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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visits the booth displaying award winning literary works of school children at the Commemorative Ceremony of the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

ASEAN celebrates golden jubilee

State Counsellor urges ASEAN to double its capacity to overcome new, diverse challenges

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in her speech delivered at the Commemorative Ceremony of the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN at the Myanmar International Convention Centre -II, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, praised ASEAN's progress and encouraged member states to accelerate regional efforts to reduce poverty, rising inequality, terrorism and

environmental threats.

The ceremony opened with the playing of the ASEAN anthem, after which the State Counsellor called on the regional body to work more closely together to speed economic development, cultural exchange and shared security.

"The progress achieved during our first 50 years should not make ASEAN complacent.

It should inspire and enable the peoples of ASEAN to step up the momentum to realize a participative, resilient, and socially-responsible community for the betterment of all ASEAN peoples," she said.

Following the State Counsellor's remarks, Union Ministers Dr. Pe Myint, U Kyaw Win, Thura U Aung Ko and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U

Kyaw Tin awarded prizes to winners of Myanmar and English composition competitions, painting competitions and a traditional dance competition.

Winners of ASEAN's traditional dance competition and artists from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture performed dances for the gathering.

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw members discuss education and regulation of regional extractives

Kyaw Thu Htet
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

Members of the Pyithu Hluttaw discussed matriculation examinations at Myanmar schools and the current state of conflict over Kachin's natural resources during yesterday's regular session in Nay Pyi Taw.

Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun said that Myanmar's matriculation exams are prepared by a committee of university academics, while senior assistant teachers are charged with correcting the papers.

U Win Maw Tun also said

that the Ministry of Education has been appointing teaching staff at Basic Education Schools, depending upon funding resources. He said that there is currently no plan to appoint more librarians.

A separate discussion addressed Union responsibilities to supervise gold and amber mining in Tanai and Phakant townships in Kachin State.

U Enthokha Nawsam of Myitkyina constituency of Kachin said that all natural resources belong to the state, means that it should be required to enforce laws governing extractives.

"Various ethnic groups rush

to Kachin to settle, as it is a place of producing resources," U Enthokha Nawsam said.

"So, the region sees robberies, drug trafficking, tax levies, extortion rackets, human rights violations and illegal mining. Hence, there is a need for the Government or the State Cabinet to deal these problems effectively."

Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win said: "In future, the Kachin State Cabinet can stop illegal mining of gold and amber by allowing small jewellery businesses and job hunters at gold and amber



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint. PHOTO: MNA

rushes to do business legally by the Kachin State Government.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Con-

servation will cooperate with the State Cabinet, in accord with the prescription in Myanmar Gems Law." ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw addresses terrace farming and illegal gambling

Thura Zaw
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw told the Amyotha Hluttaw assembly yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw that the government is promoting terrace farming methods in mountainous areas where flooding has caused erosion.

Terrace farming techniques include irrigation practices, cultivation of plants with deep root-structures and the installation of tiered structures for reinforcement of soil.

The Department of Agriculture has also prosecuted illegal logging operations, which contribute to erosion, the deputy minister said.

During financial year 2017-2018, in Haka, Falam and Mindat districts of Chin State, 135 acres of mixed crops and forest plantations and 750 acres of community firewood plantation were setup. Courses on natural fertilizer production and other subjects were provided while plant saplings were distributed.

U Hla Kyaw also discussed a plan to establish a fuel station

beside the approach road to Mann Chaung Bridge in Ooyin-zin Village Tract, Minbu (Saku) Township. At the Magway Region government meeting held on 8 March 2017 the plan was delayed as it had not received proper authorization.

And Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe addressed a motion by a member to investigate and close down illegal gaming centers. The deputy minister said that the gaming machines had been imported illegally and that the government would prosecute the owners.



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

The motion to take action against the illegal gambling operations was approved.

The next meeting of the Amyotha Hluttaw is scheduled for 16 August. ■



Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than holds talk with Nepali Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Bhim K. Udas in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than receives Nepali Ambassador

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than received Nepali Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Bhim K. Udas at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. During the meeting,

they discussed parliamentary matters in their countries, legislation in Myanmar, the peace process, and bilateral trade between Myanmar and Nepal. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo receives UNESCO's International Legal Advisor

UNION Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo received International Legal Affairs Advisor of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Mr. Etienne Clement at the office of the Union Attorney-General in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In the meeting, they discussed Myanmar's cultural and archaeological laws in accordance with the 1970 UNESCO



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo holds talks with International Legal Affairs Advisor of UNESCO Mr. Etienne Clement in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Convention ratified by Myanmar on 5 September 2013 and the 2003 UNESCO Convention signed by Myanmar on 7 May 2014.

The officials also discussed measures being taken to protect Myanmar antiquities, including

establishing criminal law and training courses for Judicial officials relating to the protection of culture and knowledge.

Also present at the meeting were Director-Generals U Min Swe and Daw Khin Cho Ohn.— Myanmar News Agency ■

State Counsellor urges ASEAN to double its capacity . . .

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Finally, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and ceremony attendees took a commemorative group photo and viewed the ASEAN 50th Anniversary photo exhibition. The ceremony was attended by Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe, Dr. Pe Myint, Thura U Aung Ko, Dr. Myint Htwe and U Kyaw Win, National Security Advisor U Thaung Tun, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung, Minister of State U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Ministers U Maung Maung Win and U Set Aung and diplomats from ASEAN member countries.

The following is an excerpt from the speech given by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi:

The last fifty years have seen the realization of the aspirations of ASEAN's founding fathers, who envisioned a peaceful, stable and economically prosperous Southeast Asia. The members of ASEAN can be proud of its achievements: it has been able to foster deeper understanding, and to build trust and partnerships for the pursuit of common interests in the context of diversity, in full recognition of its varied but shared interests and goals. Yet even after half a century, it remains a work in progress, an ever vigorous foray into the future that holds many opportunities as well as daunting challenges.

ASEAN has a charter that sets a clear agenda for the establishment of a rule-based people's community supported by three pillars, the political-security community, the economic community and the socio-cultural community, thus recognizing the multi-dimensional nature of the needs of its peoples.

Throughout the years,



Dancers perform at the Commemorative Ceremony of the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN at the MICC 2, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

ASEAN has steadily fostered "ASEAN Values" and followed the "ASEAN Way" that has led the association to thrive and prosper. The principles of dialogue, consensus, cooperation and non-interference have enabled the association to overcome many challenges and to remain relevant throughout its half-century of existence.

These principles have served as a foundation for building mutual trust, friendship and cooperation, not only within the region but also beyond. They have empowered ASEAN to be at the center of many ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the ASEAN Plus One with Dialogue Partners, the ASEAN Plus Three, the ASEAN Regional Forum, the East Asia Summit and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus. They have strengthened ASEAN's relationship with a steadily growing number of dialogue partners and sectoral dialogue partners, and promoted the establishment of strategic partnerships.

With the ASEAN Vision 2025, we are entering an era of regional integration through the consolidation of past achievements and the effective management of present and future challenges. Our goal is a rule-based, people-oriented, people-centered, peaceful, stable and resilient ASEAN Community.

The ten member economies together amount today to the world's seventh biggest economy and represent the third fastest growing major economy in Asia, after China and India. Currently, ASEAN has a combined GDP of \$2.4 trillion. The successful implementation of ASEAN's AEC Blueprint 2025 will turn the ASEAN region into the fourth largest economic bloc in the world by 2050. This will include the finalization of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), an initiative that aims at the economic integration of countries with different levels of economic development. Once launched, this partnership will account for half the world's popu-

lation and thirty percent of global GDP.

ASEAN has also charted its future course for the promotion of social and cultural advancement. The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint 2025 envisages the advancement of human development, social justice and rights, social protection and welfare, environmental sustainability, ASEAN awareness, and the narrowing of development gaps. As a result of ASEAN's endeavours, a baby who was born in this region in 2016 will live an average 15 years longer than one that was born in 1967; access to safe drinking water is now 90 per cent whereas it was 68.1 per cent in 1999; and adult literacy reached 94.9 per cent in 2016.

Myanmar, as a member of ASEAN, has a responsibility to work towards the building of a successful ASEAN Community. We share the common aspirations of all our members striving for peace, stability, security, and prosperity in each of our member states.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the speech at the Commemorative Ceremony of the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN at the MICC 2, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

ASEAN Member States have travelled a long, and sometimes rugged road, together, sharing experiences and helping each other as a family. Even in times of crisis, ASEAN has been able to maintain its unity. ASEAN has stood the test of time and endured, in spite of it being one of the most diverse cultural and political regions in the world. We are confident that ASEAN will continue to uphold its centrality and act collectively and pro-actively in times of political uncertainty in the future.

ASEAN provides a model for peaceful borders, and wider regional harmony. ASEAN's recipe for success is consultation and more consultation until consensus is reached and cooperation made possible. The ASEAN Way has served us well as we navigated the waters of our constantly changing world during the last fifty years. The tools that have served us well in the past must be honed and updated for effective use in the present and the future. By developing an ASEAN vision and an ASEAN identity, we can ensure the enduring strength of our ASEAN community.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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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.

Elephant poacher captured in Ayeyawady Region

A JOINT anti-poaching patrol in Tharpaung Township in Ayeyawady Region has arrested three men after they were discovered curing elephant skin on 13 August.

The force discovered an elephant carcass during a routine patrol. The carcass was missing its tusks and tail. The animal had also been skinned.

The joint force was led by U Soe Tint, the head of Tharpaung Township Forestry Department, Police Captain Myint Lwin of the Tharpaung

Police and officers from Thae-phyu Sentry Police, Forest Rangers and Thae-phyu people's militia.

Later that evening, the conservation force found the three poachers in the surrounding area. The poachers aimed their guns to fire at the joint force and lance Corporal Maw Maw from the Forest Rangers shot in self-defence and wounded one of the poachers in his right thigh.

