Hlaingbwe constituency urging the Union Government to systematically implement for reducing the problem of unemployment in the country, U Naing Htoo Aung of Natogyi constituency, Daw Mar Mar Khaing of Thaton constituency and Daw Ni Ni Don of Paukkaung constituency discussed respectively. Regarding the motion, it will be debated and decided by Hluttaw in the 14th day meeting.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Chairmen of Amyotha Hluttaw Committees meet representatives from Yangon Region Hluttaw



Rights Committee of Amyotha Hluttaw held talks with Yangon Region Hluttaw's Pledges, Guarantees and Undertakings Vetting Committee and the Committee on Scrutinizing the Hluttaw Representatives over the work process yesterday at the Amyotha Hluttaw Building Hall 20, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the

matters of work process were discussed by deputy speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw and chairman of the Hluttaw Rights Committee U Aye Thar Aung, secretaries and members of committee and representatives from the Yangon Region Hluttaw Committees.

Similarly, chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Scrutiny

Committee for Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertaking Vetting Committee U Thein Swe, secretaries and committee members met with representatives of Yangon Region Hluttaw Committees at the Amyotha Hluttaw Building Hall 20 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday and discussed their work.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Correction

Please read "Ambassador-Designate..." in the news story "119th Philippines Independence Day was held" on Page-9 of the 13th June Issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar.—Ed

Union Chief Justice U Tun Tun Oo attends second China-ASEAN Justice Forum

Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo attended the second China-ASEAN Justice Forum held in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China on 7 and 8 June.

The forum was attended by Supreme People's Court and Higher People's Courts of People's Republic of China, Chief Justices deputy chief justices, judges and representatives of ASEAN, and some of the South Asian countries.

At the forum, U Tun Tun Oo deliv-

ered an opening speech on behalf of the ASEAN nations. Forum attendees held discussions in groups with subtitles on a theme of justice and regional judicial cooperation in the internet era and establishment of maritime silk-road and cross-border dispute resolution mechanism and issued a Nanning Statement.

The Nanning Statement includes arranging visits between Supreme People's Court of People's Republic of China and judicial sectors of forum

attending countries, exchange of information, increasing cooperation in judicial matter, effective and transparent judicial process using information technology, comparing of trade laws practiced in countries, reflecting on determining the processes to settle disputes with other means, finding ways and means for mutual recognition and observing of trade judgments made by individual country and ASEAN countries providing support on training

courses conducted for China-ASEAN judges in Supreme People's Court of China.

While attending the forum, Union Chief Justice U Tun Tun Oo met separately with Chief Justice and President of the Supreme People's Court of China Mr. Zhou Qiang and discussed matters relating to increasing cooperation in the judicial sectors of the two countries. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Let us listen together, with open hearts forever

FROM PAGE-8

their suggestions are greatly supportive in combating human trafficking and play an important role in eradicating the human trafficking in person. The requirements discovered through this meeting will be taken into consideration in the implementation of the coming 5 year plan" continued Police Brigadier General Myint Htoo.

The suggestions came out from the discussion in the forum for the prevention of human trafficking include: to give knowledge and awareness to potential migrant workers; to let them know not to easily trust every person including friends and relatives; to know comprehensively about the job that they are going to do; to leave the address of the work place and type of job at home; to leave the available information and contact phone number related to the agencies at home; to learn about language of destination country and local condition; to assess whether your working skill meet the requirement of the job you are going to do and if not, to get some pre-departure training. The said 6 points are important for the displaced workers to not be the victims of human trafficking.

Out of the suggestions for Protection Sector, 8 points were highlighted. Trafficked persons were beaten by officials from some police stations and some common houses (houses of refuge) of the bordering countries; giving no sufficient food; providing no medical treatment and discrimination. Moreover, it was suggested to coordinate at the meeting not to discriminate in providing regular health care, to support the rehabilitation, health care, food and accommodation for trafficked persons by linking with the helping organizations. Since the suggested facts are really important they should be included in the planning and implemented in cooperation with the departments concerned.

