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Monday, 24 July 2017



Photo shows the swelling Mann Creek and Auk Settawya. PHOTO: THAN NAING OO (NGAPE/IPRD)

Swelling Mann Creek floods Auk Settawya

MANN Creek flooded due to heavy rains starting on 22 July and swelled high enough to submerge one of the two footprints of the Buddha at the Mann Settawya Pagoda, according to the pagoda board of trustees.

The pagoda is located in Ngape Township of Magway Region, in central Myanmar and is believed to be the site of two pairs of footprints of the Buddha.

“Water level of Mann Creek is rising due to heavy rains. Although Auk Settawya is undated, we haven’t seen any damage to it.

We have already removed all construction materials to a safe place in advance,” said pagoda board of trustee member U Aye Lwin.

Bago Region

Emergency relief work is

under way in Madauk in Bago Region as the water level of Sittoung River reached 1131 centimetres exceeding its danger level of 1070 centimetres yesterday morning.

Water level of Sittoung River reached 1124 centimetres in Shwekyin, Bago Region yesterday morning. Meanwhile Shwekyin River was just 35 centimetres short of its danger level of 700 centimetres. Relief camps

are opened at the inundated villages.

A 100 feet long and 15 feet high dam collapsed in Thonse Township on 22 July due to rising Ayeyawady River and erosion of Myitmakha River. Tatmadaw members of the Southern Command are carrying out relief work and building an embankment with sand bags to prevent floods.

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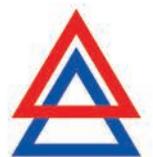
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Union Minister Dr Pe Myint attends meeting for publishing 100 Myanmar Books Series and Sarpay Beikman 70th Anniversary celebration

THE top 100 Myanmar books were selected from distinguished classics and will be published by Sarpay Beikman under the name of 100 Myanmar Books Series for people of all ages be able to read the high-class Myanmar classics.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint and other literati attended the meeting of the publishing 100 Myanmar Books Series held at the meeting hall of Printing and Publishing Department at 10 am of 23 July. The Union Minister discussed and gave the instruction to collect the sector wise works, to finish in time with quality drive and to publish as quick as possible.

Then the president of 100 Myanmar Books Publishing Committee, Dr Sithu U Thaw Kaung, Director General of Printing and Publishing Department U Aung Myo Myint, Deputy Director General U Ko Ko Naing explained about the works to be carried out to be able to publish 100 Myanmar Books Series and all the literati



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint delivers address at the meeting. PHOTO: MNA

made sector wise discussion on inclusion of books of different periods and wide variety of books.

After finishing the coordination meeting for publishing 100 Myanmar Book Series, it continued to discuss about celebrating 70th anniversary of Sarpay Beikman. In this meeting Union Minister Dr Pe Myint gave a brief account on the Sarpay Beikman in which he highlighted that with great objectives Sarpay Beikman was

founded in 1947, thus turning to 70 years on 26 August 2017 and it has been a prolific institution in publishing the valuable books. The Union Minister went on his speech that Sarpay Beikman has carried out works in enhancing the knowledge of the people and now it is obliged to upgrade the Myanmar Encyclopedia in accordance with the changing time and condition. Besides Sarpay Beikman has now been preparing to implement 100 books program and

this time is coinciding with 70th anniversary of Sarpay Beikman and arrangements are under way and he urged the attendants to strive for production of new creation heeding the tradition of Sarpay Beikman.

Afterwards, regarding the holding of 70th Anniversary celebration of Sarpay Beikman Dr Sithu U Thaw Kaung said that he wanted all to strive to reproduce the attribute that Sarpay Beikman was once the best literary institution in

southeast Asia. Then he urged to take value in Sarpay Beikman and try to preserve Sarpay Beikman to be able to relay the legacy of literature to the new generation.

Then Director General of Printing and Publishing Department U Aung Myo Myint and Deputy Director General U Ko Ko Naing explained the arrangement for holding the 70th Anniversary of Sarpay Beikman.

Sarpay Beikman (Myanmar Translation Society) was established on 26 August 1947 with aims and objectives to publish books for enhancing the knowledge of Myanmar people and now it will turn into 70 years on 26 August 2017.

The 70th Anniversary will be held at Sarpay Beikman Building on Merchant Street, Yangon and there will be paper reading session, literary talks and book show for sale together with the celebration of 70th Anniversary.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Minister visits flood victims in Kyaikto



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye consoling flood victims in Kyaikto. PHOTO: MNA

RAINS this month drove locals from some wards and villages of Kyaikto Township, Mon State, south of Yangon, to temporary relief camps visited yesterday by Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye.

“Myanmar has become a country where natural disasters are common,” the Union Minister said at one of the relief camps. “We are facing shortage of investment and technological weakness in disaster preparedness and prevention,” he said.

Accompanied by Mon State Chief Minister Dr. Aye Zan, the

Union Minister visited Tawya Monastery, which has been turned into a temporary relief camp for flood victims.

The Union Minister delivered eggs, rice, canned fish, bottled water and children’s toys.

At the town administration department, the Union Minister and met with the chief minister and other officials to discuss disaster prevention measures. He also presented Ks12.5 million to buy five motorized fiber boats, 150 lifejackets, two motorboat engines, five tents, and five sets of walkie talkies.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Swelling Mann Creek floods Auk Settawya

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Kyaukkyi, another town in the region is facing floods in some wards yesterday morning as the creek flowing through the tow is flooding. Flood victims were removed to religious buildings which were opened as temporary relief centres and food and other necessities have been provided.

Flood of Myitmakha River has drove away a 70 feet section of a dirt road that was 15 feet wide, 15 feet high and 27 miles long.

Police members in cooperation with locals were removing the flood victims to safe places and set up relief camps. Food, water and cash donations were also made for the victims.

Minister for Kayin Ethnicity Naw Pwe Sae looked into their requirements in repairing an embankment, ensuring the proper flow of rivers and creeks in the area and dredging of streams in Kyauktaga Township where rain is heavy and rivers and

creeks are raging.

Rakhine State

Thandwe in Rakhine State got flood warnings as the town received 8.70 inches yesterday. Preparation are being made to save people from bank erosion, floods and other weather related hazards and contact numbers and addresses announced as more rain is focused for the state as monsoon is very strong in the Bay of Bengal.

Downpours cause floods in low-lying areas of Taungup Township beginning 22 July. Although there was sudden rise in the water levels of streams in the area yesterday morning, they receded back in the afternoon.

Heavy rains and the high tide broke open the old Makyak-chain sluiceway in Yanbye Township yesterday. Authorities inspected the damage site and supervised the flood prevention work.

Mon State

Mon State chief Minister U Aye Zan and party presented over Ks 6.6 million and other relief aids for flood victims staying at a middle school in Boyargyi village of Kyaikto yesterday.

They also donated over Ks 1.1 million and other relief aids for flood victims of the township at a relief camp at Kyaikpi village.

Kachin State

Heavy rains did not spare Indawgyi in Kachin State. Due to poor drainage system, some wards and roads in the two were facing floods due to downpours yesterday.

Taninthayi Region

Although the nearby river of Taninthayi Town of Taninthayi Region was one inch less than the danger level, departmental personnel with the help of local people were taking flood prevention and relief measures in advance.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Vice President U Henry Van Thio arrives back Yangon from New York. PHOTO: MNA

Vice President arrives back Yangon from New York

Vice President U Henry Van Thio arrived back Yangon from New York yesterday after he has attended the 3rd UN Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters held in New York.

The Vice President and party were welcomed back at the Yangon International Airport by Yangon Mayor U

Maung Maung Soe, Yangon Region Security and Border Affairs Minister Col Aung Soe Moe, Deputy director-general of Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Zaw Tun Oo, officials from Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Scot Marciel and officials. — Myanmar News Agency ■

MoU signed for cooperation of agronomics service centers projects

MoU signing ceremony between Myanmar Rice Association, Myanmar Agronomics Public Corporation Ltd. and CITIC Construction Co., Ltd. was held at Nay Pyi Taw Thingaha Hotel at 4 pm of 21st July for implementation of agronomics service centers projects. Dr Aung Thu, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Dr Than Myint, Union Minister for Commerce

and Chinese Commercial Attache to Myanmar Mr C Gunshan attended the ceremony.

U Ye Min Aung from Myanmar Rice Association, Myanmar Agronomics Public Corporation Ltd and Chairman of China CITIC Construction Co., Ltd. Mr. Chin Shaung Kya inked the MoU of cooperation for Agronomics Service Centers Projects Implementation. The project is targeted to

increase in per acre production rate, to support the increase in individual income of the farmers, to mitigate production cost, to acquire the good price, to increase internal and external investment in rice production, milling and trading, to enhance the quality of rice, to conserve the natural environment and to ensure the consumers' safety, it was learnt. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Signing ceremony in progress. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

Maungdaw in Rakhine State to get highway bus terminal

Maungdaw will get a highway bus terminal as the town's incoming and outgoing traffic volume is growing, according to an official.

We have already submitted the name of the contractor we have selected through tender to Rakhine State government. The

construction work will start under the directive of the regional government, said deputy director U Maung Tin Oo of the town municipal.

The land management committee has already allotted a 16-acre plot for the purpose, he added. The town municipal

invited participation of the company as the cost of the project is much higher than its budget ceiling of Ks 50 million for a project. The terminal will be completed with all the requirements such as shops, hostels, food stalls, parking lots and toilets. —Myint Maung Soe/Aung Kyaw Oo ■

First private-run pharmaceutical factory starts operation

The first private-run pharmaceutical factory in Myanmar started operation under the Good Manufacturing Practice-GMP yesterday morning in Yangon. Run by Pacific Medical Industries-PMI on a 16630-squaremetre plot the factory includes a two-story quality control lab to ensure the GMP, engineer office and stores for hazardous goods.

In April this year, PMI got the recommendation from Food and Drug Administration-FDA to officially run the factory designed to prevent environmental contamination and facilitate sanitation and germ clearing processes.

The production lines have

Air Handling Units-AHUs for proper ventilation, and the manufacturing facilities for powered drugs have airlocks to prevent outside air from coming into them. The factory was put into service in the presence of Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho, Chairman of the Peace Commission Dr. Tin Myo Win, Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Sein Tin Win, members of Yangon Region cabinet and others.

The private drug factory located in Dagon Seikkan Township, Yangon, is expected to fulfill the local drug demand to a certain degree.