The conservation force confiscated two handmade



Elephant poacher's guns. (left) and Elephant carcass (right). **PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG MYINT**

guns, four elephant tusks, an elephant hide and flesh, a box of gunpowder, a 3-inch steel arrowhead, two 15-inch swords, an elephant's tail and an NRC

card with the name Salai Aung Nay Oo. Two poachers managed to escape and are being pursued.—Maung Maung Myint (Pathein IPRD) ■

Thanakha cultivators increase due to high demand

THE number of thanakha cultivators has increased in Sagaing Region as domestic and international demand has increased.

Thanakha trees are mature after seven years and can be used to make a variety of cosmetic and medicinal products.

Local growers often grow other, short-term crops among thanakha trees.

"Local people are producing the value-added thanakha products and exporting them abroad. Thanakha also sells well domestically," said U Win Ko, a local cultivator from Ba Hmwe village, Yinmabin township. "Previously thanakha was grown only on existing farms. But now, thanakha is growing on the fallow and virgin land."



Thanakha plantations in Sagaing Region. Thanakha cultivators has increased as domestic and international demand has increased. **PHOTO: WIN OO (ZAYARTINE)**

One Thanakha tree sells for approximately Ks 10,000, U Win Ko said.

Thanakha is cultivated

mostly in Yinmabin, Kani, Hsalingyi, Ayadaw, Monywa, Budalin, Chaung-U townships. Then, thanakha is sent to Monywa,

Mandalay, Yangon and Pakokku townships. Local growers mainly sell thanakha at pagodas and markets.—Win Oo (Zayartine) ■

Four-lane road to be upgraded from near Thanlyin Bridge No. 1 to Thilawa SEZ

A FOUR-LANE, 8.7-kilometer road will be upgraded between Thanlyin Bridge No. 1 and the Thilawa Special Economic Zone in Yangon Region over the course of 18 months, according to a report in the

Myawady Daily yesterday. To finance the project, the Ministry of Construction signed a US\$41.56 loan agreement with the Japan International Cooperation Agency in 2014.

In addition to the road, the

ministry will also install street lamps and drainage the drain.

The project is intended to improve access to the Thilawa SEZ, which is currently home to 80 companies from 17 countries. — GNLM ■

FDA to inspect purified drinking water plants in Yangon Region

THE Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will conduct safety and sanitation inspections of purified drinking water plants in Yangon Region, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

The FDA will examine whether purified drinking water plants are producing be-

yond their stated capacity and whether they are carrying out required maintenance, according to an official of the Yangon FDA branch.

FDA will inspect all plants, including those who have already been certificated by FDA, plants which have applied for FDA certification and those

which have not yet applied.

FDA will suspend the licenses of certified plants that fail to follow regulations and ban the production of those which have not yet applied for certification. There are over 300 purified drinking water plants certificated by FDA in Yangon Region.—GNLM ■

KOICA to provide US\$ 11.5 million to establish teacher training school

KOREA International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) will provide US\$11.5 million to establish a teacher training school at the Bahan Township campus of the University of Information Technology, according to a report in the City News Daily yesterday.

The teacher training school is expected to open at the end of 2019, said an official from KOICA Myanmar. The school will include research centers and KOICA will provide computer and industrial vocational training, including teaching staff. Korean teachers will eventually be replaced by Myanmar teachers.—GNLM ■



Labourers carrying sacks of onions to a vessel in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Onion dumping by Chinese producers to profit from high prices

Chinese onion farmers are dumping a massive volume of bulbs into Myanmar in an effort to profit from higher onion prices since last month, according to Mandalay Region Onion, Garlic and Kitchen Crops Producers Association.

Smuggled Chinese onions are being imported into Myanmar, said U Win Myint, the secretary of Mandalay Region Kitchen Crops Producers Association, to take advantage

of local onion prices of about Ks1,650 per viss (1.6 kg) this year. Last year, onion prices were Ks1,000 per viss.

Myanmar usually prohibits onion imports as a protective measure for domestic production.

An exception was made in 2015 when onion prices hit a record high of Ks3,000 a viss in 2015, whereupon the Ministry of Commerce authorized the import of

800 tons of Chinese onions from China and Thailand to rein in prices.

Merchants are withholding onion silos and have managed to prevent onion prices from declining precipitously, said U Khin Han, the chairman of Onion, Garlic and Kitchen Crops Producers Association. But with more onions coming in from China, prices are likely to fall eventually.—Htet Aung (AMIA) ■

US partners to help Myanmar produce 40,000 tons of soybean per annum

Myanmar farmers are working with the American company Winrock International and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to produce 40,000 tons of soybean annually in Shan State.

Under the partnership, merchants purchase soybean from villages, which consolidate pulses harvests from small-holder farms in the area, said Ko Thar Soe, soybean products distribution manager

from Taunggyi town. Soybean crops in Shan State account for 60 per cent of soybean cultivation in Myanmar.

Farmers are working with their American partners to improve yields and quality; a necessity for potential export markets. Among the improvements required of pulses crops is using better seeds. Winrock and USAID are providing farmers' classes to show them how to

produce pedigree seeds. Seeds have been produced since last year and were worth twice as much as those produced outside of the program, said U Sai Oo, soybean grower.

Winrock is also delivering messages for consumer awareness and providing market-based solutions to farmers, including market research, cold-storage system, food security and silos.—Zar Lin Thu (AMIA) ■

Commerce Ministry to enforce regulations on vehicle sales

A large number of automobile dealerships are reportedly in violation of rules governing vehicle sales, according to the Commerce Ministry, which will begin inspecting showrooms this month, according to a report in yesterday's edition of Myawady Daily. More than 50 car sales centers have been found to be in violation of commercial rules in

Yangon, according to the statistics of the Commerce Ministry.

The maximum penalty is closure of the business, said an official from the Commerce Ministry.

The ministry seeks to prosecute dealerships which perform unauthorized transfers of import permits, evade tax and sell cars without appropriate legal documents or a showroom.—GNLM ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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

"Sunday Special" အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈) မျက်နှာ ပါဝင်သည်

နေပြည်တော်
ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ရုံးအမှတ်(၇) နေပြည်တော်၊ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရုံးချုပ်)၊ စီမံရေးရာဌာန၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၄၁၂၁၀၈

နေပြည်တော်
နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တပ်ကုန်း)၊ ဝေယျာသီရိမြို့နယ်၊ ခေလင်လမ်း၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၃၆၁၄၈၊ ၀၆၇၃၆၁၂၉

ရန်ကင်း
The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊ ငါးထပ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ဝဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၁၀၆၀၅၄၇၂၊ ၀၉၉၇၄၄၄၄၄၄၄

မန္တလေး
လမ်း (၂၀ x ၂၁) ကြား၊ (၉၂ x ၉၃) လမ်းကြား၊ မုလဲဇွေရောင်ရမ်း၊ မန္တလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၂၃၂၇၂၉၊ ၀၂၃၂၉၅၀

တောင်ကြီး
ရုံးကြီးလမ်း၊ သစ်တောရပ်ကွက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၁၂၁၂၁၆၄၊ ၀၉၅၂၁၄၃၅၇

မကွေး
နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ တပ်မ (၈၈) တပ်နယ်ရေးအနီး၊ မကွေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၃၂၇၃၁၂

တချင်းတုံ
မြို့သစ် (၃-၈) အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းသွယ်၊ ခြံပတ်လမ်း၊ ကချင်းတုံမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၀၄၂၄၉၂

ကလေး
အောင်ဇေယျရပ်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊ ကလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၂၁၃၃

ပြင်ကြီးများ
အမှတ် (၄၁)၊ ရေရပ်ကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊ မြစ်ကြီးနားမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄၂၂၄၆၂

စစ်တွေ
ရမ္မာဝတီလမ်းနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊ စီမံကိန်းအနီး၊ မန်းကျည်းမြင်ရပ်ကွက်၊ စစ်တွေမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃၂၃၀၆၈

လားရှိုး
ဟူးမွန်ကျေးရွာထိမ်း၊ ဟူးမွန်ဆည်ဘယ်ဘက်ခြမ်း၊ (၁၂) ရပ်ကွက်၊ မန်ဆူဘုရားရှေ့၊ အဝေရာလမ်း၊ လားရှိုးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၂၂၄၀၆၇

ဗြိတ်
မေတ္တာလမ်း၊ ရှမ်းရောင်းရမ်း၊ ကလွင်ကျေးရွာအုပ်စု၊ ဗြိတ်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၉၄၂၁၃၃

မော်လမြိုင်
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Abe vows to ensure residents' safety from possible N Korean missiles

TOKYO — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged on Monday the government's utmost efforts to ensure the safety of residents in four western Japan prefectures over which North Korea recently said its missiles could fly en route to waters off the US territory of Guam.

Accepting a written request from Shimane Governor Zembee Mizoguchi urging the central government to take full measures, Abe said at his office in Tokyo, "We will do our utmost (for possible North Korean missiles) not to cause any harm to people."

Abe also stressed that the government is seeking to put more pressure on North Korea to stop its ballistic missile firing in cooperation with the United States and South Korea as well as China and Russia. "It's important to have North Korea forgo such an intolerable act," he said.

Also participating in the



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (R) receives a written request from Shimane Governor Zembee Mizoguchi (2nd from R), alongside (from L) Kochi Governor Masanao Ozaki, Ehime Governor Tokihiro Nakamura and Hiroshima Governor Hidehiko Yuzaki, at the premier's office in Tokyo on 14 August, 2017. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

meeting were Hiroshima Governor Hidehiko Yuzaki, Ehime Governor Tokihiro Nakamura and Kochi Governor Masanao Ozaki.

North Korea said last week it is "seriously examining" a plan to simultaneously fire four intermediate-range ballistic missiles in an "enveloping strike at

Guam."

Japan has deployed missile interceptor batteries along the path that North Korean ballistic missiles would fly if the coun-

try goes ahead with its threat to fire the missiles toward Guam, which hosts key US military facilities.

Air Self-Defence Force Patriot Advanced Capability-3 missile interceptors were deployed in Shimane, Hiroshima and Kochi prefectures, which North Korea said its missiles would fly over, as well as Ehime located between Hiroshima and Kochi. PAC-3 systems are not regularly stationed in those four prefectures.