In Policy and Cooperation Sector, 5 points were suggested including

the facts: to do careful checking and inspection at all check points and inspection gates by combined force comprising immigration department and police force for protection of human trafficking to discover the cases of trafficking and trespassing that are usually done through official border gates and also through illegal hidden gates; moreover, for inspection officials at the border gates and check points to do surprise checking in addition to regular checking on the cars as it has been a common practice to traffic human hiding under the goods; to come up with the means and ways to expose the cases of border gate officials in collusion with trafficking agents.

Those suggestions are also crucial to prevention and protection of human trafficking, so should be put into the project planning and implemented effectively.

In prosecution sector, it is suggested: the judge to enthusiastically listen to the words said by those who suffered grievances; to protect the victims from threatening during the trial at court; the court to inform the victims of the sentence convicted on the criminal; to inform the victims of the latest information regarding the rights of the victims and compensation due to the victims; to trace and expose the main culprits behind the curtain through the trafficking agents. The suggestions numbering to 13 in total are also important and should include in further planning for protection of human trafficking.

At the capacity-building meeting for the trafficked persons, director of social welfare department, Daw Naw Thar War clarified that over 3700 trafficked persons were retrieved between 1992 and April 2017 mostly from Thailand, Indonesia and China; and vocational training were given to trafficked persons; trafficked persons were supported to be able to work in specific vocation and could support health and education of trafficked persons depending on their require-

ments; 772 trafficked persons were supported for their livelihood between 2010 and April 2017 under the budgets of social welfare department, Anti-Human Trafficking Division of Myanmar Police Force, UNICEF and IOM.

With vision to protect human trafficking World Vision under the guidance of Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Person is carrying out the tasks hand in hand with the communities and the departments concerned defining the Yangon, Mandalay, Taninthayi Regions, Shan and Mon States as project area.

World Vision is an NGO from America and it is taking part in 5 year plan of suppression of human trafficking in Myanmar starting from 2017 under the Fund raised by American Government and Australian Government. It is implementing the project with strategy based on "Four P & One C". Four P represent Prevention, Protection, Policy and Prosecution and One C is capacity building.

World Vision had pointed out the facts that the number of displaced workers are increasing year by year in seeking the better job opportunities; referring to the figures issued by UN Organization for Displaced Workers in 2014 World Vision pointed out that 2.3 million displaced workers are present in Thailand. But only half of them are working with legal permit. Referring to other sources, it was said that 700,000 Myanmar displaced workers are working in Malaysia while 100,000 to 200,000 displaced workers are working in Singapore.

Besides, World Vision has placed 33 teams for monitoring the villages and tracts comprising 1041 members and it has 49 children teams comprising 1350 members helping in combating human trafficking in person in the wards and villages. World Vision could help the 444 repatriated displaced persons to get reunion with their families.

It could assist 1576 repatriated displaced persons to be able to attend

the capacity building courses. The educative campaigns were done by holding poems, arts, essays, articles and posters competitions and awarding the prizes in memorial of Human Trafficking Day. 6652 students participated in the competitions.

In the discussions made by the officials from departments concerned, the spoke-person of Ministry of Information, U Ye Naing said "In accordance with the objectives of the Ministry of Information "To Inform, To Educate and To Entertain" the works in combating the human trafficking are being carried out by broadcasting the campaign through the state-owned medias such as MRTV, newspapers and online media."

From radio and television of MoI people are educated regarding the human trafficking by broadcasting songs, short plays, mottos and other programs, by holding educative talks and displaying wall magazine at the office of Information and Public Relations Department, by editorials, news, photos and articles in the newspapers, by online media and by using different national races languages.

The capacity-building meeting and discussion was finished at noon of 9 June. The survivors from the hands of human traffickers attended the meeting and shared their experiences and basing on those experiences in combination with knowledge gained from the meeting the preventive measures can be planned in combating the human trafficking in person.