—Maung Maung Win ■



Union Minister U Khin Maung Cho and officials at the opening of private-run pharmaceutical factory. PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG WIN

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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.

Farmers walk in their farm outside Yebu village in Shwenyaung township, Shan State, Myanmar in this still image taken from a August 25, 2016 video. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

April-July agricultural export reaches US\$954 million, down \$50 million

Export from agriculture sector reached US\$954 million from 1 April to 14 July, \$50 million less than last year.

Agricultural export during last FY 2016-2017 was \$2.9 billion, an increase of \$315 million compared to FY2015-2016. Agriculture comprised 25 per cent of total export volume, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Nonetheless, foreign direct investment (FDI) in Myanmar's agriculture sector accounted for less than 1 per cent of all FDI. This financial year an estimated

FDI of \$15.21 million came into the sector, said U Hsan Myint, the deputy director-general of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The investors are wary of regulatory obstacles and other risks including erratic weather and pests in spite of the fact that agriculture is listed in ten prioritized sectors by Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC).

In addition, Myanmar's agricultural industries suffer from lack of technical capacity and

weak domestic demand. High transaction costs due to supply chain deficiencies also make it difficult to compete in Southeast Asia.

Myanmar's main exports include low quality rice, pulses, rubber, sesame seeds and corn.

Exports from 1 April to 14 July was \$3.5 billion, an increase of \$470 million compared to last year. Out of seven export groups, only agriculture sector showed decrease in trade whereas other sectors are managed to boost trade. —GNLM ■

Daily organic vegetable exported to Russia and Singapore reaches one ton

AROUND one ton of organic vegetables produced from Nyaunghnapin Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Zone in Yangon's Hmawby Township are being exported to Russia and Singapore markets daily, according to a report of the Myawady Daily on Sunday.

Moreover, about three tons of chemical-free vegetables from the same zone are being distributed to Yangon markets.

More than 100 growers have been cultivating marketable vegetables in about 50 acres of farmland, including ladyfingers, eggplants, cucumber, beans and others to foreign buyers for the past two years.

Growers increased the export of organic vegetables to partner countries beginning last month in pursuit of higher profits.

Vegetables in the zone are grown with the use of earthworm castings natural fertilizer, one of growers said.—GNLM ■

KBZ gateway, AsiaSat extend partnership for high speed connectivity

ASIA Satellite Telecommunication Ltd and KBZ Gateway extended their partnership for the latter's expanding VSAT broadband services to clients throughout the country, according to a press release issued on 20 July. The KBZ has expanded its C-band and Ku-band capacity on AsiaSat 4 and AsiaSat 7 satellites to meet the growing demands from clients in the banking and finance, oil and gas industries for faster services and more cost-efficient connectivity.

Since its launch of service on AsiaSat in 2016, KBZ has successfully expanded its high-speed broadband network, connecting 300 remote sites across the country for KBZ bank branch network connectivity and 24-hour ATM services, as well as



communications for remote oil and gas exploration sites.

With its expanded capacity, KBZ is able to offer advanced broadband services supporting up to 100 Mbps of throughput.

U Naing Tun Kyaw, managing director of KBZ Gateway Co, Ltd, said; "We anticipate with

the launch of AsiaSat 9, AsiaSat's next generation satellite, later this year, we and our clients will further benefit from its increased power and enhanced coverage to enjoy higher uptime and the fastest speed ever for our data networks across Myanmar."—GNLM ■

Tech Career Expo 2017 planned for 30 July in Yangon

THE TECH Career Expo 2017 will be held at the end of this month in Yangon, according to the news in Sunday edition of the Myawady Daily.

Organised by Jobnet.com.mm, the online jobs and career website, the event is planned for 30 July at Sedona Hotel between 9 am and 5 pm. Employers and job seekers in Myanmar's information technology sector will be in attendance.

This event is free for everyone to attend. Job hunters are encouraged to bring their CVs and references.

Anyone who wishes to attend can pre-register at <https://www.jobnet.com.mm/tech-career-expo> to confirm their participation.—GNLM ■



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Chinese tax on Myanmar goods slows trade to a trickle in July

To protect the local production of Chinese farmers, the China authorities increased its tax rate to 100 per cent for imported goods, prompting most merchants to halt trade in July.

Main exports through Chinshwehaw checkpoint to China are pulses, sesame seeds, sugar, rice and rubber, said the merchants.

Sino-Myanmar border trade is mainly conducted through Muse, Lweje, Kan-

piketee, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung. Values of trade through Sino-Myanmar land ports of entry as of 14 July was estimated at US\$1.63 billion, which is an increase of \$30 million compared to the same period last year.

Of five Sino-Myanmar checkpoints, Muse, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung showed slight decreases in trade.

Total border trade value from 1 April to 14 July was near-

ly \$2 billion, an increase of \$15 million compared to last year.

Myanmar is carrying out border trade with India via Tamu and Reed checkpoints. The country's land ports of entry with Bangladesh are Sittway and Maungtau.

Myanmar and Thailand border trade takes place at Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Maese and Mawtaung land ports of entry. —Htet Myat ■

Hotel room rates reduced to promote monsoon tourism

MINISTRY of Hotels and Tourism announced its Green Season Promotion Program for rainy season last Friday, releasing room rates of the hotels situated in the main tourist destinations; Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Inlay, Bagan, Ngapali, Ngwe Saung, Chaung Tha.

Hotel room rates in Yangon, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw and at the beaches are being reduced in order to promote monsoon tourism, according to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

During this green season, hotel room rates in those destinations will be reduced for

the visitors in during the rainy season months of June, July, August and September.

This plan will cover about 90 hotels in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Inle, Bagan, Ngapali, Ngwe Saung, Chaungtha. For further information, please visit www.tourism.gov.mm. —GNLM ■

Thai-Myanmar trade shows slight decrease compared to last year

Border trade volume between Thailand and Myanmar from 1 April to and 14 July declined by US\$5 million compared to the same period of last year.

Total Myanmar-Thailand trade through Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Maese and

Mawtaung was \$338 million as of 14 July. Of seven border gates, Myawady and Hteekhee saw decreases in trade. Total border trade from 1 April to 14 July was nearly \$2 billion, an increase of \$15 million compared to last year. Trade with Myanmar's most important

partner, China, is mainly conducted through Muse, Lweje, Kanpiketee, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung. Myanmar is carrying out border trade with India via Tamu and Reed checkpoints. The country's land ports of entry with Bangladesh are Sittway and Maungtau. —Htet Myat ■

UMFCCI to publish regular economic newsletter

THE Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) will publish economic newsletters in cooperation with foreign business experts, according to a report in yesterday's edition of Myawady Daily newspaper.

“Currently UMFCCI is distributing certain kind of publica-

tion for businessmen. UMFCCI is preparing to publish newsletter jointly with the foreign experts to keep up with the latest business information”, said U Zaw Min Win, the president of UMFCCI.

The newsletters will be published monthly starting in August and will be distributed to businesspeople.—GNLM ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း “Sunday Special” အချုပ်ပို (၈) မျက်နှာပါဝင်သော The Global New Light of Myanmar နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကို အောက်ပါမြို့များတွင် ဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

“Sunday Special” အချုပ်ပို (၈) မျက်နှာ ပါဝင်သည်

<p>နေပြည်တော် မြန်မာ့အလင်းစာတိုက်၊ ရုံးအမှတ်(၇) နေပြည်တော်၊ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရုံးချုပ်)၊ စီမံရေးရာဌာန၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၄၁၂၁၀၈</p> <p>နေပြည်တော် နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တပ်ကုန်း)၊ ဝေယျာသီရိမြို့နယ်၊ ခေလပင်လမ်း၊ နေပြည်တော်၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၂၆၁၄၈၊ ၀၆၇၂၆၁၂၉</p> <p>ရန်ကင်း The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊ ငါးထပ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ဝဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၁၀၆၀၅၄၂၊ ၀၉၉၇၄၄၄၄၄၄၄</p> <p>မန္တလေး လမ်း (၂၀ x ၂၁) ကြား၊ (၈၂ x ၈၃) လမ်းကြား၊ မုလ်ဇွေ ရောင်ရမ်း၊ မန္တလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၂၃၂၇၂၉၊ ၀၂၃၂၅၀၀</p> <p>တောင်ကြီး ရုံးကြီးလမ်း၊ သစ်တောရပ်ကွက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၀၂၁၂၁၆၄၊ ၀၉၅၂၁၄၄၅၅</p> <p>မကွေး နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ တပ်မ (၈၈) တပ်နယ်ရေးအနီး၊ မကွေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၃၂၃၇၁၂</p> <p>တချိုင်းတုံ မြို့နယ် (၃-၈) အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းသွယ်၊ မြို့နယ်လမ်း၊ ကချိုင်းတုံမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၄၂၂၄၉၂</p>	<p>ကလေး အောင်ဓမ္မေယျရပ်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊ ကလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၂၁၃၃</p> <p>မြင်ကြီးများ အမှတ် (၄၁)၊ ရေရပ်ကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊ မြင်ကြီးများမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄၂၂၄၆၂</p> <p>စစ်တွေ ရွှေဘိုလမ်းနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊ မိမိတော်ကြီးအနီး၊ မန်းကျင်းမြိုင်ရပ်ကွက်၊ စစ်တွေမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃၂၃၀၆၈</p> <p>လားရှိုး ဟူးမွန်ကျေးရွာတိုင်း၊ ဟူးမွန်ဆည်ဘယ်ဘက်ခြမ်း၊ (၁၂) ရပ်ကွက်၊ မန်ဆူဘုရားရှေ့၊ အဝေရာလမ်း၊ လားရှိုးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၂၂၄၀၆၇</p> <p>ဗြိတ် မေတ္တာလမ်း၊ ရှမ်းရောင်းရမ်း၊ ကလွင်ကျေးရွာအုပ်စု၊ ဗြိတ်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၉၄၂၁၀၃</p> <p>မော်လမြိုင် ကြာအင်းကျေးရွာ၊ မော်လမြိုင်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၇၂၇၂၅၊ ၀၅၇၂၇၂၆</p> <p>ပဲခူး နန္ဒဝန်ရပ်ကွက်၊ ဆက်သွယ်ရေးတာဝါတိုင်အနီး၊ ပဲခူးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၁၂၆၅၃၅၊ ၀၇၁၂၆၅၃၃</p>
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31 suspects arrested in Maungtaw Tsp

A combined team comprising members of the security force detained 31 suspects in Maungtaw Township on 22 July.