The government has also deployed Maritime Self-Defence Force Aegis destroyers in the Sea of Japan. Japan's missile defense system employs Aegis ships to shoot down airborne missiles and the PAC-3 to counter missiles that evade Aegis interceptors. Tensions have been rising between Washington and Pyongyang since North Korea test-fired two intercontinental ballistic missiles last month. —Kyodo News ■

Drilling ship leaves Vietnam oil block after China row

HANOI — The drilling ship at the centre of a row between Viet Nam and China over oil prospecting in disputed waters in the South China Sea has arrived in waters off the Malaysian port of Labuan, shipping data in Thomson Reuters Eikon showed on Monday.

Drilling by the Deepsea Metro I ship was suspended in Vietnam's Block 136/3 last month after pressure from China, which says the concession operated by Spain's Repsol overlaps the vast majority of the waterway that it claims as its own.

The ship, used by Norway's Odfjell Drilling Ltd., was reported to be in Labuan at 9.17 am (0117 GMT), according to shipping data in Thomson Reuters Eikon. It was last recorded at the drilling site on 30 July.

Odfjell Drilling did not respond immediately to a request for comment.

The row over the drilling inflamed tensions between Viet Nam and China, whose claims in the South China Sea are disputed by five Southeast Asian countries.

Repsol said last month that drilling had been suspended after the company spent \$27 million on the well. Co-owners of the block are Viet Nam's state oil firm and Mubadala Development Co of the United Arab Emirates.

The block lies inside the U-shaped "nine-dash line" that marks the area that China claims in the sea.

China had urged a halt to the exploration work and a diplomatic source with direct knowledge of the situation said that the decision to suspend drilling was taken after a Vietnamese delegation visited Beijing.

Viet Nam has never confirmed that drilling started or that it was suspended, but last month defended its right to explore in the area.

Viet Nam has emerged as the most vocal opponent of Chinese claims in the South China Sea, where more than \$3 trillion in cargo passes every year, and China was also angered by Viet Nam's stand at a regional meeting last week. — Reuters ■

Malaysia ruling party leaders denounce violence at Mahathir forum

KUALA LUMPUR — Leaders of Malaysia's ruling party have condemned violence that erupted at a forum where former prime minister Mahathir Mohamad was speaking, as political tension rises ahead of a general election that could be called in coming months.

One opposition leader accused Prime Minister Najib Razak of "gangsterism" to keep Mahathir quiet after some people at the Sunday meeting threw shoes, chairs and flares at Mahathir, who has made it his mission to unseat Najib over his handling of the a multi-billion dollar scandal involving a state fund.

Mahathir, 92, was not hurt, his aide said.

Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said differences of opinion did not give anyone license to act violently.

"As a country that practices democracy, such an incident should not have happened," Ahmad Zahid was quoted as saying in the Star daily newspaper on Monday.

Mahathir, who served as

prime minister for 22 years until he stepped down in 2003, chairs a fractured opposition alliance hoping to unseat the long-ruling government coalition in election due by next year.

Mahathir has offered to head a government again if the opposition wins.

Some opposition leaders allied with Mahathir accused Najib of orchestrating the violence. A deputy president of the People's Justice Party, Azmin Ali, said in a statement the prime minister had resorted to "gangsterism".

A senior member of Najib's United Malay National Organisation, who is also a government minister, Salleh Said Keruak, said such accusations were "unhealthy" for politics.

"Remember that gangster politics is not part of our political culture," Salleh said in a statement.

Another government minister, Khairy Jamaluddin, condemned the violence in a Twitter message saying it "cannot

be tolerated".

Media reported that police had detained two people.

Mahathir has been a prominent critics of his former protege Najib over the scandal-ridden state fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB).

Najib denies wrongdoing. 1MDB is the subject of money-laundering investigations in at least six countries. The US Justice Department alleged in civil lawsuits that about \$4.5 billion of funds were misappropriated from the fund.

The US Justice Department said in its latest court filing on Thursday it was conducting a criminal investigation of 1MDB and asked for a stay on civil lawsuits it had filed to seize assets allegedly bought with money stolen from the fund.

Najib denied taking money from 1MDB after it was reported that investigators traced nearly \$700 million to his bank accounts. Authorities cleared him of any wrongdoing, saying the money was a donation from Saudi Arabia. — Reuters ■

Dunford says US military options are for if sanctions fail — South Korea

SEOUL — US Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Joseph Dunford said on Monday US military options being prepared against North Korea would be for when diplomatic and economic sanctions failed, South Korea's president's office said on Monday.

Dunford made the comments to South Korean President Moon Jae-in in a 50-minute meeting to discuss recent issues including North Korean provocation, office spokesman Park Su-hyun told a media briefing.

Dunford was in Seoul speaking to South Korean military offi-

cial, including Defence Minister Song Young-moo. He was due to leave South Korea later on Monday and will make stops in China and Japan this week.

Tension has increased in recent months over concern that North Korea is close to achieving its goal of putting the mainland United States within range of a nuclear weapon.

North Korea and the United States exchanged threats of military action last week, with Pyongyang saying it will develop a plan to strike the US Pacific territory of Guam. —Reuters ■



South Korean President Moon Jae-in talks with US Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Joseph Dunford during their meeting at the Presidential Blue House in Seoul, South Korea on 14 August, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

India restores hospital oxygen supply as anger mounts over child deaths

GORAKHPUR, India — Indian health authorities on Monday delivered oxygen to a public hospital where 63 people have died of encephalitis in recent days, nearly half of them children, as it ran out of medical supplies because of unpaid bills, triggering public outrage.

The deaths of the children have again exposed India's underfunded and poorly managed public healthcare despite Prime Minister Narendra Modi government's vows to revamp the system.

Hundreds of people die each year in India of encephalitis, a mosquito-borne disease common during the monsoon season, and no medical official directly linked the recent deaths to a lack of oxygen.

But complaints that the hospital in the eastern city of Gorakhpur did not have enough supplies has stoked anger against the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party which governs Uttar Pradesh state.

"We now have adequate supplies of oxygen cylinders, there was a shortage last week... but I am not in a position to say whether they were the cause behind the deaths," RK Sahai, a senior medical officer in the hospital, said. Television images of parents emerging from the hospital carrying the bodies of infants

and alleging they died because there they didn't get oxygen have led to a firestorm of criticism of chief minister Yogi Adityanath, a saffron-robed Hindu hardliner who took office earlier this year.

Bipin Singh said his six-year-old daughter died on Thursday because of lack of oxygen and he had seen six other children die for the same reason.

"My daughter and other children were unable to breathe. We kept telling the nurses that they should call the doctors. The doctors said they have ordered for oxygen cylinders but we never saw them being used."

Bahadur Nishad, who lost a four-year-old son suffering from encephalitis, said he was ready to pay for the oxygen cylinders himself. "They told me there was a shortage of cylinders," he said and turned his wrath on chief minister Yogi Adityanath whose electoral constituency is Gorakhpur. Other parents spoke of desperately trying to arrange basic materials such as cotton gauze, glucose injections and blood supplies as their children struggled for life in the wards.

Patients continued to stream into the hospital over the weekend. Some 450 patients suffering from encephalitis were admitted on Saturday alone, of whom 200 were children under 12, hospital records showed.—Reuters ■

China appoints new envoy for North Korea issue

BEIJING — China has appointed a new special envoy for the North Korean issue, Assistant Foreign Minister Kong Xuan-you, its foreign ministry said on Monday, after his predecessor, Wu Dawei, reached retirement age. Kong, 58, is an ethnic Korean from the northeastern Chinese province of Heilongjiang, who has overall responsibility for Asian affairs at the foreign ministry, according to his resume.

He has held senior positions at the Chinese embassy in Japan and from 2011 to 2014 he was China's ambassador to Vietnam, two countries with which China

has often troubled relations.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said that Kong had taken over from Wu, but that there was no connection between the appointment and the current situation on the Korean peninsula, where tensions have been rising in recent days.

There would be no change in China's policy towards the Korean peninsula because of the new appointment, she added. A Beijing-based foreign diplomat who is familiar with the matter said that Wu, who turns 71 in December, had reached retirement age.

Asked whether Kong had

any immediate plans to visit Pyongyang, spokeswoman Hua said she had no information about that.

Tension on the Korean peninsula eased slightly on Monday as South Korea's president said resolving the North's nuclear ambitions must be done peacefully and key US officials played down the risk of an imminent war with North Korea.

Concern that North Korea is close to achieving its goal of putting the mainland United States within range of a nuclear weapon has underpinned a spike in tension in recent months.—Reuters ■

Small plane crashes in western Japan, two found dead

NARA, Japan — The plane is believed to be a single-engine, turboprop Socata TBM 700 aircraft, which went missing around noon shortly after leaving an airport in Yao in adjacent Osaka Prefecture, according to the transport ministry.

The aircraft had planned to head to Fukushima Prefecture, northeastern Japan. But it crashed immediately after reporting to the air traffic controller that it would return to Yao airport, according to the Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Ministry.

Japan's transport safety

panel said it will send two investigators to look into the accident. The police identified the two who died as Ryoichi Tanaka, a 68-year-old company executive living in the city of Osaka, and his wife Sachiko, 55.

The police were informed around 12:15 pm that a small plane was believed to have crashed in the village of Yamazoe. A woman who saw the moment the plane went down said she first thought she was witnessing an "acrobatic flight" as she heard an unnatural engine sound from above. "It only took about 10 seconds until I noticed

the aircraft and heard a large wham sound," said Nahoko Kitamoto, 53, who was visiting a viewing platform nearby.

According to the transport ministry, the same plane was found to have had problems in its radio equipment on Friday and headed back after taking off from Yao airport. The TBM 700, developed by French company Socata which is now called Daher, can carry up to six passengers and is known for being used as a private aircraft because it offers a relatively comfortable ride even when flying at high altitude.—Kyodo News ■

Reaching the goal with correctness and dignity

Khin Maung Oo

AT the opening ceremony of the Forum for Myanmar Democratic Transition held at the Myanmar International Convention Center-2 in Nay Pyi Taw, the following topics were discussed: —“From military government to civilian government,” “From centrally-planned economy to market economy,” and “Transition from war to peace: Conflict resolution and the building of an inclusive multi-national state.”