"The victims of human trafficking have sustained more or less spiritual trauma. Some can pick themselves up again from the scourge, but some have to take time to cure their mental trauma and impose burden on their families" said one of the attendants.

Therefore, "Let us all listen together, with open hearts forever and let us combat human trafficking in person hand in hand with the people to ensure every human free from the scourge of human trafficking". —Translated by Khin Maung Win ■

Iraqi armed forces announce progress in Mosul campaign, say district north of old city captured



Members of the Iraqi Army's 9th Armoured Division stand next to vehicles at the frontline, during the ongoing fighting between the Iraqi forces and Islamic State in western Mosul, Iraq on 12 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

BAGHDAD — Iraqi forces on Tuesday reported progress in the US-backed campaign to dislodge Islamic State from Mosul, announcing the capture of a district just north the city's historic centre.

With the loss of the Zanjili neighborhood, the enclave still held by Islamic State in the northern Iraqi city has shrunk to two districts along the western banks of the Tigris river — the densely populated Old City centre and the Medical City. Iraqi government forces retook eastern Mosul in January and began a new push on 27 May to capture the remaining enclave, where up to 200,000 people are trapped.

The Mosul offensive started in October with air and ground support from a US-led international coalition. It has taken much longer than expected as Islamic State is fighting

in the middle of civilians, slowing the advance of the assailants. The fall of Mosul would, in effect, mark the end of the Iraqi half of the "caliphate" declared in 2014 over parts of Iraq and Syria by Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, in a speech from a historic mosque in the old city.

In Syria, Kurdish forces backed by US-air strikes are besieging Islamic State forces in the city of Raqqa, the militants' de facto capital in that country. About 800,000 people, more than a third of the pre-war population of Mosul, have already fled, seeking refuge either with friends and relatives or in camps.—Reuters ■

Islamic state calls for attacks in West, Russia, Middle East, Asia during Ramadan

CAIRO — An audio message purporting to come from the spokesman of Islamic State called on followers to launch attacks in the United States, Europe, Russia, Australia, Iraq, Syria, Iran, and the Philippines during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, which began in late May.

The audio clip was distributed on Monday on Islamic State's channel on Telegram, an encrypted messaging application. It was attributed to the militant group's official spokesman, Abi al-Hassan al-Muhajer.

The authenticity of the recording could not be independently veri-

fied, but the voice was the same as a previous audio message purported to be from the spokesman.

"O lions of Mosul, Raqqa, and Tal Afar, God bless those pure arms and bright faces, charge against the rejectionists and the apostates and fight them with the strength of one man," said al-Muhajer. Rejectionist is a derogatory term used to refer to Shi'ite Muslims.

"To the brethren of faith and belief in Europe, America, Russia, Australia, and others. Your brothers in your land have done well so take them as role models and do as they have done." —Reuters ■

US-backed Syrian fighters reach old city walls in IS-held Raqqa

BEIRUT — US-backed Syrian militias advanced further into Islamic State's Syrian stronghold of Raqqa from the east on Monday, reaching the walls of the Old City, a war monitor and a militia spokesman said on Monday.

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), a group of Kurdish and Arab militias supported by a US-led coalition, began to attack Raqqa last Tuesday with the aim of taking it from Islamic State militants, after a months-long campaign to cut it off.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor said the SDF took the al-Sanaa industrial neighbourhood on Monday as part of their push into the eastern half of the city, and had reached the walls of the Old City neighbourhood.

SDF media officer Ahmad Mohammed said the SDF had reached the walls but there were still fierce clashes in al-Sanaa and the district had not yet been totally secured.

The Old City, east of central Raqqa, is a neigh-



Forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad take positions in the Badia, in the southeast Syrian desert, in this handout picture provided by SANA on 13 June, 2017, Syria. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

bourhood of modern housing bordered on two sides by fortified city walls built in the eighth century by the Abbasid Islamic Caliphate which at one point used Raqqa as its capital. Residents said on Monday the Old City area was being shelled intensely.