The team acting on information that terrorists were holding a secret meeting in Kyauk Hlaykha Village, Area 6 in the township, made a check in the village and arrested 31 persons including 25-year-old Sway Talaung who did not meet the requirements of the household list.

Saya Mauk a 27-year-old man of Mingalagyi Village of the 31 suspects holding the secret meeting at the house of his elder sister Sura Bekhaung tried to attack the team members with a 14-inch knife. He was overpowered and arrested together with the weapon. The suspects are under legal examination to ascertain whether they are connected with any terrorist organization. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Documentary photos show 31 suspects arrested in Maungtaw Township on 22 July, 2017. **PHOTO: STATE COUNSELLOR OFFICE INFORMATION COMMITTEE**

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Panda cub at Tokyo zoo growing well, can now crawl on its own

TOKYO — A female panda cub born last month at a Tokyo zoo is growing well and can now crawl, as well as move its head from side to side, zoo officials said Sunday.

The giant panda cub has drawn public attention since its birth at the Ueno Zoological Gardens on 12 June. It is the first panda cub born there since 2012. The zoo has been closely monitoring the growth of the cub, whose birth was

celebrated in Japan as well as China.

The cub weighed 1,656.5 grams and was 34.1 centimeters long in a checkup on Saturday, which marked 40 days since its birth, the zoo said, adding the cub can also slightly open its eyes.

The zoo also said the cub was seen crawling from 17 July and two days later, and has hair growing from its limbs.

The cub was born to moth-

er Shin Shin and father Ri Ri. Their previous cub died in 2012, less than a week after its birth at Japan's oldest zoo, which opened in 1882. According to the zoo, the 12-year-old mother panda is breastfeeding the cub and helping it discharge waste.

"The mother appears to be stable in rearing its cub," said Mikako Kaneko, a zoo official. The zoo will continue monitoring the mother and cub round the clock. —Kyodo News ■

21 fall ill after drinking toxic tea in northern India

NEW DELHI — At least 21 people have fallen ill after drinking toxic tea at a beverage stall in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, a police official said Sunday.

"The incident took place in the state's Mirzapur district. After consuming the tea from the roadside stall, the victims complained of uneasiness and started vomiting, following

which they were soon rushed to a local health centre," he said.

Three of the victims are said to be in critical condition and have been referred to Varanasi Trauma Centre in the holy town of Varanasi for treatment, the official said.

"A probe has been ordered into the incident and tea samples from the stall have been sent for testing to ascertain what

caused the poisoning. A manhunt has also been launched to track down the owner of the tea stall who fled after reports of poisoning in his beverage," he added.

Tea or chai (in Hindi and most other Indian languages) is India's most favourite drink. And thousands of roadside joints sell the beverage across India. —Xinhua ■

Missing villager found dead in Buthidaung Township

A missing villager was found dead on 22 July night in Buthidaung Township after a search that started soon after his disappearance was noticed.

The missing person, Raw Shee (53) of Maunggyi Taung Village left his house to work in his crop field two miles from

the village at about 7 am on that day. As he failed to come back home his family and villagers made a search and found his body near his field at about 10 pm. He died of cuts in the neck. Security forces have opened a case. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Hidden suspect arrested in Maungtaw Township

A suspect hidden in dark was arrested by residents in the ward and sent to the police station in Maungtaw Township at night of 21 July, according to yesterday report of Myanmar News Agency.

Ji Yar Man, 18, son of Adu Yaw Kain from Shwe Zarr

Gone Nar village hid in dark of Ye Paw restaurant in Myoma north ward. The residents found and sent him to Myoma police station as he resisted them.

The suspect is being investigated under the law. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Illegal good deterred at Yaypu and Mayanchaung check points

A combined team comprised of officers and staff from the departments concerned is checking for illegal goods at Yaypu and Mayanchaung check points which were reopened on 1 March, according to a report.

There were 587 exported vehicles and 556 imported vehicles along Mandalay-Muse Pyidaungsu road as well as 52 exported vehicles and 122 imported vehicles along

Yangon- Myawady road to on 22 July.

The combined team is checking at Yaypu and Mayanchaung inspection gate. They stopped and searched the 12 wheels at the Mayanchaung inspection gate and seized the illegal goods, Brake Fluid (1116kg) and Grease (2333 kg), estimated worth Ks 7.529 million as they have no official documents. —GNLM ■

Vehicle accidents on the Yangon-Mandalay highway

A Shwe Sin Setkyer Express bus carrying 50 people on the Yangon-Mandalay highway crashed yesterday before dawn and caused no injuries or fatalities.

The bus collided with the center guardrail near mile marker 248/2.

Later in the day, a Daihatsu Hijet vehicle headed

to Mandalay from Nay Pyi Taw on the same highway rolled over and injured five women out of a total of two men and seven women passengers.

The injured people were taken to Meiktila Hospital by the Thee Gone Highway Police.—Than Oo (Lay Myit Hnar) ■

Thousands ordered to evacuate as heavy rains hit northeast Japan

TOKYO — Tens of thousands of people in northeast Japan were told to evacuate their homes on Sunday as heavy rain caused major flooding and cut some rail links, authorities said.

The storm follows freak rains in southwestern Japan earlier this month that left at least 25 people dead.

Almost 25,000 people in Akita prefecture were ordered to evacuate and around 65,000 more people were advised to leave or told to prepare to leave the area, an official at Akita prefecture told Reuters. Several rivers were flooding

and more than 100 houses had been inundated by floodwaters, the official said. No injuries or deaths have been reported, but the authorities were still investigating, he added. Some bullet trains running to and from Akita have been suspended because of the heavy rains, East Japan Railway said on its website.

“There is a significant amount of water accumulating in the land. Even if the heavy rains stop, we will continue to warn people to stay vigilant,” the Akita prefecture official said. —Reuters ■

New Zealand braces for more rain after severe storms lash south island

WELLINGTON — Residents in the two largest cities on New Zealand’s south island began returning to their homes on Sunday, despite state of emergencies still in place, after a severe storm caused flooding and forced hundreds of homes to be evacuated.

MetService meteorologist Angus Hines said the weather system which lashed New Zealand over the past four days had passed, but other storms “were lining up to bring more rain”.

The largest city Christchurch was mopping up after the Heathcote River burst its banks and flooded southern parts of the city on Saturday, causing evacuations in lower-lying areas of the city, said authorities. The island’s second largest city, Dunedin, was

also in recovery mode, said Mayor Dave Cull. “There’s still a lot of water lying around, including on roads, there’s still lots of slips, most of them have been partly cleared but there’s a lot of debris around and, to complicate things, it’s freezing now,” he said.

Local media reported many people who were evacuated across eastern parts of the south island were returning home on Sunday, however some may have to stay away for days to come due to flooding. The meteorological service said some areas had received more than triple the monthly average rainfall in two days. The heaviest recorded fall was 266 millimetres (10.5 inches) north of Dunedin over a 48-hour period.—Reuters ■



People gather at a waterfront as Typhoon Roke approaches Hong Kong, China, on 23 July 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Hong Kong lowers alert as Typhoon Roke weakens

HONG KONG — Hong Kong lowered a typhoon alert on Sunday evening as Typhoon Roke weakened, with the local airport and transport authorities rushing to restore normal operations in the Asian financial hub.

The Hong Kong Observatory on Sunday morning raised its typhoon alert to 8 — close to the top rating of 10 — as Roke was expected to make landfall over the eastern part of the city.

A reading of 8 means businesses, government offices and schools stay closed, including banks, port operations and the Hong Kong stock exchange.

The alert was lowered to 1 by evening.

At 6 pm local time, Roke was estimated to be 180 kilometers west-northwest of Hong Kong and was forecast to move west or west-northwest at about 20 kilometers per hour across inland Guangdong and continue to weaken, the observatory said.

Guangdong province, which borders Hong Kong, issued a level 3 alert, the China Meteorological Administration said on Saturday night. On Sunday, a cargo ship with 12 people aboard capsized in waters off the coast of Guangdong, Chi-

nese state media said. All 12 were safely rescued.

In Hong Kong, a spokesman for the international airport, one of the busiest in the world, said about half a dozen flights to and from the city were canceled and more than 300 flights were delayed due to the typhoon.

Local trains were operating normally, but some bus and ferry services were canceled earlier in the day, as per announcements on government websites. The annual book fair was temporarily closed due to the typhoon. —Reuters ■

Philippine gov’t to intensify offensive to quell IS terrorists: military

MANILA — The Philippine government on Sunday warned Islamist militants and their sympathizers to surrender or face the full force of the law.

Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana issued the warning a day after the Philippine Congress approved the extension of martial law in the entire Mindanao until the end of the year.

He said security forces are determined to defeat terrorism within the next five months when martial law is enforced in the



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte(C) visits the troops engaged in the battle with the Maute group in Marawi City, the Philippines, on 20 July 2017. PHOTO XINHUA

south Mindanao region.

“With the overwhelming vote of confidence from our legislature and the ardent support of the Filipino people, your defence department will strive even more to deal with the rebellion decisively and expeditiously,” Lorenzana said in a statement. Lorenzana urged militants to return to the government fold, saying the government is ready to welcome them anytime they want without any conditions. “But if you persist in your crooked ways, the armed

forces and the police will come after you without let-up,” he said.

“The ones who should worry are the members of the terrorist-extremist group, the law violators, the supporters and sympathizers of the extremist-terrorist group and not the ordinary people.” Some 700 militants affiliated with IS overran Marawi City in the southern Philippines on 23 May, prompting the government security forces to launch a series of airstrikes to crush the insurgents.—Xinhua ■

The habit of reading and studying history

Khin Maung Oo

ENGLISH philosopher Sir Francis Bacon said, “Reading maketh a full man.” Since our youth these words have been deeply etched in our minds. In fact, it encouraged us to read books and thus we learnt to understand the value of reading. Some of my friends were less interested in reading, but due to our encouragement, reading became acquired hobbies for them. Wonderfully enough, we found out that a dull childhood friend became a well-known lawyer in our native town. I came to know that he was very fond of reading books. His thirst for knowledge and his habit of reading books brought him up to this stage. There are numerous people all over the world including My-

anmar who became famous through reading. To put it simply, there were only a meager amount of books in our salad days, compared to reading materials which are present nowadays. Cutting-edge technology paves ways for us to go to the world library—Google and web pages. It really helped us greatly.