At this forum the State Counsellor, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi gave a memorable and noteworthy opening address that highlighted for us many important issues that needed our attention especially for the younger generation who were born after 1988. She touched upon two important topics namely “the

path” and the “goal”. She said to others the goal was of utmost importance regardless of the ways and means used to achieve that particular goal. In her view, it was very important not to follow the wrong path. To her it was important to follow the correct path in a dignified manner to reach the desired goal.

Touching upon the subject of change she said, “When we are trying to change, it is never easy”. She added Myanmar could learn from other countries that have undergone similar transformations.

She stressed that efforts were made to successfully set up a democratic system with justice, fairness and freedom as hoped by the fore-fathers of Independence and ordinary people who sacrificed their lives for Independence.

On the subject of reforms she admitted that carrying out reforms was never easy. She said many countries of the world had already experienced similar transition processes. She added that Myanmar could take a lot of lessons from their transition processes although experiences could not be the same.

Discussing about whether it was more important to work for peace or for development, she said that there were some people who said development may lead the country to a peaceful state. She said she could not agree with that statement. In her view, peace and development could not be seen separately. She stressed that development could not survive without peace and peace could not survive without development. In her view that was why it was important to

work hard for both peace and development.

The State Counsellor also spoke about the need to have the correct mindset. She said the Democracy Revolution could perhaps be called “An Intellectual Revolution”. She added that it was thus important to change the mindsets concerning doctrines, opinion, attitude and stances.

In my opinion, the above-mentioned speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi contained many important fundamental principles which need to be carefully studied by members of the NLD as well as by all Myanmar citizens who are eager to see their country develop steadily towards the desired goal of democracy in a correct and dignified manner. ■

Nutrition will suffer as warming affects diet

BY 2050, heat waves, floods and other climate change effects won't be the only worry. There's also the evidence that warming affects diet.

by Tim Radford

GLOBAL warming and climate change are not the only threats linked to greenhouse gas emissions: there is also the knowledge that warming affects diet.

Higher levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere also mean that wheat, rice, maize, potatoes and other staples will grow with lower levels of protein – and by 2050, an extra 150 million people in 47 countries will be at greater risk of malnutrition.

Four out of five people on the planet depend mostly on grain staples and legumes for dietary protein. The UN estimates that poor nutrition already accounts for around 3 million deaths among young children every year, and experiments show that higher carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere are associated with protein losses of around 5%.

“This study highlights the need for countries that are most at risk to actively monitor their populations’



“We need to dramatically reduce global CO2 emissions as quickly as possible”

nutritional sufficiency, and, more fundamentally, the need for countries to curb human-caused CO2 emissions,” said Samuel Myers, a research scientist in the department of environmental health at Harvard University in the US.

Increased loss

He and colleagues report in the journal *Environmental Health Perspectives* that tests of crops grown under high levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide show protein decreases of up to 15%.

The researchers then used available data to calculate the effect of such losses on overall protein intake – which varies from region to region, according to the mix of crops, and other dietary supplements.

They assumed no change in animal protein, or in protein in nuts, and then they looked at the probable impact on human health in the coming decades, as humans continue to burn fossil fuels, release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, and raise planetary average temperatures.

Bad to worse

Researchers have repeatedly warned that rising temperatures – and particularly greater frequencies and intensities of heat waves, droughts and floods – will threaten global food security: they will reduce fruit and vegetable yields, hit grain crop harvests and in particular affect wheat harvests in one of the most populous – and poorest – nations on the planet.



Rice, here in Indonesia, is one of the staples, a warming climate will affect. **PHOTO: DOHDUHDAH VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS**

Ironically, other researchers have repeatedly demonstrated that a switch from a meat to a plant-based diet is likely to become more important than ever in combating climate change and reducing emissions from agriculture.

So protein deficiencies in crop yields could only make an already bad situation worse for the world's poorest.

“We need to dramatically reduce global CO2 emissions as quickly as possible”

And there is a second challenge, this time of mineral deficiency. In another journal, *Geohealth*, Dr Myers and a different set of colleagues warn that higher atmospheric carbon dioxide levels are also associated with lower iron content in food crop staples.

More than 350 million children and more than a billion young women of child-bearing age already live in countries with high levels of anaemia: in a greenhouse world, these will face

another 3.8% iron deficiency in their staple diet.

“Strategies to maintain adequate diets need to focus on the most vulnerable countries and populations, and thought must be given to reducing vulnerability to nutrient deficiencies through supporting more diverse and nutritious diets, enriching the nutritional content of staple crops, and breeding crops less sensitive to these CO2 effects,” Dr Myers said.

“And, of course, we need to dramatically reduce global CO2 emissions as quickly as possible.” – Climate News Network

About author

Tim Radford, a founding editor of *Climate News Network*, worked for *The Guardian* for 32 years, for most of that time as science editor. He has been covering climate change since 1988.

Union Ministers deliver aid to local people in Sittway, Maungtau

Union Ministers, who are currently visiting Rakhine State, and responsible personnel from Rakhine State Cabinet met with local people in Maungtau, clarifying the government's efforts for security and stability and development. At Kaigy Village, they encouraged local ethnic people and presenting provisions — rice, cooking oil, salt, beans as a two-month ration and FM radios. The Ministry of Border Affairs presented eight bereaved families of the deceased eight Mro nationals with Ks 300,000 each, as did similarly by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.



Union Ministers and Chief Minister of Rakhine State meet with local people in Maungtau on 14th August. PHOTO: MYO THU HEIN

And, the Union Ministers and party made arrangements to build a new road, a school and for security matters, in consultation with responsible officials, inspecting situations of construction on the Shwebaho (Natala) Village.

In meeting with the local people at Thiri Mingalar Hall of Maungtau Township in the afternoon, Union Ministers said that the Government has been carrying out the tasks of stability and development, by granting more budgets after designating Rakhine State, Buthidaung and Maungtau townships as a special region. Following that, fulfillments were made over submission of local people to upgrade the stability and security of the region.

After the meeting, Dr Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement offered 1,000 units of FM radios for the villages in

Maungtau District to Dr Chan Thar, minister for Rakhine State social welfare. Afterward, Dr Win Myat Aye handed over Ks 384.82 million worth of rice, oil, salt, beans and commodities as 2-month-ration to Rakhine State Cabinet for the people in Maungtau District, followed by offering Ks 27.5 million worth for hand-driven paddy harvester 11 units at Ks 2.5 million per unit, Ks 12 million for 3 paddy winnowing machines at Ks 4 million per unit, Ks 6 million for 20 generators at Ks 300,000 per piece, Ks 45.5 million in total by the Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung to Col Phone Tint, minister for security and border affairs, Rakhine State Cabinet. Today's donation amounted to Ks 430.32 million.

At meeting with the people from the Muslim community in Maungtau, at Maungtau District general administration department, Union Minister

Lt General Ye Aung provided Ks 298.645 million as the first installment to fulfill the needs of IDP (Internally Displaced People) Camps through U Nyi Pu, Chief Minister of Rakhine State.

After that, Union Ministers and party met with local people at the meeting hall of Buthidaung township general administration department at 4:30 pm, fulfilling the needs to upgrade matters on peace, stability and security. Before launching yesterday visit, the Union Ministers visited Mani Yadanar monastery in Sittway at 7 am yesterday to pay homage to State Ovadacariya Sayadaws, clarifying matters on stability, security and development of Rakhine State.

Sayadaws advised them to carry out the peace, stability and security of the Rakhine State with a view to focusing long-term benefits of the people and the region. —A One Soe ■

H.E. U Win Myint presents Credentials to the President of Pakistan



U Win Myint presents his credentials to the President of Pakistan in Islamabad. PHOTO: MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

U Win Myint, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Mamnoon Hussain, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on 10 August 2017, in Islamabad.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order 24/2017

7th Waning of Wagaung, 1379 ME
14 August, 2017

Appointment of members of the Board of Directors of the Central Bank of Myanmar

In accordance with the provision stated in section 9 of the Central Bank of Myanmar Law, the following persons have been appointed as members of the board of directors of the Central Bank of Myanmar:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| (1) U Kyaw Min Tun | Member |
| (2) U Myint Thien Tun | Member |
| (3) U Soe Paing | Member |
| (4) Daw Yi Yi Win | Member |
| (5) Daw Khin May Hla | Member |

Sd/ Htin Kyaw
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Military families release fish fingerlings into Yezin Dam



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife and military families release fish into Yezin Dam. PHOTO: MNA

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife and Commander-in-Chief (army, navy, air) office families conducted fish stocking of Yezin Dam by releasing fish fingerlings.

At the event, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife, Union Minister for Defence, Chief-of-General Staff (Army, Navy and Air), Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) and wife, high ranking Tatmadaw officers and wives, officers, other ranks and families released 62,800 fish fingerlings.

Fish stocking of Yezin Dam

was conducted annually since 2011 and as of date 465,800 fish fingerlings were released.

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received H. E. Mr. Jukr Boon-Long, Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar in Bayintnaung Guest House in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon. During the meeting matters relating to Tatmadaw participation in Myanmar-Thai-Israel cooperation in medical programmes, Myanmar-Thai-Norway cooperation in nautical medicine and sending observers and trainees to Thai King's agricultural development projects were discussed.