The US-led coalition estimates that Raqqa, which Islamic State seized during their lightning advance in Syria and Iraq, is defended by 3,000 to 4,000 jihadists.

It has been a hub both for Islamic State's military leaders and its bureau-

crats, and has been used to plot attacks in countries around the world.

The SDF also advanced from north of the city on Monday, taking a sugar factory complex northeast of Raqqa. A video said to show SDF officers within the complex shows heavy damage to the factory.

Since the offensive began the SDF, supported by heavy coalition air strikes, have taken territory to the west, east and north of the city. The fighting has caused large numbers of people to flee the city and surrounding areas.—Reuters ■

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Dated 14th June 2017

Philippines army struggles as city siege enters fourth week

MARAWI CITY, (Philippines) — Fighting in Marawi City in the southern Philippines entered its fourth week on Tuesday with military officials conceding that troops were struggling to loosen the grip of Islamist fighters on downtown precincts despite relentless bombing.

Military spokesman Brigadier General Restituto Padilla said the urban terrain was hampering the army's progress because the rebels had hunkered down in built-up neighbourhoods, many of them with civilians they had taken as human shields.

Hundreds of other civilians were still trapped in the ruins of the town and — facing capture, starvation or bombardment from above — several have braved sniper fire to dash across a bridge to safety. Some were shot dead, a few made it alive.

Asked when the fighting would end, Padilla said: "I can't give you an estimate because of compounding developments faced by ground com-



Reinforcement government soldiers march at Amai Pakpak, as government troops continue their assault against insurgents from Maute group, who has taken over large parts of the Marawi City, Philippines on 13 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

manders."

The military had set Monday, the Philippines' independence day, as a target date to flush out the militants, both local and foreign fighters who have pledged allegiance to Islamic State.

Flags were raised at ceremony in the town on the insurgency-plagued island of Mindanao, but heavy gunfire resumed early on Tuesday, and the

military continued to target the militants with mortars and helicopter-mounted machineguns.

President Rodrigo Duterte, who declared martial law in Mindanao on 23 May — hours after several hundred fighters overran parts of the town and tried to seal it off to create an Islamic caliphate — did not show at any independence day events.

Duterte is best known

for a brutal war on drugs since he took office a year ago, and he has suggested that funding for the Islamist militants came from the narcotics trade.

Some media reports highlighted the absence of the president at a time of serious conflict, but a spokesman said he was tired and needed to rest.

The Philippines has been fighting twin insurgencies from Maoist-led

rebels and Muslim separatists in the south for nearly 50 years. Critics say military action is not enough to bring peace to a region that has long suffered from political neglect and poverty.

The seizure of Marawi has alarmed Southeast Asian nations which fear Islamic State — on a backfoot in Iraq and Syria — is trying to set up a stronghold on Mindanao that could threaten their region.

The ultra-radical group's news agency, Amaq, said the military in the largely Christian Philippines had "completely failed" to take back Muslim-majority Marawi.

"Islamic State fighters are spread in more than two-thirds of Marawi and tighten the chokehold on the Philippine army that is incapable of maintaining control of the situation," it said.

Padilla branded the Amaq report "pure propaganda".

Responding to the report, Lieutenant General

Carlito Galvez, head of military command in Western Mindanao, told Reuters the militants controlled 20 per cent of the town.

That is at least twice the area that the military had given a week ago, when it had said the rebels were holed up in a sliver of urban terrain equal to 10 per cent and shrinking.

Almost the entire population of about 200,000 fled after the militants tried to overrun it, but the military believes that beyond the checkpoints now fencing off its main roads there are still some 300-600 civilians trapped or being held hostage.

Padilla said about 100 militants were still fighting, down from the estimated 400-500 who stormed the town. Former military chief Rodolfo Biazon told ABC-CBN television on Monday that the government seemed to be struggling to control the situation because rebel forces could move freely in an out of the town, raising the prospect of reinforcements. —Reuters ■

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Reg. No. 975/2017

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Daw May Thwe Hlaing, LL.B., LL.M., (H.G.P.)