But, on 20th July 2017 State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said some noteworthy words regarding reading. The State Counsellor said, “Reading can be categorized into two—academic reading and reading as a hobby. I would like to claim that the world would be a very narrow place for a man without the habit of reading. It would be a life devoid of meaning for him. This is why children need to de-

velop reading habits. Going to libraries and literacy must be encouraged. For the latter, a librarian plays an important role. Being a librarian is a dignified profession and one that deserves respect. They must have qualities of persuading people to read. Nowadays, reading habits are weakening among people. I am afraid that our children will become narrow-minded. Instead, I would like them to love reading books and reading materials. Searching Google for a fact on the internet is not sufficient to become a reader because it will give only the outlooks and opinions of compilers of Google.” She also noted the decreasing number of distinction winners in the subject of history in matriculation exam results, stressing the importance of studying

history, calling the subject “the foundation of politics” or “the study of our society, our world and humankind.”

In fact it highlighted two things to us. Although Google may be a place of great help and importance for us we must turn our steps towards libraries which are really good and perfect sources of knowledge. The other thing is that today’s children are becoming less interested in history. It can also lead us to ignorance of politics. In brief, our authorities should take this matter into serious consideration—establishment of good libraries and instilling in our youths the love of books and reading. This should be done on a priority basis as we need educated citizens for our democracy to survive and to thrive. ■

Buddhism and Prevalence of Law and Order

Dr. Bhaddanta Candāvarābhivaṃsa
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ABOUT 588 BC, Buddhism appeared in the world. Before Buddhism, there were no firm Law and Order in the religious societies. It is found that only when the Buddhism appeared, the Law and Order by the name of Dhamma and Vinaya started to appear.

By the words of Dhamma and Vinaya, Dhamma means policy and Vinaya is Law. These two were the law and order in the establishment of the Order of the Sangha.

The Buddha established the Law and Order in the Sangha through performing the two Dhamma and Vinaya to pervade in it. Wherever He arrived, the Buddha taught by himself the fundamental principles called ‘Ovādapātimokkha’ to bhikkhus every full moon day and New moon day. Ovāda-pātimokkha means only the three stanzas: “Khanṭi paramam tapo titikkhā”, etc. All the bhikkhus around there were surely to go there and had to listen Ovādapātimokkha taught by the Buddha. This is a task that the fundamental principle of the Dhamma is firmly established in the Order of the Sangha. The heart of the Order of Sangha is fastened with dhamma.

The Buddha, from time to time, used to promulgate the disciplinary rules for the order of the Sangha.

There was no media to distribute these disciplinary rules. As nowadays, these were also not recorded on the books. Only the bhikkhus, who had a good chance to hear these rules by themselves, took responsibility and distributed them handing down from generation to generation. Bhikkhus, at the time of the Buddha,

did not use to stay at one place for a long time. In accordance with the Buddha’s instructions, “Caratha bhikkhave cārikam” etc., they went round among the people and carried out the welfare of all the humans. They distributed the Buddha’s Teaching among the people. They themselves practised dhamma for the attainment of Magga and Phala and also they taught it to the lay-people. In this way, they got belief from the lay-people. Finally, the knowledge of the disciplinary rules promulgated by the Buddha were given in exchange among one another, distributed and recorded by them. In this way, the disciplinary rules promulgated by the Buddha reached to all the bhikkhus on time.

It is very interesting mode that the disciplinary rules were distributed by the bhikkhus from generation to generation.

Every full moon day and new moon day of the months, all the bhikkhus at the place where they reached, had to assemble in the fixed place by Elder bhikkhus without fail. If they were absent due to illness or Sangha’s affairs, they had to give their consent to the assembly of the Sangha. When the Sangha were all together (in Simā), they were to submit the list of Sangha who gave their consent. And also they had to proclaim their purity (pārisudhi) in order to know how they followed the disciplinary rules promulgated by the Buddha.

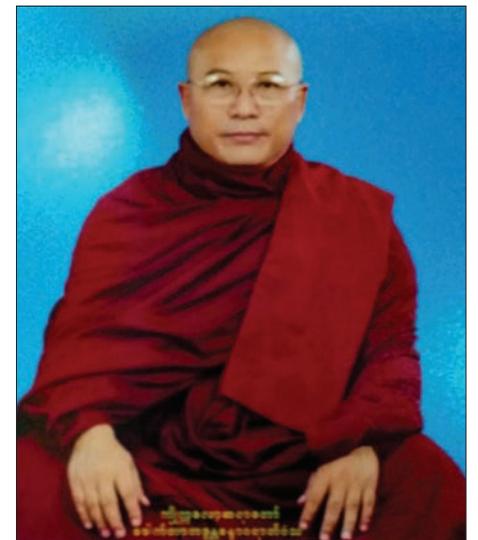
The bhikkhus had to declare the current date, state the number of Sangha assembled, and since there were bhikkhunīs at that time, they had to report the admonition requested by the bhikkhunī-sangha. (Bhikkhunī-sangha had to receive the admonition from the bhikkhu-sangha twice monthly.)

After that, a learned and able bhikkhu had to recite the disciplinary rules laid down by the Buddha to that day in order

that all of the bhikkhus could hear it. In this way, all the Sangha had an opportunity to know the disciplinary rules laid down by the Buddha, and had a chance to follow them. It was not sure to read those rules recorded on the books. When the afore-said method enacted, as the Sangha had to listen to every fifteenth days of the months, the disciplinary rules were established in the heart of the Sangha. It was a good system for the Sangha order. By performing this, it was understood to be the Sangha-performance.

By performing (uposatha), the bhikkhus not only recognized the disciplinary rules, but also it gave rise to the unity of the Sangha. Then, the bhikkhus could follow the rules and could know the date. The number of the bhikkhus from different places had been counted, and the respect from bhikkhunīs had been won. The Law was to be practically followed. If it was practiced only when knew, but not practiced if not knew. This idea (policy) was from about over 2500 years ago. If it is still to be used until now. The Buddha himself, within twenty years after enlightened, regularly preached the doctrine so-called ‘Ovādapātimokkha’ to the bhikkhus twice a month. The bhikkhus also regularly recited the Law so-called Vinaya twice a month. In this way, the doctrine and the rules so-called dhamma-vinaya have been established and pervaded in the heart of the bhikkhus.

The Buddha’s disciplinary rules are divided into seven divisions: Nidāna, Pārājika, Sanghādisesa, Aniyata, Nissaggiya-pācittiya, Suddha-pācittiya, and Pāṭidesaniya. During the Sangha’s performance (Uposathakamma), the appointed bhikkhu to recite Pātimokkha (disciplinary rules) asks whether they follow the rules or not whenever a division has been recited. The Sangha responses by remaining silent that they live in accordance



Dr. Bhaddanta Candāvarābhivaṃsa

with Law. If, among the Sangha, there is a bhikkhu who breaks the rules, must be taken into action in accordance with procedure of Vinaya.

After that, he has to continue to recite the next division. In this way, the Order of the Sangha, from the time of the Buddha up to now, is preserved by the bhikkhus by handing down the rules from generation to generation, by taking action by giving punishment in accordance with the Law, by re-accepting him by the Sangha. By making the rules flourished the law and order will be established and the Sangha’s order becomes stable and steady. There is a saying, “When there is Vinaya, there is Sāsana”. It is also said that Vinaya is the life of the Sāsana. If so, should not the Law be said the life of the human society. It is to be considered. To conclude, the dhamma-vinaya in Sāsana is the same with the Law of human society. Among the dhamma and vinaya laid down by the Buddha, the dhamma makes our mind steadfast and vinaya makes to have discipline. These dhamma and vinaya not only maintain the Buddha-sāsana but also bring about the benefits of all human societies. So, this article presents that it is necessary to make the dhamma and vinaya flourished everywhere. ■

Myanmar and Viet Nam sign MoU for bilateral real estate development



Signing ceremony in progress. PHOTO: SOE WIN (MLA)

REAL estate organizations in Myanmar and Viet Nam signed a memorandum of understanding on 18 July in Hanoi with the hope of improving property development sectors in both nations.

The MoU between the Myanmar Real Estate Service Development Association and the Viet Nam Real Estate Service Association is expected to

facilitate economic progress and investment.

“Viet Nam, a rapidly developing country, is eager to make investments in Myanmar, and now they have paved the way by signing the MoU,” said U Aung Tun, vice chairman of the Myanmar Real Estate Service Development Association. “Additionally, the MoU will help us understand

the procedures, laws and techniques used in Viet Nam. They (the Vietnamese) also want to know procedures for investment in Myanmar.”

The signing ceremony was attended by U Tin Maung and U Aung Tun, chairman and vice chairman of the Myanmar Real Estate Development Association and 15 other members. — Soe Win (MLA) ■

Suspected food, drugs and cosmetics to be tested by FDA at public health education exhibition

A public health education exhibition will be held to prevent and fight against the illegal, sub-standard, generic products and medicine that has not been prescribed by a physician in Tatmadaw Hall in Yangon on 29 and 30 July. At the ceremony, the FDA will test items free of charge if the visitors want to ensure the safety of the medicines, foods and cosmetics they are using, said Dr. Theingi Zin, the director of the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA).

Patient check-ups will also be performed, officials said.

“At the ceremony, the FDA will check for osteoporosis, conduct eyes test, and diabe-

tes test free of charge. The visitors can also bring their medicines, foods and cosmetics for testing at the exhibition.

The items should not be expired and this is only the preliminary test and confirmation can be made only in Nay Pyi Taw”, said Dr. Theingi Zin from FDA.

There will be about 130 booths including the FDA branches from states and regions, the medicine companies, other FDA-related private associations, the traditional medicine department and medicine and medical equipment trading at the exhibition.

Moreover, the physicians

will give public talks to promote awareness of the danger of the illegal, sub-standard, generic and non-prescribed medicines.

“We will let the public be aware of the medicines which are officially distributed in Myanmar.

Besides we will also show how to distinguish legal medicines from illegal ones”, she said.

Currently, 40 per cent of the medicines in the market are illegal drugs, expired drugs, and generic drugs.

The FDA said it will inspect drug stores and shops this financial year.