— Myanmar News Agency ■

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
BRIEFS

French President Emmanuel Macron delivers a speech during a reception in honor of the French Army forces at the Defence Ministry in Paris, on the eve of the Bastille Day commemorations, France on 13 July, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS ■

French president to discuss Burkina Faso situation with Kabore

PARIS — French President Emmanuel Macron will discuss the situation in Burkina Faso later on Monday with Burkina Faso President Roch Marc Kabore, after an attack on a res-

taurant in Ouagadougou which killed at least 18 people. "The president of the republic will hold talks during the day with his counterpart, President Roch Marc Kabore, in order to evalu-

ate the situation," said a statement issued by Macron's office on Monday. The statement said France remained committed to working alongside countries in the region to fight against ter-

rorist groups. French TV station BFM reported that one French citizen had been killed in the attack, although there was no immediate, official confirmation of this fatality. —Reuters ■

Brexit campaigners launch bid to oust pro-EU finance minister

LONDON — One of the most vocal pro-Brexit campaign groups launched a campaign on Monday to oust finance minister Philip Hammond from parliament, saying he is part of a plot to stop Britain leaving the European Union.

Divisions over Britain's Brexit strategy have resurfaced after Prime Minister Theresa May lost her parliamentary majority in an ill-judged snap election in June, generating renewed political pressure from some quarters for a softer exit.

Hammond has led calls for a multi-year, staggered break

from the EU in the name of protecting the British economy, much to the annoyance of some Brexiteers who want a more decisive divorce when Britain's membership ends in March 2019.

That has put Hammond in the crosshairs of campaign group Leave.EU, whose grassroots organisation helped bring about last year's referendum vote to leave the bloc.

"He is part of a cabal of Westminster MPs (Members of Parliament) who believe that if they can delay exit, they can overturn the wishes of the 52 per cent who despite threats

from the political classes drew upon the courage of their conviction at the ballot box," said Leave.EU Chairman Arron Banks in a letter to voters in Hammond's constituency.

There is no automatic means for voters to get rid of their local member of parliament outside of an election period, and Britain is not scheduled to hold another vote until 2022.

But Leave.EU called on their supporters to pressure the local Conservative Party not to select him as their candidate at the next election. The group has also targeted interi-

or minister Amber Rudd, who only won her seat by a slim majority in June.

There was no immediate comment available from the Treasury or Hammond's local office.

Many pro-Brexit voters sense the government is going soft on the decision to leave the EU. They reject calls for a lengthy transition period and demand that tighter immigration controls are brought in as soon as possible. "Time for the people to strike back and remind the elite of the referendum," Leave.EU said in a statement. —Reuters ■

After Charlottesville violence, Britain condemns racism, hatred, violence

LONDON — Prime Minister Theresa May condemns racism and hatred, her spokesman said on Monday when asked about US President Donald Trump's response to violence at a rally of white supremacists in Charlottesville, Virginia, which killed one woman.

On Saturday, a car ploughed into a crowd of people protesting against the rally, killing one person and prompting criticism of Trump's response when he condemned violence on "many sides". —Reuters ■

Hundreds feared buried in Sierra Leone mudslide

FREETOWN — Hundreds of people are feared buried in a mudslide on Monday in the outskirts of Sierra Leone's capital, witnesses said.

The mudslide happened in the early morning in the mountain town of Regent, where dozens of houses were submerged after a night of heavy rain. A death toll was not immediately available. —Reuters ■

S Korea's Moon says "no more war on Korean peninsula", urges North to halt provocations

SEOUL — South Korea's President Moon Jae-in on Monday declared there must be no war on the Korean peninsula and called on the North to halt its threatening behaviour as tensions between Pyongyang and Washington heighten with both hinting at military action.

"There must be no more war on the Korean Peninsula. Whatever ups and downs we face, the North Korean nuclear situation must be resolved peacefully," said Moon in opening remarks at a regular meeting with senior aides and advisers. The remarks were provided by the presidential Blue House. —Reuters ■

Suspected jihadists kill 18 in attack on Burkina Faso restaurant

OUAGADOUGOU — Suspected Islamist militants killed at least 18 people and wounded several during a raid on a restaurant in Burkina Faso's capital overnight, but security forces shot dead both attackers and freed people trapped inside the building.

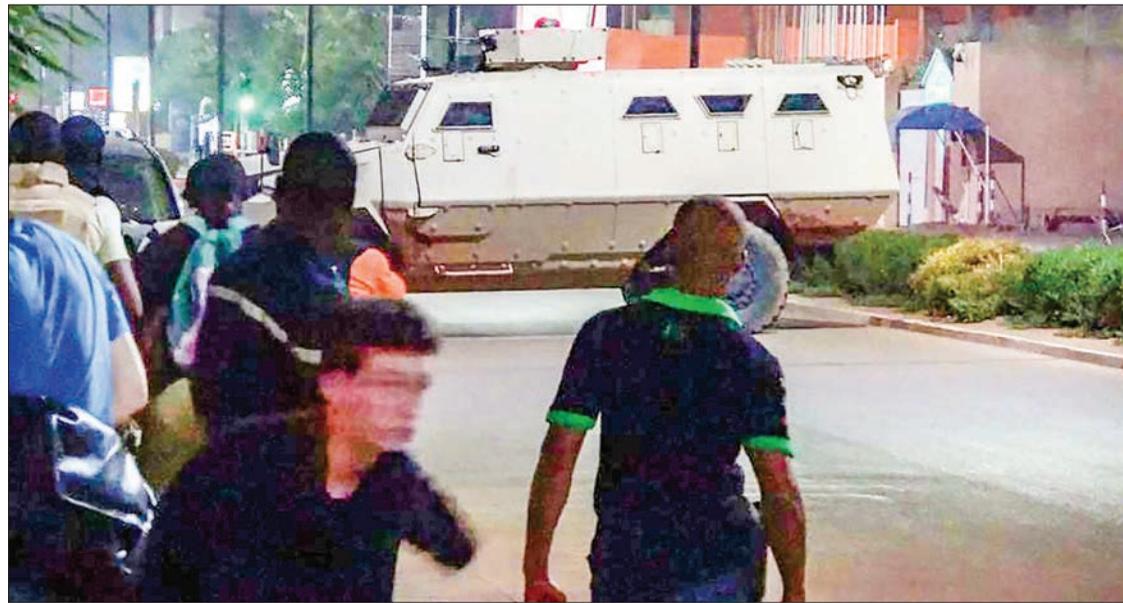
"This is a terrorist attack," Communications Minister Remi Dandjinou told a news conference on Monday.

Burkina Faso, like other countries in West Africa, has been targeted sporadically by jihadist groups. Most attacks have been along its remote northern border with Mali, which has seen activity by Islamist militants for more than a decade.

A Reuters witness saw customers running out of the Aziz Istanbul restaurant in central Ouagadougou as police and paramilitary gendarmerie surrounded it, amid gunfire.

A French citizen was among the dead, French Foreign Affairs minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said.

French President Emmanuel Macron discussed the situation with Burkina Faso President Roch Marc Kaboré,



An armoured vehicle opens fire in the direction of a restaurant following an attack by gunmen on the restaurant in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in this still frame taken from video on 13 August, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

his office said, including the role of a new multinational military force aimed at fighting Islamist militants across the vast Sahel region of Africa. A woman said she was in the restaurant celebrating her brother's birthday when the shooting started.

"I just ran but my brother was left inside," the woman told Reuters TV as she fled the building. For many it was a grim echo of a similar attack on a restaurant and hotel in Ouaga-

dougou in January 2016 in which 30 people were killed. Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) claimed responsibility.

AQIM and related Islamist groups were largely confined to the Sahara desert until they hijacked a rebellion by ethnic Tuareg separatists in Mali in 2012, and then swept south.

French forces intervened the following year to prevent them taking Mali's capital, Bamako, but they have since

gradually expanded their reach across the region, launching high-profile attacks in Bamako, Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast.

A new al Qaeda-linked alliance of Malian jihadist groups claimed an attack in June that killed at least five people at a luxury Mali resort popular with Western expatriates just outside Bamako.

In a separate incident on Monday, armed men opened fire on UN peacekeepers and Mali-

an troops in Douentza, central Mali, killing a Malian soldier and wounding two Togolese peacekeepers, army spokesman Diarran Kone said by telephone.

African nations launched a new multinational military force last month to tackle Islamist militants in the Sahel region, a huge band of territory that fringes the Sahara desert and stretches right across North Africa.

However, the force will not be operational until later this year and currently faces a budget shortfall.

Macron's office said he and Kaboré agreed it was "imperative" to speed up the force's implementation.

"They will have further contact with each other in the coming days, as well as with other regional heads of state over the progress of this plan," it said in a statement. Some observers see the initiative by Mali, Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad as forming the basis of an eventual exit strategy for around 4,000 French troops now deployed to the volatile region. But Macron said Paris had no plans to withdraw them. —Reuters ■

Israeli police detain billionaire Steinmetz in fraud probe — source

JERUSALEM — Israeli police on Monday detained Israeli billionaire Beny Steinmetz and four other suspects for questioning in a fraud investigation, a source briefed on the case said.

Israeli authorities put Steinmetz under house arrest last December, releasing him two weeks later without charge, in a probe of bribery allegations relating to the activities of his mining firm BSG Resources in Africa. BSGR denied any wrongdoing.

At the time, police said he and other Israelis living abroad were alleged to have paid tens of millions of dollars to senior public officials in the West African state of Guinea to advance their business. In a statement on Monday, Israeli police said five suspects were detained for questioning under caution on suspicion of money laundering, fraudulent filing of corporate documents, fraud

and corporate breach of trust, obstruction of justice and bribery. A source briefed on the investigation told Reuters that one of the suspects was Steinmetz. Israeli media reports identified him as being among those detained and questioned. An Israeli law office representing the businessman, contacted by Reuters, declined to comment. Police said the detainees, who were not identified in the statement, are suspected of having "acted together and methodically with the prime suspect in order to create and present fictitious contracts and deals ... on a foreign country in order to transfer funds and launder money". The statement, which did not name the foreign nation, said that "in line with the developments in the investigation, a decision will be made whether to bring any of those involved to court for a discussion of the case". —Reuters ■

Yemen records 500,000 cholera cases, nearly 2,000 deaths — WHO

GENEVA — More than half a million people in Yemen have been infected with cholera since the epidemic began four months ago and 1,975 people have died, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Monday.

Each day there are more than 5,000 new cases of the waterborne disease, which causes acute diarrhoea and dehydration, in the country where the health system has collapsed after more than two years of war, it said.