For Donut King Franchise Pty Ltd

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Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com

Dated: 14th June 2017.

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Reg. No. 976/2017

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The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated 14th June 2017

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**Viet Nam mulls
bringing home
guest workers
in Qatar**

HANOI — Vietnamese guest workers are working normally in Qatar, but if the situation there progresses complicatedly, they will be airlifted home, a local overseas labor watchdog said on Tuesday.

According to the latest review, 1,100 Vietnamese people are currently working in Qatar, not 1,800 as previously reported, said the Department of Overseas Labour under the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs. If the situation in Qatar, which has been isolated by its neighboring nations, becomes unstable, affecting the Vietnamese people's safety and interests, the Vietnamese side will bring them home like it did to thousands of guest workers in Libya in 2011. —Xinhua ■



US Attorney General Jeff Sessions addresses the National Law Enforcement Conference on Human Exploitation in Atlanta, Georgia, US on 6 June, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Sessions to face questions on Russia, Comey in high-stakes US Senate hearing

WASHINGTON, — US Attorney General Jeff Sessions will face questions on Tuesday about his dealings with Russian officials and whether he intentionally misled Congress as a Senate panel investigates the Kremlin's alleged involvement in the 2016 US presidential election.

Sessions' testimony before the Senate Intelligence Committee, scheduled to start at 2:30 pm (1830 GMT), has the potential for high drama as the Russia probe continues to dominate US politics, sidelining President Donald Trump's domestic agenda.

The former Republican US senator from Alabama, one of Trump's most avid supporters on the campaign trail, will likely have to explain why he told lawmakers in January he had no dealings with Kremlin officials last year.

His staffers have since acknowledged that he met twice with Russian Ambassador Sergei Kislyak. They say he did not mislead Congress because the encounters were part of his job as a senator, not as a surrogate of the Trump campaign.

But the revelations forced Sessions to recuse himself from the Russia investigation in March, and it is now being handled by a special counsel. Ses-

sions will likely be asked whether he played a role in Trump's surprise decision to fire FBI Director James Comey last month -- a move that caused Trump's critics to charge that he was trying to interfere with a criminal investigation.

The attorney general could also face questions about whether he met Kislyak on a third occasion. Several media outlets have reported that Comey told the Intelligence Committee last week that the FBI was examining whether Sessions met with Kislyak at a Washington hotel last year. It is not clear whether Sessions plans to answer all the questions or if he will invoke executive privilege to avoid disclosing private conversations with the president.

Some members of the Intelligence Committee, frustrated by the tight-lipped performance of other administration officials last week, said they were not going to allow Sessions to follow suit.

"That's just not going to be acceptable," said Senator Ron Wyden, a Democrat on the committee. One of those administration officials, Admiral Michael Rogers, head of the National Security Agency, met with members of the Intelligence Committee in a closed-door session, according to the agency. — Reuters ■

One-quarter of F-35 fighter jets grounded over oxygen issues

WASHINGTON — About a quarter of the F-35 fighter jets made by Lockheed Martin Corp, or 55 planes, have stopped flying until further notice because of irregularities in pilots' oxygen supplies, US Air Force spokesman Captain Mark Graff said on Monday.

Training flights at Arizona's Luke Air Force Base, where the 55 jets are based, were canceled on Friday and scheduled to re-

sume on Monday, but the grounding was extended indefinitely. More than 220 F-35s are flying worldwide.

The grounding comes at a critical time for Lockheed, which plans to demonstrate the advanced jet at the Paris Air Show next week. F-35 air operations at other bases continued, US Air Force officials said. The F-35 business accounts for about 37 per cent of Lockheed's total

revenue. During the first quarter, Lockheed's revenue from its aeronautics business increased 8 per cent to \$4.11 billion, led by higher sales of the F-35.