— May Thet Hnin ■

PRESS RELEASE

Appointment of ambassador agreed

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mrs. Dorothee Janetzke-Wenzel as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mrs. Dorothee Janetzke-Wenzel was born in Minden, Germany on 17th July 1953. She studied English, Spanish and Development Economics from 1975 to 1979 and obtained a Diploma in Applied Linguistics and Development Economics from Heidelberg University of Germany in 1979. Moreover, she studied at the University of Wisconsin, USA from 1980 to 1982 and received a Master's Degree in African Studies. She joined the Federal Foreign Office of Germany in 1984 and had served in various capacities at the Federal Foreign Office and German Embassies in Tanzania, Austria, and the United States of America till 2007. Afterwards, she served as a Visiting Professor for International Relations at the German speaking Andrassy Gyula University of Budapest, Hungary from 2007 to 2008. She had also served as the Ambassador of Germany to Hungary from 2008 to 2011 and to Nigeria from 2011 to 2014. Since September 2014, she has been serving as Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Finland.

She is married, with two children.—Ministry of Foreign Affairs ■

PRESS RELEASE

Appointment of ambassador agreed

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mrs. Maria Alicia Cuzzoni de Sonschein as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Argentine Republic to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mrs. Maria Alicia Cuzzoni de Sonschein earned Bachelor's Degree in Political Science specialization in International Relations from the Argentine Catholic University (USA), Buenos Aires. Since she graduated from the National Foreign Service Institute in 1980, she has served at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship as well as the Argentine Consulate General and Embassies abroad in various capacities. At present, she has been serving as Ambassador of the Argentine Republic to the Kingdom of Thailand. She speaks English, French and Italian.

Mrs. Maria Alicia Cuzzoni de Sonschein will be concurrently accredited as Argentine Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok.—Ministry of Foreign Affairs ■

Man hit by train killed in Thaton Township

A 20-YEAR-OLD man who was killed when he was hit by a train in Thaton Township was identified by police as Shwe Than, also known as Phyu Phwe.

The victim was struck by the No. 15 train heading from Nay Pyi Taw on the Yangon-Mawlamyine railroad on Saturday night. Authorities said he died between

mile posts 135/20 and 135/21 due to mortal injuries. The man was believed to have been crossing the railroad to visit his grandma's home for a funeral.

The train applied its emergency braking system, but was unable to stop in time.

Police are still investigating the case.—Thet Oo (Thaton)

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

Members of Asia Press International, including founder Akihiro Nonaka (far L), talk about their experiences of news gathering at a symposium marking the 30th anniversary of the group's launch, in Tokyo on 22 July 2017. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Two Japanese climbers found dead in Swiss Alps

GENEVA — Two Japanese climbers reported missing in the Swiss Alps were found dead Saturday, local police said.

The Bernese police believe the two, identified as a 73-year-old man and a 55-year-old woman, fell near the peak of the 4,107-meter Monch, one of the three popular peaks of the Swiss Alps along with Eiger and Jungfrau.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry said the families of the climbers want their names withheld.—Kyodo News ■

UN Security Council to meet Monday on Jerusalem violence - diplomats

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations Security Council will meet on Monday to discuss the bloodiest spate of Israeli-Palestinian violence for years, diplomats said on Saturday.

Sweden, Egypt and France requested the meeting to “urgently discuss how calls for de-escalation in Jerusalem can be supported,” Sweden’s Deputy UN ambassador, Carl Skau, posted on Twitter.

Israel sent extra troops into the occupied West Bank on Saturday and raided the home of the Palestinian attacker who stabbed to death three Israelis on Friday, the military said.—Reuters ■

Syrian warplanes strike Eastern Ghouta area near Damascus

DAMASCUS — Syrian warplanes carried out airstrikes in the Eastern Ghouta area east of Damascus on Sunday, despite ongoing ceasefire in the area, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

The monitoring group said the airstrikes hit the towns of Douma and Ain Terma in rebel-held Eastern Ghouta on Sunday.

There was no immediate comment from the Syrian government or army.—Xinhua ■

Group of freelance journalists marks 30th anniversary

TOKYO — Marking the 30th anniversary of its founding, a group of freelance journalists shared its experiences of news gathering at a symposium Saturday in Tokyo.

“We have followed what mainstream media do not report,” said Akihiro Nonaka, founder of Asia Press International. “We have sought to conduct journalism differently from major news organizations, so we could achieve our role of ensuring development of democracy.”

Independent journalists not only from Japan and but other Asian nations, including the Philippines and South Korea, have joined Asia Press.

“We have established cooperative relations with Asian journalists to make our world better,” said Nonaka, also a professor at Graduate School of Journalism at Waseda University.

They have contributed their stories, photographs and video

images to newspapers, magazines and TV stations with the support of Asia Press.

Among its members, Takeharu Watai has covered conflict-torn areas in the world, including Afghanistan and East Timor, with small video cameras.

“While I sent daily images and reports of battle zones to Japanese broadcasters, I really wanted to cover those living in warzones,” Watai said.

In covering the US war on Iraq, for instance, the US government’s version of events would be reported by major news organizations, “but I aimed to report how ordinary Iraqi people were affected and killed during the war,” he said.

His efforts resulted in some documentary films and books about those who lost their loved ones.

Mizue Furui, meanwhile, left her office job to become a jour-

nalist after overcoming a serious disease, telling some 100 people in the audience, “I felt as if I could do anything at that time.”

Since first visiting Gaza and the West Bank with her camera as a rookie journalist at the age of 40, Furui has focused mainly on Palestinian issues, in addition to reporting about Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Uganda.

Well known for her documentary films focusing on unknown lives of Palestinian women, Furui said during the symposium, “I was aware that there are preserves of women in Muslim lives that men cannot step into. I thought I, as a woman, would be able to shoot such aspects.”

“I have visited several places in the world, and I have tried to know how those living there live and what they think,” she added.

In the wake of the March

2011 triple disasters of the northeastern Japan, Furui started visiting a small housing complex for evacuees from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident and met with two women in their late 70s from the mountainous village of Iitate, near the troubled power plant. “They have been forced to leave their homeland unreasonably. In that sense, they overlapped with those in Palestine,” she said.

Her long-period shooting evolved into her latest documentary film, “Moms of Iitate — Together with the Soil.”

Coverage of Asian Press members also include children’s institution in Japan, Japan-U.S. alliance and the issues involving Okinawa. Nonaka said, “No matter how you work, freelancer or employed, we, as journalists, need to pursue what we need to report beyond borders.” —Kyodo News ■

Iran denies Trump’s demand to release imprisoned Americans

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Ministry rejected the US President Trump’s demand to release detained Americans, describing it as “interfering and unacceptable,” Tasnim news agency reported on Sunday. “The meddling and threatening state-

ments by the United States would not affect the Iranian Judiciary’s determination to prosecute and punish the violators of Iran’s law and national security,” Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Qasemi was quoted as saying.

Qasemi stressed the inde-

pendence of Iranian Judiciary, adding that Iranian Judiciary is responsible to deal with the behaviors and moves that would threaten the national security.

He also said that the US administration is pursuing an incorrect and illegal approach,

in which it threatens other countries and interferes in their internal affairs. The spokesman also urged Washington to immediately release the Iranian nationals who have been jailed in the United States on “false” charges.—Xinhua ■

Eastern commander's forces battle resistance in Libya's Benghazi

BENGHAZI, (Libya) — Fighting between the self-styled Libyan National Army and rival armed groups in Benghazi killed six troops and wounded eight as the LNA advanced into the last pockets of resistance in eastern Libya's largest city, a commander said on Saturday.

The LNA, led by Khalifa Haftar, also carried out air strikes on armed groups in the city of Derna, further east, who fired back with anti-aircraft cannon, witnesses told Reuters.

Haftar's eastern forces are engaged in a multi-sided conflict between factions that fought together to oust veteran Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi in 2011 but are now battling each other.

A UN-backed government in Tripoli is trying to bring stability to the North African OPEC member, but it is struggling to impose its authority. Haftar has so far rejected the Tripoli government as his forces advance in eastern Libya.

Two weeks ago, Haftar declared Benghazi's "liberation" in a televised speech after three



A tank belonging to Libyan National Army fires towards Islamist militants during clashes in the militants' last stronghold in Benghazi. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

years of fighting. But street battles continue as his LNA troops face resistance from the Majlis Shura Thuwar Benghazi, an alliance of ex-rebels and Islamists.

"Special forces carried out an attack on Friday on the last resistance pockets of terrorism in Khraibeesh area and successfully the forces advanced and controlled several points," an LNA commander, Mari El-Houti, said of the Benghazi operation.

El-Houti said the advance

was impeded by a large number of mines in the area. He said 30 mines were dismantled on Friday.

Haftar, a former Gaddafi ally who turned against him, has gained ground with support from Egypt and the United Arab Emirates. Derna, some 380 km (235 miles) east of Benghazi, is still under the control of an alliance of Islamists and former rebels called the Derna Mujahideen Shura Council.—Reuters ■

Mexican former state governor to be tried for organised crime

MEXICO CITY — A former state governor from Mexico's ruling party will stand trial for engaging in organised crime and handling funds of illicit origin after a judge reviewing evidence approved the case, the attorney general's office said on Saturday.

Javier Duarte, who until 2016 governed the Gulf coast state of Veracruz for President Enrique Pena Nieto's Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), has been accused by the opposition of siphoning off millions of dollars during his six-year tenure.

On Monday, Duarte was extradited to Mexico from Guatemala, where he was captured in April after spending months on the run. He has denied any wrongdoing. Some doubts had surfaced in the past few days about the strength of the case against him. However, after presenting 82 pieces of evidence in hearings on Saturday, the

attorney general's office said in a statement that the judge gave prosecutors six months to proceed with the investigation against 43-year-old Duarte.

According to prosecutors, Duarte headed an organisation consisting of at least nine other people, whose criminal operations were carried out in Veracruz, the eastern Gulf state of Campeche and Mexico City between 2011 and 2016.

Shell companies were used by the organisation as a conduit for illicit funds, the attorney general's office said.

Duarte's case has become a symbol of government failure to root out graft, undermining support for the PRI, which has been Mexico's dominant party for most of the past century.

Corruption is shaping up to be a key issue in next year's presidential election, with opinion polls showing the PRI faces a serious risk of being voted out of office.—Reuters ■

Venezuelan's opposition calls new strike, violence flares

CARACAS — Venezuela's opposition called a two-day national strike against President Nicolas Maduro after another day of violent clashes on Saturday where the injured included a violinist famous for his musical protests.

The opposition coalition - which organised a 24-hour shutdown this week that was heeded by millions and paralysed large swathes of the South American nation - said the next strike would be on Wednesday and Thursday.