"The total number of suspected cholera cases in Yemen this year hit the half a million mark on Sunday, and nearly 2,000 people have died since the outbreak began to spread rapidly at the end of April," the WHO said in a statement on Monday.

"The spread of cholera has slowed significantly in some areas compared to peak levels but the disease is still spreading fast in more recently affected dis-

tricts, which are recording large numbers of cases," it said, reporting a total of 503,484 cases.

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

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

Millions of Yemenis remain cut off from clean water and waste collection has ceased in major cities, the WHO added.

Yemen's 30,000 critical health workers have not been paid salaries in nearly a year and critical medicines are lacking, the WHO said.

"These doctors and nurses are the backbone of the health response — without them we can do nothing in Yemen. They must be paid their wages so that they can continue to save lives," said Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General.

WHO and partners are working around the clock to set up cholera treatment clinics, rehabilitate health facilities, deliver medical supplies and support the national effort, the United Nations agency said.

More than 99 per cent of patients who reach health facilities survive but children and the elderly are most vulnerable.

"The response is working in some places. We can tell you that surveillance confirms a decline in suspected cases over the past four weeks in some of the most affected governorates," WHO spokeswoman Fadela Chaib told a news briefing last Friday. —Reuters ■

Firefighters battle spreading wildfire near Athens, homes damaged

ATHENS — Firefighters on Monday battled to contain a wildfire northeast of Athens as high winds caused the blaze to spread overnight after it damaged dozens of homes at a coastal village northeast of the Greek capital.

More than 160 firefighters with 68 fire engines, two water-dropping helicopters and two fire-fighting planes tackled the blaze, which broke out

in Kalamos, a coastal area 45 km (30 miles) northeast of Athens and had spread to the nearby town of Varnavas.

“There are many fronts but the biggest one is at Varnavas. There is a lot of water consumption as people hose down their homes and as a result not enough water,” the vice-prefect of eastern Attica, Nikos Filippou, told Skai TV.

Thick smoke billowed over as the blaze burned pine forest. Fire brigade officials told Reuters no injuries had been reported but at least a dozen houses were heavily damaged.

Authorities had ordered a precautionary evacuation of two youth camps in the area.

Hundreds of residents fled the area of Kalamos, heading to the beach to spend the night.

“It was a terrible mess, that’s what it was. You could see homes on fire, people running, people desperate, it was chaos and the fire was very big,” a resident of Kalamos village told Reuters TV.

The cause of the fire was unknown, but summer wildfires are common in Greece. More than 70 died in 2007 during the worst fires in decades. —Reuters ■

Merck CEO resigns from Trump council after Charlottesville

WASHINGTON — Merck & Co Inc Chief Executive Kenneth Frazier resigned from US President Donald Trump’s American Manufacturing Council on Monday, saying he was taking a stand against intolerance and extremism.

A gathering of hundreds of white nationalists in Virginia took a deadly turn on Saturday when a car plowed into a group of counter-protesters and killed at least one person.

Trump had said “many sides” were involved, drawing fire from across the political spectrum for not specifically denouncing the far right.

“America’s leaders must honour our fundamental views by clearly rejecting expressions of hatred, bigotry and group supremacy, which run counter to the American ideal that all people are created equal,” Frazier said in a tweet announcing his resignation.

Trump responded in a tweet, now that “Ken Frazier of Merck Pharma has resigned from President’s Manufacturing Council, he will have more time to LOWER RIPOFF DRUG PRICES!”

Several executives from top US companies have stepped down from a number of presidential advisory councils in protest to Trump policies.

Tesla Inc CEO Elon Musk and Walt Disney Co CEO Robert Iger left the President’s Strategic and Policy Forum, a business advisory group, in June, after Trump said he would withdraw from the Paris climate accord. Musk also left the manufacturing council. Former Uber Technologies Inc CEO Travis Kalanick quit the business advisory council in February amid pressure from activists and employees who opposed the administration’s immigration policies. —Reuters ■



Two men and a dog on a motorbike flee a wildfire burning near the village of Varnavas, north of Athens, Greece on 14 August, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Court finds defrauding Islamic State is a crime in Germany

BERLIN — A German court has found a Syrian refugee guilty of attempting to defraud Islamic State, a court spokeswoman said on Monday, granting legal protection to a

group viewed as terrorists by the European Union.

A judge in the district court in the southwestern city of Saarbruecken sentenced the 39-year old hairdresser from Damas-

cus to two years in prison for trying to get Islamic State operatives to transfer him up to 180,000 euros (\$212,400.00).

The judge ruled that the man used the false pre-

tence that he would carry out attacks in Germany for Islamic State using explosives.

The money was never transferred to the man.

The court rejected the

prosecution’s argument that the man was guilty of the more serious crime of planning to carry out attacks on behalf of the militant organisation.

Both parties have ap-

pealed the ruling to the Federal Supreme Court, the court spokeswoman said. The Syrian refugee was named only as Hasan A. due to German privacy laws. —Reuters ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BATAM VOY. NO (019)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BATAM VOY. NO (019) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.8.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV MCC MERGUI VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC MERGUI VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.8.2017 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 MCC TRANSPORT
(S’PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RAJIN VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAJIN VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.8.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT 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

Robust economic data spurs talk of change in frugal behaviour

TOKYO — Economists are busy trying to find the right answer to a tricky question of late: are Japanese consumers finally beginning to loosen their purse strings?

As far as recent economic data go, the answer may be yes, at least for now. Private consumption, accounting for nearly 60 percent of Japan's economy, rose 0.9 per cent in the April-June period in real terms following five quarters of modest growth between 0.1 per cent and 0.4 per cent, an encouraging sign of strengthening domestic demand.

Sales of durable goods, ranging from cars to electronic appliances, have been picking up while consumer sentiment has been aided by stabilizing prices of fresh food.

Still, many economists have yet to conclude whether strengthening private consumption is transitory or is set to continue and pave the way for a period of growth powered by increasing domestic demand in which both consumers and companies step up spending. "I don't say private consumption will enter negative territory (in the country's GDP data), but for now I can't think of good reasons why the pace should continue to pick up," said Toru Suehiro, senior market economist at Mizuho Securities Co. Sluggish consumption



The inside of the new Ginza Six commercial complex in Tokyo's Ginza shopping district is pictured on 20 April, 2017, its opening day. Built on a site previously occupied by a Matsuzakaya department store, the commercial facility, with 241 stores, is the largest in the district and is expected to draw tourists to the area. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

has been a headache for policymakers and economists, complicating efforts by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the Bank of Japan to lift the economy out of years of deflation.

But consumption has been given a boost this summer as some Japanese retailers appear to be reaping the benefits of the scorching heat.

"It's extremely hot this summer and we've seen strong sales of air conditioners, with revenue doubling from a year ago," a home appliance retailer said in a recent government survey. Higher temperatures and longer hours of sunshine than in an average year are also thought to have helped stimulate

demand for a wide range of products as well. "But it will not continue forever so things will likely deteriorate somewhat," the home appliance retailer said. The uptick in demand for durable goods also indicates that the time has come for many consumers to trade in old items nearing their replacement cycles and purchase new ones, according to some economists. Whether consumers will continue to spend money in the coming quarters is critical as the Japanese economy, now in its third-longest expansion phase in the postwar era, looks on course to exceed the 57 months of growth in the Izanagi boom between 1965 and 1970.

According to the BOJ, the seasonally-adjusted consumption activity index for the April-June period marked the highest growth rate on quarter since the first three months of 2014. That was before the consumption tax rate was raised to the current 8 per cent from 5 per cent. Abe, urging companies to raise pay, has boasted that employment conditions and income have been improving under his policy mix known as Abenomics.

But economists generally agree that wage growth needs to accelerate further to boost consumption as uncertainty about the future such as swelling social security costs remains.—Kyodo News

China orders implementation of UN sanctions on N Korea

BEIJING — China on Monday formally issued an order to implement the latest UN sanctions on North Korea, including a ban on all imports of coal, iron, iron ore, lead and seafood.

The order, issued by the Commerce Ministry, becomes effective on Tuesday. The sanctions endorsed unanimously by the UN Security Council earlier this month, in response to North Korea's two long-range ballistic missiles, are aimed at slashing its \$3 billion annual export revenue by a third.

The order was announced at a time when China has been under pressure from the United States to strictly enforce the sanctions and play a bigger role in reining in North Korea.

China accounts for about 90 per cent of North Korea's total trade and supplies a huge amount of food and energy.

The announcement came a day before US President Donald Trump is poised to sign an executive order asking the country's trade officials

to consider investigating China for the theft of US technology and intellectual property.

The expected step is seen as part of the Trump administration's efforts to press for China's cooperation on North Korea.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told a regular press briefing that the investigation is "inappropriate" and stressed that the issue of the Korean Peninsula and that of trade between China and the United States are not the same in nature.

The sanctions, also backed by China and Russia, must be implemented 30 days after a resolution for them was approved by the 15-member Security Council in a vote on 5 August.

With the order, Chinese customs authorities will completely stop procedures for imports of the designated items from North Korea at midnight on 5 September. Until then, those already at Chinese ports can enter its territory, according to the ministry. —Kyodo News

Pesticide Trade Name Changing

AGRO POWER CO., LTD, We would like to change trade name, our authorize pesticides that already registered in Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar. If any equal trade name or enquiry please conduct Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar Agriculture Service, within these 7 days after announcing. (1) Myat Thee Sayar (Top-Accord 36 WP) (2) Double Kasu 4% WP (Top-Biomycin B 4 WP) 3. AP-Domi 24-Domi 24.7 SC (NAB-Cruiser 24.7 SC).