Luke Air Force Base, located northwest of Phoenix, is home to the 56th Fighter Wing. The base canceled local flying operations for its F-35A Lightning II aircraft due to five incidents in which pilots experienced symptoms

resembling hypoxia, or oxygen deprivation, Graff said on Friday at the Pentagon.

The Air Force said the incidents occurred from May 2 to Thursday, and that in each case the aircraft's backup oxygen system worked as designed and the jets were able to land safely. The base's F-35A Lightning II's typically fly 25 training missions each weekday, base officials said.—Reuters ■

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FIG. 1- Front, Top and Left Side Perspective View



FIG. 2- Rear, Bottom and Right Side Perspective View

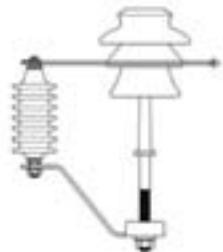


FIG. 3 - Front View

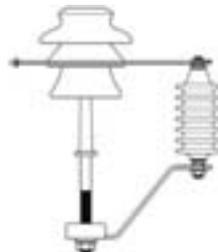


FIG. 4 - Rear View

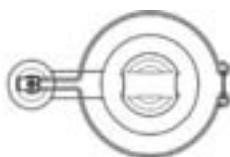


FIG. 5 - Top Plan View

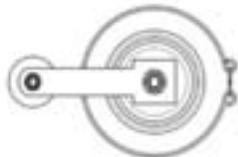


FIG. 6 - Bottom Plan View



FIG. 7 - Right Side View



FIG. 8 - Left Side View

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FIG. 1- Front, Top and Right Side Perspective View

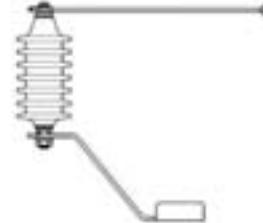


FIG. 2 - Front View



FIG. 3 - Rear View

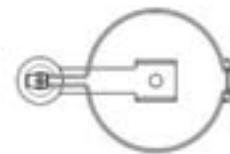


FIG. 4 - Top Plan View

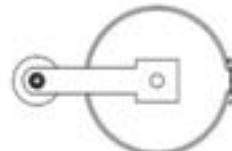


FIG. 5 - Bottom Plan View



FIG. 6 - Right Side View



FIG. 7 - Left Side View



FIG. 8 - Referential View showing the article in use

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Halsey becomes first solo woman to top Billboard 200 chart in 2017

LOS ANGELES — US pop singer Halsey scored her first No.1 album on the Billboard 200 chart with “Hopeless Fountain Kingdom,” making her the first solo female artist to top the album chart in 2017, according to

data on Monday from Nielsen SoundScan.

Halsey, 22, who shot to international fame last year as the featured singer on The Chainsmokers’ hit summer single “Closer,” sold 105,000 units of

her second studio album.

The last woman to top the Billboard 200 was Lady Gaga in November 2016 with “Joanne,” Billboard said. Sales for Katy Perry’s heavily-promoted new album “Witness” will be tallied next week.

Kendrick Lamar’s “Damn.” held onto second place on the Billboard 200 with 72,000 more units sold in its eighth week, while The Beatles extended their chart comeback with a further 44,000 sales for 50th anniversary remastered “Sgt Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band”, which dipped from 3rd to the No. 4 spot.

The Billboard 200 album chart tallies units from album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album).

On the digital songs chart, which measures online single sales, Puerto Rican singer Luis Fonsi’s “Despacito” featuring Justin Bieber held onto the top spot for a fifth week with another 140,000 copies sold.

— Reuters ■



Halsey performs ‘Now or Never.’ PHOTO: REUTERS

Meryl Streep to play cousin of Mary Poppins in the movie

LOS ANGELES — Veteran actress Meryl Streep will play Topsy, cousin of Mary Poppins in the “Mary Poppins Returns”.