Mass marches were also planned for Monday and Friday in an effort to force Maduro into aborting a controversial 30 July election for a new congress.

The fast-escalating political showdown in the South American OPEC nation comes after more than 100 people have died and thousands more been injured in anti-government unrest since demonstrations began in April.

"The Venezuelan people are not giving up, they are valiant, they will come out to defend democracy and the constitution," opposition lawmaker Simon Calzadilla said at a news con-



Riot security forces take position while clashing with demonstrators rallying against Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro's government in Caracas, Venezuela, on 22 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

ference flanked by other coalition officials.

Foes accuse Maduro of turning Venezuela into a dictatorship and wrecking what should be a prosperous economy. They want free elections and an end to two decades of socialist rule.

Maduro, 54, calls himself a flag bearer for the international

left, up against right-wing "terrorists" seeking a coup with the connivance of the United States and foreign media.

On Saturday, several thousand protesters sought to march on the pro-Maduro Supreme Court in support of alternative magistrates appointed by the opposition. But security forces

blocked them with armoured cars and riot shields.

Clashes ensued for several hours as hundreds of masked youths hurled stones and Molotov cocktails at National Guard troops firing tear gas from motorcycles.

The injured included musician Wully Arteaga. The 23-year-

old has become famous for playing the national anthem on his violin in front of security lines as battles rage around him.

Paramedics attended Arteaga in the street as blood poured down his face. He later tweeted a video from hospital with a bandaged face and clutching his violin.

"Neither rubber bullets nor pellets will stop our fight," said Arteaga. "Tomorrow I will be back in the streets."

The opposition is stepping up street tactics in what it dubs "hour zero" for Venezuela to try and block the new Constituent Assembly that Maduro wants to create next weekend.

The opposition is boycotting that vote, calling it a sham and demanding conventional elections instead.

The Constituent Assembly, whose election rules appear designed to guarantee a majority for the government even though it has minority popular support, could re-write the constitution and disband the existing opposition-led legislature.—Reuters ■



A Boeing 737-700 aircraft belonging to state-run Aerolineas Argentinas lands at Buenos Aires' domestic airport, in 2014. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

World Bank orders Argentina to pay \$320 million over seized airline

BUENOS AIRES — The World Bank's arbitration tribunal has ordered Argentina to pay \$320 million plus interest and legal fees to Spanish travel group Marsans for expropriating its airline Aerolineas Argentinas SA AERA.UL in 2008, a local newspaper reported on Saturday.

The International Centre for Settlement of Investment

Disputes (ICSID) ruled against Argentina for "illegally expropriating the investments" of Marsans, the tribunal was quoted saying in daily newspaper Clarin.

ICSID and a spokesperson for the office of Argentine President Mauricio Macri did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Argentina's former Presi-

dent Cristina Fernandez ordered the state seizure of the airline in 2008, alleging mismanagement. It has remained under state control since then.

Pro-business Macri has been trying to dismantle state controls on the economy implemented during Fernandez's government since taking office in 2015.—Reuters ■

Rome risks water rationing as drought-hit lake set to go offline

ROME — Authorities have ordered a halt to pumping water out of a lake near Rome following a prolonged drought, a decision that could force city officials to impose water rationing in the Italian capital.

The head of the local Lazio region, which is centered on Rome, said on Saturday the ban on withdrawing water from Lake Bracciano would come into force on 28 July.

"Sadly, it is a tragedy," Nicola Zingaretti told Tgcom24 TV station. "The truth is Lake Brac-

ciano has fallen too much and we risk an environmental disaster."

Acea, the utility firm which runs Rome's water system, has said that two years of lower-than-average rainfall have dramatically reduced water levels in reservoirs feeding the city, with a prolonged, ongoing heat wave making matters worse.

But Acea attacked the order to turn off the taps at Bracciano, which is some 30 km (20 miles) north of Rome, saying the region had taken a "unilateral and illegitimate" decision.—Reuters ■

Pope calls for dialogue and moderation after Jerusalem violence

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis said on Sunday he was alarmed by the recent violence in Jerusalem and called for dialogue and moderation to help restore peace.

"I am following with trepidation the grave tension and violence of recent days in Jerusalem. I feel the need to express a heartfelt call for moderation and dialogue," the pope told pilgrims gathered under blazing sunshine in St Peter's Square.

He called for prayers in

the hope that all sides would come forward with proposals for "reconciliation and peace".

Three Israelis were stabbed to death in a Jewish settlement in the Israeli-occupied West Bank on Friday, hours after three Palestinians were killed in violence prompted by Israel's installation of metal detectors at entry points to the Noble Sanctuary-Temple Mount compound in Jerusalem's walled Old City.—Reuters ■

Backing Qatar, Erdogan may have little room to manoeuvre in Gulf visit

ISTANBUL/ANKARA — Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan heads to the Gulf this weekend in an attempt to patch up the rift between Qatar and its neighbours, but the firm Qatari ally may find himself with little room to manoeuvre as a mediator.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt cut ties and imposed sanctions on Qatar last month, accusing it of supporting terrorism. Doha denies the charges.

In what has become the region's worst diplomatic crisis in years, the neighbours have since issued more than a dozen demands, telling Qatar to close down Al Jazeera television, curb relations with Iran and shutter a Turkish military base.

Erdogan has said the demands are unlawful and has called for an end to the crisis, citing the need for Muslim solidarity and strong trade ties in the region.

"We will work until the end

for the solution of the dispute between the brotherly nations of the region," he said in comments after prayers on Friday. "Political problems are temporary, whereas economic ties are permanent, and I expect the investors from Gulf countries to choose long-term ties." While looking to defend Doha, Erdogan is also wary of alienating its neighbours. He will visit Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar during the two-day trip that starts on Sunday.

The UAE was Turkey's seventh-largest export market last year, worth \$5.4 billion, while Saudi Arabia was No. 11 and Egypt was No. 13, according to official data. Turkey also wants to sell defence equipment to the Saudis.

"This visit, in a way, would help to demonstrate that despite its positioning as a firm backer of Doha, Turkey still has the ability to dialogue with the other countries at the highest level, primarily Saudi Arabia," said Sinan Ulgen, a former Turkish diplo-

mat and an analyst at Carnegie Europe. Nonetheless, Ankara is negotiating from a "handicapped position", given its vocal support for Qatar, he said.

"In terms of how much Ankara can accomplish and how effective the potential mediation role that Turkey could undertake, the expectations are quite low in that regard."

The dispute has so far proven intractable and Erdogan has said Saudi Arabia should solve the crisis.

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson shuttled between Gulf countries last week but left without any firm signs the feud would be resolved soon. On Friday, Tillerson said he was satisfied with Qatar's efforts to implement an agreement to combat terrorist financing, and urged Arab states to lift the "land blockade".

Qatar, while not a major trade partner for Turkey, holds strategic importance not least because of the military base es-



Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan speaks during a ceremony in Istanbul, Turkey, on 21 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

established by Ankara after a 2014 agreement. Turkey says as many as 1,000 soldiers could eventually be stationed there.

There are also ideological ties.

Qatar's neighbours have demanded it end support for groups such as the Muslim Brotherhood, seen by Gulf countries as a threat to their dynastic rule. Erdogan,

whose roots are in political Islam, backed a Muslim Brotherhood government in Egypt before it was overthrown in 2013.

"There has been diplomatic traffic before this visit. There have been high-level talks," a Turkish official told Reuters, speaking on condition of anonymity. "There is a climate in which some concrete steps can be taken."—Reuters ■

Cuba seeks to revive mining sector with new lead and zinc mine

MINAS DE MATAHAMBRE, (Cuba) — A new lead and zinc mine in north-western Cuba is on track to start production in October as part of the Caribbean island's attempt to breathe fresh life in its mining sector, the joint venture Emincar overseeing the project said this week.

While nickel exports are already one of Communist-run Cuba's main foreign currency earners, the cash-strapped country has untapped potential in other mineral deposits, according to the US Geological Survey.

The \$278 million Castellanos mine will produce annually 100,000 tonnes of zinc concentrate and 50,000 tonnes of lead concentrate, said executives at Emincar, the venture between Swiss-based



Employees work at the lead and zinc mine Castellanos in Minas de Matahambre, Cuba, on 20 July 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

commodities giant Trafigura and Cuban state firm Geominera.

"We are reviving the small and medium-size mining sector in Cuba from this investment," said

Justo Hernández Pérez, Emincar deputy general manager, during a visit by foreign journalists on Thursday to the mine in the province of Pinar del Rio.

"This is just the start."

Many mines, including a gold mine at the site of the new Castellanos mine, were abandoned in the 1990s and 2000s in the wake of the fall of then

key-ally the Soviet Union, the collapse of the economy and low commodities prices.

"We are now exploiting the deposit below oxide cap," said Emincar general manager Jose Vila, adding that it could prove profitable to once more mine for gold there.

The Castellanos mine holds reserves for 11 years of exploitation, while the nearby Santa Lucia deposit has enough for another 10 years, Vila said. Emincar will go on to exploit that deposit, tweaking its factory accordingly, once the Castellanos mine is exhausted.

In its annual investment portfolio released late last year, Cuba published dozens of opportunities for foreign investors to explore, exploit and

commercialise precious metals, base metals and other minerals of interest.

Cuba hopes foreign investment will boost its economy that managed to climb out of a recession in the first half of 2017. The island is under severe strain due to lower exports and a drop in cheap oil shipments from ally Venezuela.

The Castellanos mine will employ nearly 500 workers. The average monthly wage at around \$50, plus \$80 in pay for good performance, is well above the average state wage of \$30.

"This is a village that didn't have much work," said Guillermo Fabelo, a mechanic at the new mine whose father was a miner. "And this a project that will get many people back on their feet."—Reuters ■

EU's car regulator warns against car diesel ban in cities

BRUSSELS — Banning diesel cars in European cities could hamper automakers' ability to invest in zero-emission vehicles, the European Union's commissioner for industry has warned the bloc's transport ministers.

In a letter seen by Reuters, Commissioner Elzbieta Bienkowska said there would be no benefit in a collapse of the market for diesel cars and that the short-term focus should be on forcing carmakers to bring dangerous nitrogen oxide emissions into line with EU regulations.

"While I am convinced that we should rapidly head for zero-emission vehicles in Europe, policymakers and industry cannot have an interest in a rapid collapse of the diesel market in Europe as a result of local driving bans," Bienkowska said.