AGRO POWER CO., LTD, ph-09448045122

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV MATHU BHUM VOY. NO (1040)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MATHU BHUM VOY. NO (1040) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.8.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/M.I.T.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 MOL (S'PORE) PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV AUCO-10 VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV AUCO-10 VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.8.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T (4) 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 GLOBAL MARS SHIPPING & LOGISTICS SERVICE CO LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV HELVETIA VOY. NO (60207)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HELVETIA VOY. NO (60207) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.8.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AIPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

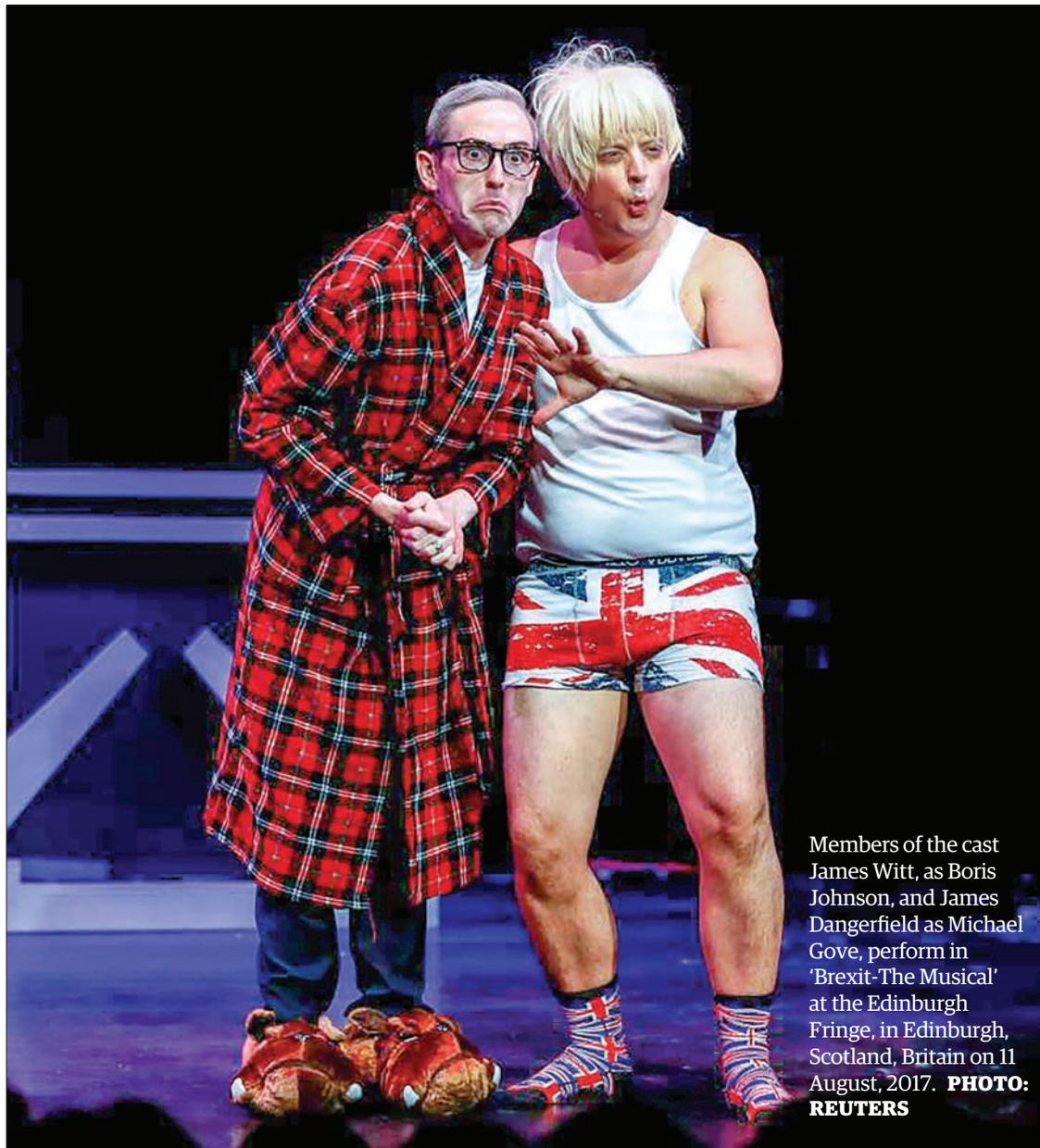
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WIL HELMSEN SHIPS SERVICE(S) PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301191, 2301178

Boris in Union Jack underpants? Musical comedy finds the fun in Brexit



Members of the cast James Witt, as Boris Johnson, and James Dangerfield as Michael Gove, perform in 'Brexit-The Musical' at the Edinburgh Fringe, in Edinburgh, Scotland, Britain on 11 August, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

EDINBURGH — A retelling of Britain's vote to leave the European Union and its dramatic political consequences might perhaps be framed as high drama or extreme farce.

But audiences at the Edinburgh Festival are lapping up a light-hearted sung comedy version, "Brexit The Musical", a sellout featuring a cavorting Boris Johnson, the most prominent Brexit campaigner, in matching Union Jack underpants and socks, looking for a lost plan.

On hearing the news that "Leave" has won, Johnson, who in reality surprised many with his decision to campaign to leave the EU and is now Britain's foreign secretary, sings in horror: "Leaving Europe will be a catastrophe/ Overnight we'll bugger the economy."

Britons voted to leave the EU in June 2016, but since then a host of unforeseen political consequences, including a snap election in which the Conservative government lost its majority, have mired the country in uncertainty. There is still no clarity about what Brexit will mean in practical terms.

In the comedy version, David Cameron is relieved, once he has resigned as prime minister

after the vote, that he no longer has to pretend to be an ordinary man of the people. Michael Gove, Boris's pro-Leave sidekick and in reality now agriculture secretary, sports a tartan dressing gown and fluffy slippers and just wants to be liked.

And for the leader of the main opposition Labour Party, Jeremy Corbyn, the Brexit vote means above all that he has to miss the Glastonbury music festival.

With the political outlook still confused a year after the Brexit vote took place, the show's writer, 39-year-old EU trade lawyer Chris Bryant, told Reuters the show was meant as "an escape from the dreary reality of where we are".

An almost-happy ending, which cannot be revealed in print, is the stuff of fiction, he said. Bryant thinks it more likely that Britain will end up cutting all formal ties with the EU.

"I think we are heading towards a colossal mess, and I'm of the view that we will end up with a 'hard Brexit' almost by accident, rather than by design."

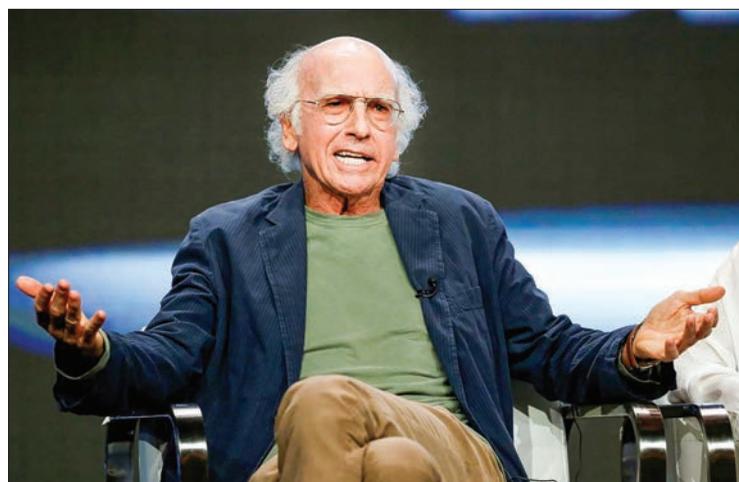
The show will run for the whole month of the Festival, and Bryant hopes to take it to London.—Reuters ■

Hackers release more HBO episode shows: report

NEW YORK — Hackers have released more unaired episodes of popular HBO shows but the latest leak did not include anything on the hit series "Game of Thrones," the Associated Press reported on Sunday.

The hackers, who broke into HBO's computer network and have released stolen information for several weeks, provided more unaired episodes, including the popular show "Curb Your Enthusiasm," which returns in October.

They also leaked episodes of "Insecure," "Ballers" and "The Deuce," according to the Associated Press. Time Warner Inc's (TWX.N) HBO said Sunday in an emailed statement that it was "not in communication with the



Cast member Larry David attends a panel for the television series "Curb Your Enthusiasm" during the TCA HBO Summer Press Tour in Beverly Hills, California, US on 26 July, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

hacker, and we're not going to comment every time a new piece of information is released."

"It has been widely reported that there was a cyber incident at HBO," it said. "The hacker may continue to drop bits and pieces of stolen information in an attempt to generate media attention. That's a game we're not going to participate in."

HBO acknowledged the hack earlier this summer. It said the thieves had been leaking stolen materials and asking for a multi-million-dollar ransom.

The hack came at a sensitive time for HBO parent Time Warner as it awaits regulatory approval to sell itself to AT&T Inc (T N) in a \$85.4 billion deal announced in October.—Reuters ■

Sylvester Stallone begins filming This Is Us

LOS ANGELES — Action star Sylvester Stallone has officially joined the cast of "This Is Us" and started shooting the second season of the hit NBC TV series in Santa Clarita, California.

The 71-year-old actor will appear in a guest role opposite Justin Hartley's character, Kevin, as his co-star in a war movie directed by Ron Howard (also playing himself).

"The irony is we can get Wi-Fi in Bulgaria, surrounded by wolves, but we can't get it in Santa Clarita," Stallone said in an Instagram video, while panning to show his co-star, Chrissy Metz.

The star continued, "THIS is one of the great mysteries in MY life!!! We can travel to the far ends of the UNIVERSE, yet, its hard to find a decent

local cell site! A MINI CELL PHONE HORROR movies starring Sylvester Stallone and Chrissy Metz ... and thank you Dan Fogelman you have created a great show. #thisisus @chrissymetz."

The "Rocky" star posted a photo on Instagram alongside Hartley.

"On the This Is Us set with Justin Hartley, this is a fantastic show and he is great to work with!" Stallone wrote.

The actor shared another picture with actor Milo Ventimiglia, who previously worked with Stallone on 2006 film "Rocky Balboa".