Director, Rob Marshall said that the Oscar-winning actress, whom he worked with in “Into the Woods”, was drawn to his 2018 movie because of its mes-

sage of optimism, reported Entertainment Weekly.

In the movie, Topsy receives a visit from the nanny (Emily Blunt) and the Banks children during their adventurous lessons.

Streep also gets her own song, penned by Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman, when she

welcomes her young guests to her world, which is lived almost entirely in upside-downs and opposites.

The sequel to the 1964 classic also stars Lin-Manuel Miranda, Dick Van Dyke, Emily Mortimer, Ben Whishaw and Angela Lansbury.

— Reuters ■



Rapper Ice Cube poses by his star after it was unveiled. PHOTO: REUTERS

Ice Cube gets Hollywood star, thanks all ‘who helped me get here’

LOS ANGELES — Rapper-turned-actor Ice Cube received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Monday and thanked everyone who helped his career in music and movies.

Friends and family attended the ceremony on Hollywood Boulevard, including Dr Dre, a former fellow member of the seminal “gangsta” rap group NWA.

“You know, you don’t get here by yourself and when you’re coming up doing music, movies, just trying to be creative, you never figure you’ll be on the Hollywood Walk of Fame one day,” Ice Cube said.

“So today is not really about Ice Cube, it’s about all the people who helped me get here,” he added. Ice Cube, born as O’Shea Jackson, found fame in the 1980s



Sean Diddy Combs. PHOTOREUTERS

Sean Combs ousts Taylor Swift as highest-paid global entertainer

LOS ANGELES— Rapper and music producer Sean “Diddy” Combs was named the world’s highest-paid entertainer on Monday, ousting pop singer Taylor Swift who fell to 49th place on the Forbes annual list.

Beyonce moved into the second spot with \$105 million, courtesy of her best-selling “Lemonade” album and world tour, while British author JK Rowling (\$95 million) moved back into the top three thanks largely to her “Harry Potter” spinoff movie franchise “Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them.”

Combs, 47, earned an estimated \$130 million in the 12 months ended on 1 June, 2017, Forbes said. It attributed the big payout to his Bad Boy Family Reunion Tour, earnings from his Sean John clothing line, and his partnership with Ciroc vodka.

Last year, Combs came in 22nd on the list in a year when

Swift bested all-comers with \$170 million after her best-selling “1989” album and world tour.

This year, the 27-year-old country singer-turned-pop star, with no new album or tour, saw her paycheck dip to \$44 million, Forbes estimated.

Newcomers in 2017 include model Kylie Jenner, the 19-year-old half-sister of reality TV star Kim Kardashian, who earned \$41 million, and US radio and television personality Steve Harvey with \$42.5 million.

Forbes compiles the list estimating pre-tax earnings, before deducting fees for managers, based on data from Nielsen, touring trade publication Pollstar, movie database IMDB.com, and interviews with industry experts and celebrities themselves.

The world’s top 100 celebrities earned a cumulative \$5.1 billion — about the same as last year, Forbes said.— Reuters ■

alongside Dr Dre in the influential West Coast rap group N.W.A., writing many of the song lyrics for their iconic “Straight Outta Compton” album.

After leaving the group over a royalty dispute, he released his debut solo album “AmeriKKKa’s Most Wanted” in 1990. The rapper began acting in movies in 1991 with a starring role in John

Singleton’s film about life in a Los Angeles ghetto, “Boyz n the Hood.” He has since appeared in the films “Friday”, “Barbershop”, and “Three Kings.” Ice Cube was also a producer on the 2015 biopic “Straight Outta Compton”, which told the story of NWA. His son O’Shea Jackson Jr portrayed him in the film.— Reuters ■



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Myanmar trounces Macau 4-0 in 2019 AFC Asian Cup Qualification

By Shine Htet Zaw

Myanmar trounced host Macau in Group A of the Asian Cup Qualification match yesterday.