"It would only deprive the industry of necessary funds to invest in zero-emissions vehicles," she said in the letter, dated 17 July.

Germany's three

major carmakers have invested heavily in diesel technology, which offers more efficient fuel burn and lower carbon dioxide emissions than gasoline-powered cars.

But since Volkswagen (VOWG_p.DE) admitted in 2015 to cheating on US emissions tests, worries about vehicle pollution have left the entire auto industry under scrutiny. A particular concern is emissions by diesel cars of nitrogen oxide, which is blamed for causing respiratory diseases.

In the letter, Bienkowska told ministers she was concerned that the latest emissions violations at Audi and Porsche (PSHG_p.DE) were discovered by prosecutors and not Germany's vehicle and transport authorities.

Bienkowska's letter also called for all cars with excessively high levels of nitrogen oxide emissions to be taken off European roads, but said carmakers should act on a voluntary basis. The commission-

er did raise the prospect of an EU testing agency if national regulators failed to spot more emissions-test cheats.

Munich, home to carmaker BMW, has become the latest German city to consider banning some diesel vehicles. Environmental groups say diesel bans in cities can cut nitrogen oxide emissions and force automakers to design cleaner vehicles.

Experts who have seen the letter to ministers say the commissioner appeared to be bowing to carmakers' demands.

"Her letter contained some important statements that we believe show the industry's lobbyists have scored a big win," Bernstein analyst Max Warburton said in a report.

"They have likely argued that castigating or banning diesel would harm the industry's earnings and employees, harm efforts to reduce carbon dioxide and harm owners of current vehicles."—Reuters ■

Firefighters gain on California wildfire, some evacuees return

LOS ANGELES — A wildfire in central California was contained enough on Saturday for authorities to consider allowing more people back to their homes, a day after evacuation orders were lifted for a gold-rush era town that was previously threatened.

The Detwiler Fire just outside Yosemite National Park has scorched 75,500 acres (30,550 hectares) and destroyed more than 120 structures, including 60 homes, since it broke out on Monday, according to the California Department

of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire).

The blaze, 40 per cent contained as of Saturday afternoon, was named after a road near where it erupted in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains.

The wildfire had forced about 2,000 residents of the historic gold-mining town of Mariposa to flee their homes on Tuesday as it bore down on them.

Authorities have since lifted evacuation orders for the town. On Saturday, more residents were

allowed to return home, officials said.

At the same time, the high temperatures this weekend are a concern for the nearly 4,500 firefighters handling the blaze.

"We've gotten ahead of the fire enough that we believe we'll be able to maintain some greater control of it through this hot spell," said Brandon Vaccaro, a spokesman for Cal Fire.

The fire's main front is near the communities of Coulterville and Dogtown, north of the larger town of Mariposa.—Reuters ■



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'Blade Runner' sequel a siren song for director Villeneuve

SAN DIEGO — Canadian director Denis Villeneuve had fended off numerous requests to direct big-budget sequels until he was approached to make a follow-up to Ridley Scott's 1982 neo-noir sci-fi film "Blade Runner."

"I accepted to do 'Blade Runner' because it was meaningful," Villeneuve, the director of last year's cerebral alien sci-fi film "Arrival," told Reuters.

"The resonance of the first movie in my life, the love I have for it, it's worth it to take that risk," he added.

"Blade Runner 2049," in theaters on 6 October, will pick up 30 years after the events of the first movie, when human-like

robots were hunted by police in a dystopian Los Angeles.

"We created a world that is an extension of the first movie, a projection of its future, where some laws and some rules will be in relationship with the first movie and not with today," Villeneuve said.

The first film followed Harrison Ford as "blade runner" Rick Deckard, an expert on hunting the humanoid Replicant robots living on earth illegally, against a backdrop of a futuristic Los Angeles depicted as a hybrid of Eastern and Western cultural influences. In a new trailer released this week, the sequel returns to a dystopian California after the eco-



(L-R) Director of the movie Denis Villeneuve and cast members Ryan Gosling, Harrison Ford, Ana de Armas and Sylvia Hoeks participate in a panel for "Blade Runner 2049" during the 2017 Comic-Con International Convention in San Diego, California, US, on 22 July 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

system has broken down, where a Los Angeles police officer (Ryan Gosling) stumbles upon a secret that could jeopardize society and seeks out Deckard, who has been missing for 30 years.

Villeneuve, Ford and Gosling were joined by other cast members on Saturday at San Diego's annual Comic-Con as they dis-

cussed the sequel and debuted new footage that showed a world where Replicants and humans live alongside each other, but not in harmony. "The original film explored the ethics of the creation of the Replicants and their utility and we further developed those themes in this story," Ford said.

Villeneuve told Reuters that

he had worked with Ford to evolve the character of Deckard.

"There's a melancholia that I like in the first movie that we kept alive in Deckard, and something taciturn, not someone who talks a lot, and a sadness to the character that is there and existential doubt," the director said. —Reuters ■

Sons remember Princess Diana in film 20 years after her death

LONDON — Britain's Prince William and his brother Harry recall memories from their childhood 20 years after the sudden death of their mother, Princess Diana, in a new television documentary to be broadcast this week.

The 90-minute film - "Diana, Our Mother: Her Life and Legacy" - celebrates the life and work of Diana, Kensington Palace said in a statement.

Diana, the first wife of heir to the throne Prince Charles, was killed in a car crash in Paris in August 1997 when William was aged 15 and Harry was 12. She was 36.

In the documentary, William — Queen Elizabeth's grandson and second in line to the throne — and Harry are filmed talking about their childhood as they look through photographs in a family album assembled by Diana.

Earlier this year, William spoke about how the shock of losing his mother still lingered two decades after her death. Harry said he had sought counselling to help deal with the grief.

The film, made by Oxford Film and Television, will air in the



Britain's Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge, and the late Diana, Princess of Wales are seen in an undated photo released by Kensington Palace on 23 July 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

UK on ITV (ITV.L) on Monday at 2000 GMT.

A number of commemorative events have been planned to mark Diana's death.

William and Harry attended a private service earlier this month to re-dedicate her grave and the brothers have also commissioned a statue to be erected in her honor outside their official London home. —Reuters ■

Great love stories embody women's idea of romance: Shah Rukh

MUMBAI — Shah Rukh Khan believes the greatest of love stories are made by directors who are sensitive and understand women's perspective about romance.

The actor, who is often called the 'king of romance' in Bollywood, says his most romantic films — "Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayege", "Dil Toh Paagal Hai" or "Kuch Kuch Hota Hai" — were made by men who lived romance.

Citing the examples of directors like Yash Chopra, Aditya Chopra and Karan Johar, Shah Rukh says, "They've seen it from the perspective of what a woman wants and they embody that in the characters I play. I am not the forbidden lover, it's actually the desire to have this."

While Shah Rukh does not consider himself a romantic person, he says he collaborates with only those directors who have utmost respect for the genre.

In an interview with PTI,



Shah Rukh Khan .
PHOTO: PTI

the actor says Imtiaz Ali had earlier approached him with the idea of a man "trying to commit suicide" but he instantly dismissed that and asked for a "happier story", giving birth to "Jab Harry Met Sejal".

"I haven't seen Imtiaz's films, to be honest, but when I met him, I found him extremely gentle and sensitive. Amongst the people I had worked with earlier, it was the same quality that Yash ji, Adi, Karan (had). They are personally very different but also very sensitive."

Shah Rukh recalls how a popular director once ap-

proached him to do a love story, which the actor turned down.

"I really believed the director wasn't sensitive enough, he just wanted to do a love story.

You don't just do a love story; you make it, feel it, live it. And I think Imtiaz is like that. I may not be romantic, but I am extremely sensitive.

"To me, it can't be a person with lesser level of sensitivity directing me in a love story. I find Imtiaz sensitive, dignified. These are not filmmaking qualities, these are personal qualities which translate into your films or acting."

The actor says he meets people who say that it would be difficult to be like his characters in real life but that is not unattainable. "Everyday I meet at least five people who tell me, 'You spoil our life, we can't be like you'. My answer to them would be, 'It wouldn't be so spoiled if you just asked your woman what she wants. You never took the time to ask her'. —PTI ■



Comedians performing entertainment program to raise funds for their aged counterparts. PHOTO: MNA

Comedians raise funds for aged counterparts

FAMOUS comedians of Myanmar staged an entertainment program for the second time at National Theatre in Yangon yesterday evening to raise funds for the aged comedians.

Comedians includ-

ing Zagana, A-yaing, Bay Luwa, Myitta, Dain Daung, Ayeya, Kyaw Htoo, King Kong, Nyaung Nyaung, Nga Pyaw Kyaw, Nyein Chan, Htet Htet, Bayda, Wetma, Moe Tain, Thee Lay Thee group, Five Star

group, Emperor group, Myitta Shwezin group, New-Five group, Ha Nyi Naung group, Ape Hnint Tharmya group, Lu-nge Star group, and Khitthit Kyemon group took part in the program.

The comedian association of Yangon is providing financial aid to comedians of age 65 and above in September every year and medical assistance for unhealthy comedians. — Myanmar News Agency ■

"Navy Curry" restaurant in Yokosuka to close

YOKOSUKA, (Japan) — A Japanese restaurant that has helped the naval port city of Yokosuka establish its reputation as a "curry town" is in its final summer of operation.

The restaurant, Gyorantei, says it has decided to close after serving its

famous Navy Curry for the last time on 31 August, citing the heavy cost it would incur to renovate its aging curry annex.

The curry became a hit after the restaurant, in cooperation with neighboring competitors, reproduced its recipe from the one given

to the Japanese Imperial Navy by the British Royal Navy in 1908. The success soon led the local chamber of commerce to certify Gyorantei in 1999 as the first to serve Navy Curry in the city, looking to make it a major tourist draw. The annex opened shortly af-

terward and the number of certified curry shops and restaurants has now grown to 42, helping to prop up tourism in the Kanagawa Prefecture city that houses a strategically important base for the US Navy and Japan's Self-Defence Forces.—Kyodo News ■

Exhibit in New York celebrates life of Muppets creator Jim Henson

NEWYORK — A new exhibit featuring the work of Muppets creator Jim Henson will go on permanent display in New York City on Saturday to celebrate the career of the American puppeteer who brought to life such characters as Miss Piggy and Big Bird.