"My good buddy Milo Ventimiglia who was nice enough to invite me to be on the show #thisisus #harleydavidson," he added.—PTI ■



The Elizabeth Tower, which houses the Great Clock and the 'Big Ben' bell, is seen above the Houses of Parliament, in central London, Britain, on 14 August 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

UK parliament's "Big Ben" bell to fall silent for four years

LONDON — The "Big Ben" bell in the British parliament's famous clock tower will cease its regular bongs at noon on 21 August, falling silent for most of the next four years while renovation works are carried out, the House of Commons said on Monday.

The hammers which have struck the 13.7 tonne bell every hour for most of the last 157 years will be locked and disconnected from the clock, although the bongs will still sound

for important events such as New Year's Eve celebrations. "This essential program of works will safeguard the clock on a long term basis, as well as protecting and preserving its home, the Elizabeth Tower," said Steve Jaggs, Keeper of the Great Clock.

The Palace of Westminster on the bank of the River Thames, home to parliament, is a world heritage site and major tourist attraction, and Jaggs encouraged members of the public to gather in

nearby Parliament Square to hear the final bongs next Monday.

The 96-metre-tall Elizabeth Tower, believed to be the most photographed building in the United Kingdom, is already half enveloped in scaffolding as part of a major renovation project.

As part of the works the clock housing Big Ben will be dismantled and each cog examined and restored. The clock's four dials will be cleaned and repaired, their cast iron

framework renewed and the hands removed and refurbished.

One working clock face will remain visible at all times, telling the time silently, and it will be powered by a modern electric motor until the original clockwork mechanism is reinstated. All the other bells which chime every 15 minutes will be silent as well during the works that are due to be completed in 2021 when Big Ben's familiar tolls will begin again.

—Reuters ■

U Aung Shwe dies at 101

U Aung Shwe, Retired Brigadier-General, Retired Ambassador of Myanmar to Australia, Egypt and France, Former Chairman of the National League for Democracy, aged 101, passed away peacefully after an illness at the Victoria Hospital in Yangon at 9:36 pm Sunday on 13th August, 2017.

*A great man who sacrificed all for the people of Myanmar
A gentleman for his family*

He is survived by his sons U Aung Than Shwe and U Than Pe Shwe, his daughters Daw Yuzana Shwe, Daw Myinzu Shwe, Daw Sabai Shwe and his son U Aung Myint Shwe and 6 grandchildren and 1 great grandson. His wife Daw Tin Tin Shwe has already passed away.

Yu Haibo: revealing the souls of "China's Van Goghs"

BEIJING — Yu Haibo first came to "Dafen Oil Painting Village" in 2004. Ever since, he has been telling the stories of the "world's largest oil painting reproduction factory" through his lens.

Yu's documentary film "China's Van Goghs" won the best China-foreign co-produced documentary at the Beijing International Film Festival in April. Recently, it was screened in many international film festivals, including the 48th Vision Du Reel International Documentary Film Festival 2017 in Switzerland, TRT Documentary Awards Turkey 2017 and the New Zealand International Film Festival. Yu also won the best director in Japan's 2017 Skip City International D-Cinema

Festival.

Dafen lies in a suburb of Shenzhen, in China's Guangdong Province. In 1989, Hong Kong painter Huang Jiang started an oil painting business and gradually gathered an army of painters to reproduce classic paintings.

Photographer and filmmaker Yu has formed deep bonds with painters such as Zhao Xiaoyong, who came from rural Hunan Province and has made more than 100,000 copies of Van Gogh's works. Another friend, Zhou Yongjiu, and his apprentice have painted more than 300,000 classic replicas.

They are called "China's Van Goghs". Their works sell in tourist shops and stores around the world.—Reuters ■

mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(14-8-2017 07:00am -15-8-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:25	Am	The World's Largest Book
07:49	Am	Artistic Erosion On Steel: Kyi Wynn
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Efforts for Prevailing Peace and Stability, Rule of Law and Development in Rakhine State
08:54	Am	Waso or the Buddhist Lent
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Culture Show: Abdication of King Thibaw
09:44	Am	Writer
09:51	Am	Today Myanmar: Father of Art (Artist U Ba Nyan)
10:03	Am	News

10:26	Am	The Eel Business (Fisherman the eel culture)
10:42	Am	Jade Pagoda: Weirawsana

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	A Day Out With Sarah (EP-7)
07:54	Pm	The Pride of Myanmar Traditional Handicraft
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Discovering Tribes "MUUN (Episode-II)"
08:51	Pm	Myanmar Leading Lady: Naw Susanna Hla Hla Soe

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

MRTV Programme Schedule (15-8-2017, Tuesday)

6:00 Am	◆ Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadsaw	3:00 Pm	◆ Peace Music Festival (Yangon) (Part-1)
7:00 Am	◆ Breakfast News	5:05 Pm	◆ Documentary
7:35 Am	◆ Documentary	5:35 Pm	◆ Money Talk Myanmar
8:35 Am	◆ Law Affairs	6:20 Pm	◆ Football Magazine
9:05 Am	◆ The Nine Percept	6:40 Pm	◆ Documentary
9:35 Am	◆ MRTV Youth's Programme	7:15 Pm	◆ TV Drama Series
10:30 Am	◆ Documentary (Weather)	7:50 Pm	◆ CHOICE (Part-1)
11:00 Am	◆ Yes or No Talk Show "Control or Coach" (Part-2)	8:00 Pm	◆ News/ International News/ Weather Report
11:30 Am	◆ MCN Drama	8:35 Pm	◆ Interview with Israel Ambassador of Myanmar
Noon	◆ Radio Drama	◆ 29 th SEA Games Programme TV	
1:50 Pm	◆ Fine Arts - Bosom of Dramatic Performance	◆ TV Drama Series	
2:10 Pm	◆ TV Drama Series	◆ Anu Pyin Nyar Khan Yeik Thar	

Myanmar wins football match against Singapore at 29th SEA Games opener

Kyaw Zin Lin

Myanmar beat Singapore 2-0 in the opening football match of the 2017 SEA Games at Selayang Stadium, near Kuala Lumpur yesterday afternoon.

Myanmar's line-up included its star players, strikers Aung Thu and Si Thu Aung, throughout the match.

In the first half, Myanmar was largely in the lead and had seven corner-kicks within 35 minutes.

At the 24th minute, Myanmar's Aung Kaung Mann attempted a point blank header, which was saved by Singapore goalkeeper Zharfan Rohaizad.

Ten minutes later, Captain Si Thu Aung attempted a goal-bound drive in the penalty box, but was repelled by a block by Singapore's defender Amirul Adli. At 45 minutes, Myanmar's

Hlaing Bo Bo's shot on goal and was deflected by Singapore midfielder Joshua Pereira. Striker Aung Thu, capitalizing on the rebound, fired on goal from just outside the six-yard box.

During the second half, Singapore changed tactics and attacked Myanmar's goal, but Myanmar defenders continually cleared the ball well.

At 62 minutes, Myanmar's midfielder Mg Mg Lwin took a throw-in ball, moved past Singapore's midfielder Haiqal Pashia and crossed the ball to Myanmar's Aung Thu, who scored the second goal of the opening match. Singapore team got some chances during the final minutes but failed to breach Myanmar's defense. After yesterday's opening matches, Myanmar and host Malaysia attained 3 points as host team also struck Brunei 2-1. ■



Myanmar players celebrate after striker Aung Thu's first goal. PHOTO MFF



Soccer fans watch LED board downtown Yangon as they enjoy the match between Myanmar and Singapore of the 2017 SEA Games yesterday. PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR

Son's Spurs run-out boosts South Korea's World Cup hopes

SEOUL — South Korea's hopes of qualifying for the 2018 World Cup have received a huge boost after talismanic forward Son Heung-min made a surprise appearance for English Premier League side Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday.

Son broke his right forearm on international duty in June and had been expected to miss about three months of action, potentially ruling him out of the Koreans' last two qualifiers against Iran on 31 August and Uzbekistan five days later. However, with the dynamic wide man coming off the bench in Spurs' 2-0 win over Newcastle United, South Korea coach Shin Tae-yong was hopeful Son would be fighting fit for the upcoming Asian qualifiers.

"He looked a lot better than I'd expected, though he still seemed a bit careful in physical battles," Yonhap News agency quoted Shin as saying on Monday. "I wasn't sure if he would even be on the bench for the match. If he gets a couple more matches under his belt, then I am sure he'll be even better."

South Korea are second in Group A, seven points behind the already qualified Iran but only a point above third-placed Uzbekistan, who next play China away. Only the top two from the group qualify automatically for Russia in 2018, while third earns a playoff against the third-placed team in Group B and another playoff against a side from the North American, Central American and Caribbean region.—Reuters ■

Myanmar Sailing team's best preparation for 29th SEA Games

KyawZin Lin

Myanmar National Sailing Team that will compete in 29th SEA Games, has selected final players and prepared their best in Yangon according to Myanmar Yachting Federation Website. The team has comprised of one Team Manager, three Coaches and 12 selected Sailors.

All the 12 sailors are well trained and among them two sailors will compete in RS One Class, other two sailors in International 470 Class, two sailors in International 420 Class, one sailor in Laser Radial, one other sailor in Optimist Individual of men's team, another one in Optimist Individual of women's team

and three sailors also in Optimist Team respectively.

Sailing Events will be hosted at Langkawi Island in the State of Kedah, an hour flight from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 19 to 30 August. The 29th Sea Games Sailing Event will comprise 14 events: seven men's, six women's and one mixed. ■

Real to appeal Ronaldo card — Zidane

BARCELONA — Real Madrid will appeal Cristiano Ronaldo's second yellow card for diving in the Spanish Super Cup first leg at Barcelona, coach Zinedine Zidane said after the Portuguese showed the best and worst side of his game in Real's 3-1 win.

Ronaldo spent 24 minutes on the pitch after not starting the game at the Nou Camp but still had the biggest impact.

The 32-year-old, who was given a hostile reception by Barca fans as he warmed up before replacing Karim Benzema,

hit back moments after Lionel Messi's equaliser with a brilliant strike into the top corner to put Real 2-1 up in the 80th minute.

The Portuguese threw off his shirt after scoring and provocatively held it up to the crowd and was booked.—Reuters ■