Myanmar's men were too strong for rivals Macau in Group A, as a brace from defender Si Thu Aung saw them run out 4-0 victors. The 4-0 away victory has brought rays of hope to Myanmar to regain its past glory in 1968 when the country stood second in its maiden completion for the cup.

Myanmar coach drew a different line-up from the match with Indian in which it was defeated. Despite threatening Myanmar with shots to the box in the first half, Macau strikers did not find the net of its rival.

With a surprise kick by Sithu Aung three minutes after the kick off, Myanmar gained the first goal. Myanmar team saw one win and one loss in two matches while Macau have not yet seen winning in two matches.



Aung Thu (Right) vies for the ball with unidentified Macau's player during 2019 AFC Asian Cup Qualification yesterday. **PHOTO: MFF**

Iran beat Uzbekistan 2-0 to seal World Cup berth

TEHRAN — Iran became the second team to qualify for next year's World Cup finals as they beat Uzbekistan 2-0 with goals from Sardar Azmoun and Mehdi Taremi at the Azadi Stadium on Monday.

Azmoun's goal midway through the first half set Iran on track to qualify for the 2018 event in Russia before Taremi added a second two minutes from time as Iran reached back-to-back World Cup tournaments for the first time.

The three-time Asian champions, who also missed a penalty just after the break, join Brazil as the qualified nations so far after Iran secured a fifth World Cup appearance.

The win means Portuguese coach Carlos Queiroz's Iran team will finish in the top two places in Group A of Asia's final round of qualifying. Uzbekistan are eight points adrift of the leaders in third

place and have only two games remaining.

The top two teams in each of Asia's two qualifying groups advance automatically to the finals while the teams in third place go through a series of playoffs. Azmoun opened the scoring in the 23rd minute when Alireza Jahanbaksh's through ball found the FC Rostov striker with time and space behind the Uzbek defence to roll the ball under goalkeeper Aleksandr Lobanov and into the net. Captain Masoud Shojaei squandered the chance to double Iran's advantage five minutes into the second half when he fired a penalty over the bar after Taremi had been bundled over in the box by Akmal Shorakhmedov.

But Taremi calmed Iran's nerves when he added the second goal late on by curling a low shot into the corner of Lobanov's goal to spark celebrations amongst the home supporters.—Reuters ■

AC Milan sign Porto striker Andre Silva

MILAN — Italy's AC Milan have signed striker Andre Silva from Porto for a fee that could rise to 40 million euros (35.4 million pounds), the Portuguese club said on Monday.

The 21-year-old, who has signed a contract that will keep him at Milan until June 2022,

made 32 league appearances for Porto last season, scoring 16 goals. He also scored four times in eight appearances in last season's Champions League.

Milan paid Porto an initial 38 million euros for Silva, with a variable component that could see the fee rise by an ad-

ditional two million euros, the Portuguese club said in a statement. Milan finished sixth in Serie A last season, earning a place in next season's Europa League qualifiers and ending a three-season absence from European competition.—Reuters ■

England to rotate keepers in France friendly

LONDON — England will field different goalkeepers in each half in Tuesday's friendly against France on Tuesday, manager Gareth Southgate said. Burnley's Tom Heaton will start, with Stoke's Jack Butland playing the second half. Southgate said it was always his intention to rest Joe Hart, who has been criticised for conceding two free kicks late on in Saturday's 2-2 draw with Scotland. "I am conscious of keeping people involved in

the squad and giving them game time. Tom Heaton will start, and Jack Butland play the second half," he told a press conference.

Harry Kane will again captain the side against a France side expected to feature young Monaco striker Kylian Mbappe, who has been linked with a 112 million euro (\$126 million) move to one of Europe's big clubs.

"Of all the countries we have played against at youth level, France are the most

impressive in terms of depth of talent and athletic profile of their players, and Mbappe has excelled this season," said Southgate.

"We have seen him in the Champions League and he is an indication of their depth of talent."

Both teams will wear black armbands for the game and a minute's silent will precede kick-off in tribute to the victims of recent attacks in Manchester and London.—Reuters ■