"The Jim Henson Exhibition," housed in a new gallery space funded by the City of New York at the Museum of the Moving Image, features more than 300 artifacts related to Henson's career, including 47 puppets, character sketches, storyboards, scripts, photographs, iconic costumes and more. Film and television clips and behind-the-scenes footage are presented on more than 27 monitors and projections throughout the gallery. Interactive experiences allow visitors to try their hand at puppeteering on screen and designing a puppet character.

Barbara Miller, curator of the collections and exhibitions at the museum, says the exhibit explores Henson's work for film and television and his transformative impact on popular culture. It also includes material from some of the puppeteer's lesser known film projects. "Of course there's

familiar favourites like Miss Piggy and Kermit the Frog and Big Bird and all the things you would expect to see at an exhibition about Jim Henson and the Muppets," said Miller.

"But there's also a picture that emerges of Jim Henson as an experimental film maker, as someone who was always creatively restless and looking to do the next thing," she said, adding that museum staff wanted to "permanently tell this story." Henson's characters helmed "The Muppet Show" on TV between 1976 and 1981, before appearing in numerous films including 1992's "The Muppet Christmas Carol," and 2011's "The Muppets."

Henson, who died in 1990 at the age of 53, was also the creative mind behind the long-running children's show "Sesame Street."

The exhibit was organized by the Museum of the Moving Image, located in New York's borough of Queens, in collaboration with the Henson family, who donated many of the show's artifacts in 2013, The Jim Henson Legacy and The Jim Henson Company, and in cooperation with Sesame Workshop and The Muppets Studio.—Reuters ■

mitv Myanmar International
Programme Schedule

(24-7-2017 07:00am - 25-7-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News	10:42	Am	Yatana Theinga City and Shwe Bo Yatanamingalar Palace
07:27	Am	Myanmar Delicate Artistic Creations-Gem Stone Painting)			
07:46	Am	Dhamma School			
08:03	Am	News			
08:26	Am	The Writer: Chit Oo Nyo (Part-1)			
08:53	Am	Ngapali Beach: Fishing Villages			
09:03	Am	News			
09:26	Am	SHWE SETTAW (Minbu)			
09:44	Am	Strolling Along A Memory Link U Pein Bridge			
10:03	Am	News			
10:26	Am	Crab Business (Part-I) Mud Crab			

Prime Time

			(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Sunday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
			(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
07:03	Pm	News			
07:26	Pm	Food Trip (Ep-8)(Part-1)			
07:53	Pm	School for the Blind			
08:03	Pm	News			
08:26	Pm	Sons of the lake			
08:48	Pm	A Simple And Peaceful Life)			

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

(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Sunday 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)

Programme Schedule
(24-7-2017, Monday)

<p>6:00 Am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw <p>7:00 Am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Breakfast News <p>7:35 Am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ MRTV Travelogue <p>8:35 Am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Women in Myanmar Society <p>9:10 Am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ World Heritage "Sukhothai" (Thailand) <p>9:40 Am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Analysis For Myanmar Movie <p>10:30 Am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ ABC (Agriculture) <p>11:15 Am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Documentary (ASEAN) <p>11:30 Am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ MRTV Youth's Programme <p>1:50 Pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Fine Arts - Bosom of Dramatic Performance <p>2:30 Pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Tasty Trip 	<p>4:25 Pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ University of Distance Education (TV Lecture) - Second Years (Chemistry) <p>4:45 Pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Preparation for 29th SEA Games (Judo) <p>5:05 Pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ This Weeks's Special Interest <p>5:30 Pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Yes or No Talk Show "Wealth or Dignity" (Part-1) <p>6:20 Pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Football Magazine <p>6:35 Pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Law Affairs <p>7:15 Pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ TV Drama Series <p>8:00 Pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ News/ International News/ Weather Report <p>8:30 Pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Talk Show (Myanmar and ASEAN) ◆ Documentary (Mandalay Palace) ◆ TV Drama Series ◆ Pyi Thu Ni Ti
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Myanmar loses, but win audience's heart

Kyaw Zin Tun

Myanmar could play at their best form in Myanmar-Australia encounter in the 2018 Asia U-23 Qualifier Group F, 2nd match though they were defeated 3-0 by Australia. Myanmar's lack of precision of goal scoring was to blame for the loss of the match and could not snatch a point from the draw of the match.

Myanmar played at their utmost effort with a strong hope of gaining a qualifying chance. Myanmar can win the qualifier if they can get a point from the draw of the match. Australia

with knowledge that they can win the qualifier even at the draw of the match played keeping the ball in possession and attacked the Myanmar's side whenever there was opportunity.

Myanmar was succumbed to give a goal at 5 minutes from the start. Kamau fired home from close range. Myanmar though being scored, never spare the effort and Aung Thu hit home but the ball just found the Australia Goal keeper.

At 30 minutes corner kick was given to Australia after Myanmar goal keeper made a



Myanmar player and Australian player vying for the ball. PHOTO: MFF

blunder. Phone Thitsar Min slapped out the header of an Australian forward, but it hit the Australian right in front of the goal and it went past Myanmar goal keeper.

The third goal came in 50 minute through the header of Australian striker, Sotiriyo. Myanmar got the scoring chances but squandered the chances to lose 0-3 to Australia. ■

Singapore defeats Brunei 4-1 in football match

Kyaw Zin Tun

Brunei and Singapore played their last game of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Under-23 qualifiers (Group F) at Thuwanna Stadium, Yangon on yesterday.

Singapore still does not advance to the AFC championship because they lost all of their previous matches.

Ikhsan Fandi Ahmad of Singapore scored at 12 minutes and during stoppage time after 90 minutes of play. Mohamad Hanafi Bin Mohd Akbar scored at the 39-minute mark and Mohamad Taufik Bin Suparno at 86 minutes.

Azim scored for Brunei during stoppage time at the half. ■

Ye Thwe Ni defeats Kayin Lay in the first round

The competition was held under the supervision of Ministry of Health and Sports and sponsored by Modern Myanmar Synergy Group & H and S Group.

The semi-final of Myanmar's Lethwei challenge competitions were held in Thein Phyu Indoor Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

The special challenge match for Ye Thway Ni (Taung Kalay) and Kayin Lay (a) Pha Da Wal was held and Ye Thway Ni defeated by knock out Kayin Lay at 1 minutes and 40 seconds of the first round. The semi-final competitions of 9th golden belt champions were held as follow;

In the 50 kilo class, Anbwar (Kyarphyu) matched with Thein Soe (Aphyuyaung thwe thit), Thein Soe won Anbwar with the mark. At the competition of Zalat Thwe (Taung Zalat) and Thabyay Aung (Thone Pan Hla), Thabyay Aung defeated Zalat Thwe by knock out at 21 seconds of second round. Thein Soe and Thabyay Aung will fight at the final competition of 50kg class.

In the 54 kilo class, Khun Akar (1886 Mandalay) met with Soe Win Than (Yan Sit Nyein), Soe Win Than defeated Khun Akar by knock out at 2 minutes of second round. At the competition of Aut Chin Lay (Taung Zalat) and

Arkar Min (Kyar Bayin), Aut Chin Lay (Taung Zalat) defeated Arkar Min by knock out at 1 minute 07 seconds of first round. Soe Win Than and Aut Chin Lay will fight at the final competition of 54 kilo class.

In the 57 kilo class, Train (Tiger) fought with Super (Myo Set Thit), Super defeated Train by knock out. At the competition of Yhu Klain Min (Myaing Kalay cement factory) and Dolay (Yoyar Bagan), Yhu Klain Min defeated by Dolay by knock out at 2 minutes 37 seconds of first round. Super (Myo Set Thit) and Yhu Klain Min (Myaing Kalay cement factory) will fight at the final competition of 57 kilo class.

In the 60 kilo class, Zve Linn Aung (Thone Pan Hla) met with Sit Aung (Myaing Kalay cement factory), Zve Linn Aung won Sit Aung. At the competition of Sein Lone Chaw (Bama Thwe) and Hantharwaddy (Bama Thwe Thit), Sein Lone Chaw won with the mark. Zve Linn Aung and Sein Lone Chaw will fight at the final competition of 60 kilo class.

In the 63 kilo class, Kyar Pauk (Yan Sit Nyein) fought with Saw Htoo Aung (Taw Win Yoyar), Kyar Pauk defeated with the mark. At the competition of Yan Naing Htun (Thone Pan Hla)



PHOTO: MIN HTET

and Ba Htoo Maung (Yadana-bon), Yan Naing Htun defeated Ba Htoo Maung by knock out at the 31 seconds of second round. Yan Naing Htun and Kyar Pauk will fight at the final competition of 63 kilo class.

In the 67 kilo class, Shwe Min Yazar (Myaing Kalay cement factory) met with Htun Naing Oo (STL), Shwe Min Yazar defeated Htun Naing Oo by knock out at 2 minutes 12 seconds. At the competition of Phoe La Pyae (Shwe Phoo) and Kyal Sin Phyo (Yoe Yar Bagan), Phoe La Pyae (Shwe Phoo) defeated Kyal Sin Phyo by knock out at the 1 minute and 50 seconds of first round. Shwe

Min Yazar and Phoe La Pyae will fight at the final competition of 67 kilo class.

In the 71 kilo class, Min Maung Maung (Taung Kalay) fought with Soe Htet Oo (STL), Soe Htet Oo defeated with the mark. At the competition Thwe Thit Aung (Thone Pan Hla) and Saw Sa war (Doyar), Thwe Thit Aung defeated Saw Sa War by knock out at the 42 seconds of the second round. Thwe Thit Aung and Soe Htet Oo will fight at the final competition of 71 kilo class. All the final fights of the 9th golden belt champion will be on 30 July. —Maung Sein Lwin (Myama Alinn) ■

Nelly Korda, seeking to emulate sister, takes third-round LPGA lead

BEDMINSTER, (NJ) — Rookie Nelly Korda used a late flourish to claim a two-stroke lead entering the final round at the Marathon Classic on Saturday in Sylvania, Ohio.

The 18-year-old Korda birdied her final two holes to finish 5-under-par 66 and reside at 15-under 198 at Highland Meadows Golf Club.

South Korea's Kim Inkyung did her best to keep pace with a 68 but found herself trailing in second place after Korda's impressive finish.

"When you end on a birdie, you're just really excited to play the next day and get it doing, so I'm definitely excited," said Korda, who is playing in her 19th LPGA event and first Marathon Classic. "My mentality hasn't changed. It's the same as the first two days. I just try to take it shot by shot really." —Reuters ■